

The Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza

The urban plaza of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building, the new campus center of Thomas Jefferson University, located at 10th and Locust Streets, has been designed with a landscape that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity at the fusion of the academic and urban worlds. The new plaza and community space, between Rittenhouse and Washington Squares, offers a green, public artwork, and seating for students, faculty and the community at large.

- The plaza honors the parents of Ira M. Lubert, chair and co-founder of Independence Capital Partners and a member of the Board of Trustees for Thomas Jefferson University.
- Total site acreage is 1.6 acres (69,560 sq. ft., not including the building), with 1.4 acres (60,984 sq. ft., not including sidewalks) devoted to open space. 50 percent of the open space is green and 50 percent is hardscape (paving).
- The plaza is designed by the Philadelphia firm of Andropogon Associates, Ltd.

Design:

- No physical boundaries around the plaza and green so that the center of Jefferson's campus opens out into the community; the beginning of a new campus plan which includes a sustainable, multifunctional urban design with a community-friendly approach.
- Creates a safe, welcoming, versatile, active, and accessible environment.
- Hardscape can be used to host Jefferson and community functions. The green can be used for more casual events and congregating.
- Large and small spaces have been integrated for planned and chance urban gatherings.
- The premise of the design is to take the car out of the urban fabric and bury it – literally. “Green” is the overriding tone. Previously, an above ground parking garage stood on this corner. Now, the garage is underground.

Urban Sustainability/Technical Features:

- Plaza adds 1.4 acres of open space to the City fabric while promoting water conservation.

- A 1.8 acre project site, formerly seven percent pervious (environmentally friendly form of concrete allowing storm water to seep into ground) is now 40 percent pervious.
- Landscape integrated storm water management system reduces storm water volume and delays peak flow discharge through storage and re-use for irrigation; contributes to the elimination of combined sewer overflow discharge to the Delaware River.
- Evapotranspiration (sum of evaporation and plant transportation from surface to atmosphere) further reduces storm water volume with over 55 canopy trees and nearly one acre of lawn.
- Capacity to store and re-use 17,700 gallons of storm water and air conditioner condensate for irrigation.
- Engineered soils to hold up to 11,500 gallons of water per each percent of organic matter at 12 inch depth.

Trees and plants with a purpose:

- A total of 72 trees (54 canopy and 18 ornamental), will sprawl across the plaza and green. No trees will obscure views across the site.
- The 19 species of trees are all deciduous, locally grown, and native to the northeast. They are: Bur Oak, White Oak, Swamp White Oak, Willow Oak, London Plane Tree, Scarlett Oak, Hickory, Red Maple, Tulip Tree, American Basswood, White/Green Ash, Flowering Dogwood, Red Bud, Fringe Tree, Sassafras, Allegheny Serviceberry, Southern Magnolia, Sweet Bay Magnolia, and Witch Hazel.
- Three species of shrubs will dot the landscape including Elderberry, Viburnum, and Sweetpepper bush. Numerous other perennials and groundcover shade plants will add to the scope of the environment. (see complete list on website)
- Eight species of herbaceous plants, numbering 735 ground cover plugs and container grown vegetation, all rooted in historic health remedies, will enhance the liveliness of the urban, open space while reflecting the integration of the Jefferson campus with the community.
- Medicinal plants include: Black Cohosh, Blood Root, Blue Vervain, Boneset, Solomon's Seal, Yarrow, Narrow-leaved Cone Flower, and Wild Ginger

Artwork:

- One percent of the total acreage will be dedicated to public art, including works by artist James Sandborn.

- “Otters” by Henry Mitchell (1979), in memory of William Bodine, Jr. This famous fountain will return as one of Philadelphia’s most prominent installations. Part of the Center City East Tour of Philadelphia Public Art, and a favorite with families in the community, the inscription reads, “With Gratitude to William W. Bodine Jr. Leader, builder and friend of Thomas Jefferson University.”

For a full list of trees, shrubs, perennials, and artwork at Lubert Plaza, please visit www.Jefferson.edu/Hamilton