"A Stroll Down Main Street"

A Review of the University Student Union Project at California State University, Northridge

March 18, 2002



Brailsford & Dunlavey



CSU,Northridge USU



Executive Architect

In association with

R..L. BINDER, FAIA
Architecture & Planning

Introduction

- Today's Presenters
- University Background
- Developing the Concept
- Project Concept
- Lessons Learned
- Question & Answer

Today's Presenters

- Debra L. Hammond, Executive Director USU
 - Former ACUI President
- Hakim Chambers, USU Operations Coordinator
 - Renovation Project Manager
- Jeffrey Turner
 - Vice President, Brailsford & Dunlavey
 - Experience on over 25 Union Projects
- Don W. Caskey, FAIA
 - Principal, Carter & Burgess

Today's Objectives

Learn about the CSUN Main Street Project

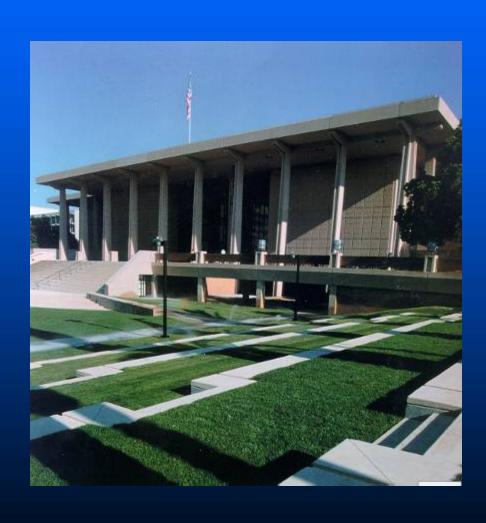
To Transfer the Value of Our Experience

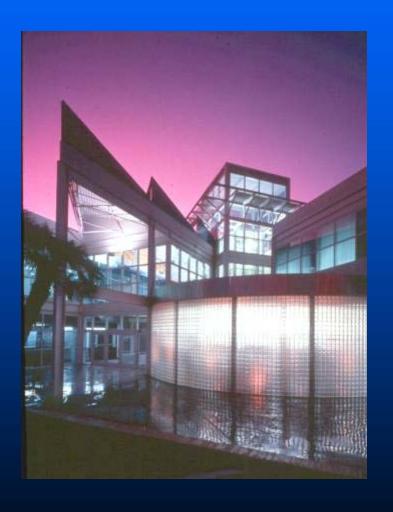
To Convey Some Useful Tools

University Overview

- CSUN Established in 1958
 - Located in Southern California
 - Major Earthquake in 1994 Significantly Impacted Campus
- 1 of 23 Campuses in the CSU System
- Over 31,000 Students
 - New Channel Islands Campus May Impact Enrollment

Recent Campus Improvements





University Student Union Overview

- Not for Profit Corporation
- Budget of \$6 Million / Student Controlled Board
- Professional Staff of 60 / 145 Student Assistants
- Built in 1978
- Facilities include:
 - Performing Arts Center, Conference/Meeting Rooms, Food & Retail Areas, Associated Students, Student Development Office, Fitness Centre, Satellite Student Union

Project Initiation

- Student Complaints
- Way finding Concerns
- Deferred Maintenance Issues
- Food Service Issues
- Many Tenants Were Leaving
- No Real Anchor Tenant
- Original Plan was to Renovate the Pub

Analysis

- Strategic Analysis
- Competitive Analysis
- Focus Groups

- Over 1,500 students Involved
- Student Survey
- Retail Analysis
- Financial Analysis
- Programming

Project Objectives



Project Objectives

- State of the Art Hub of Campus Activity
- Open and Inviting Atmosphere/Improve Way finding
- Stronger Connection to Campus
- More Efficient & Effective Operation
- Stronger Identity
- Enhanced Community

USU Renovation Mission Statement

"To offer students a campus center with the convenience and caliber of multi-task opportunities common in off campus venues throughout Southern California. The center will reflect the high energy, excitement and vibrancy of a thriving community. The University Student Union (USU) will develop a hub of "campus life" where students can participate in activities, meet, shop, eat, study, learn and have fun in a safe and collegial atmosphere that **fosters inclusion** of all people. The renovated student union will provide **seamless access** to all programs and spaces, be student-centered and reflect a consistency with the overall University Master Plan."

Review of Similar Projects



Review of Similar Projects

- Reviewed Nine Peer Institutions
 - Fresno State, UCSD, SDSU, Fullerton, Sac State, SJSU, UW, Indiana, Iowa State
- CSUN Student Life Facilities Are Deficient
 - USU has Least Amount of Retail/Food Options
 - CSUN has 2nd Smallest Amount of Recreation Space
 - CSU Schools Are Building New Facilities

Review of Similar Projects

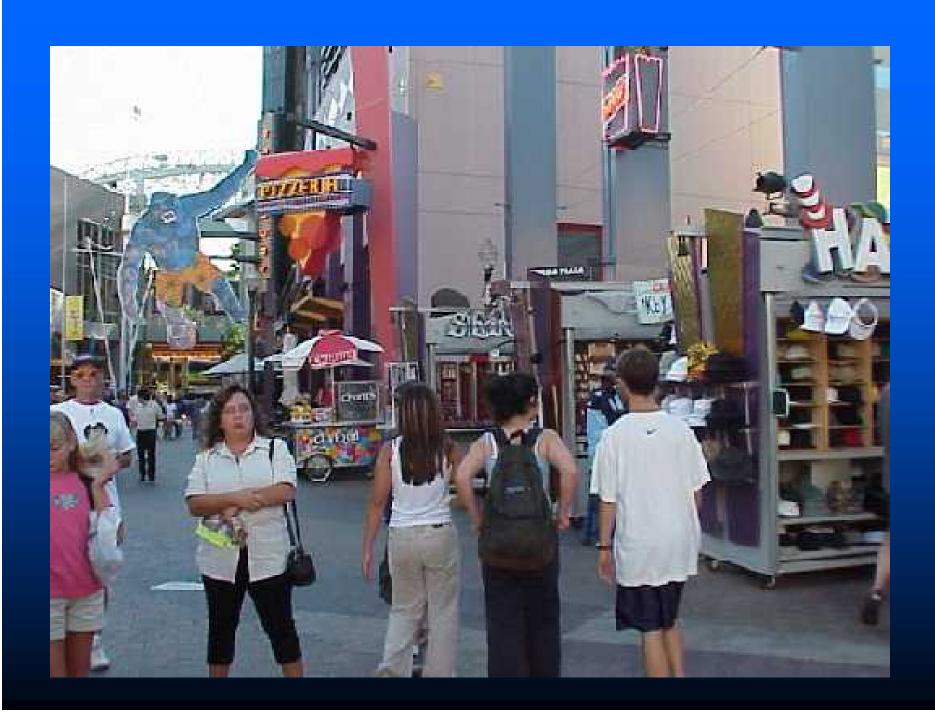
- Redevelopment of Reseda Avenue
 - Business Improvement District (BID)

- Lack of Campus Retail for Student Needs
- Site Visits of Other Unions









Short-term Improvements

- Better Signage
- Name Tags Required
- Enhanced Relationship with Other Auxiliaries
- Improved Campus Awareness of the Union

Market Analysis



Market Analysis

- No Hub of Student Life
 - USU Seen as "Fort-like" & "Intimidating"
- Lack of "Destination" Spaces at USU
 - No "Anchor Tenant" Bookstore or Food Court
 - Need for More "Social-Study" Opportunities
 - Need More Outdoor Seating & Retail
 - Need for More Technology

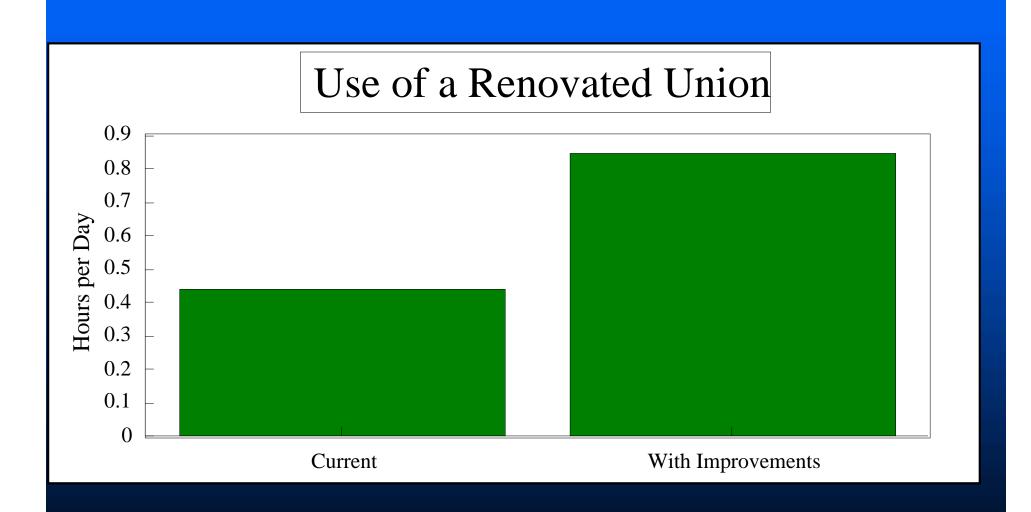
Market Analysis

Approximately 50% Support Raising Fees
 \$50 Per Semester for Improvements

Approximately 75% Support Raising Fees
 \$20 Per Semester

Recommended a \$35 Fee Increase

Student Survey Results



"The Concept"

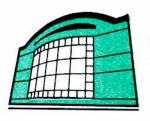


New Urbanism

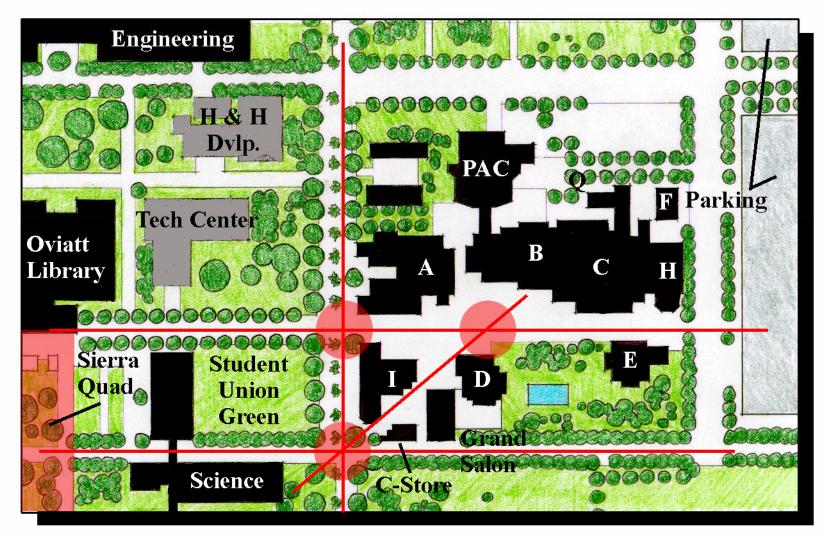
- General Design Considerations
 - High Density
 - Pedestrian Friendly
 - Mixed-Use



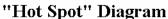




California State University, Northridge University Student Center



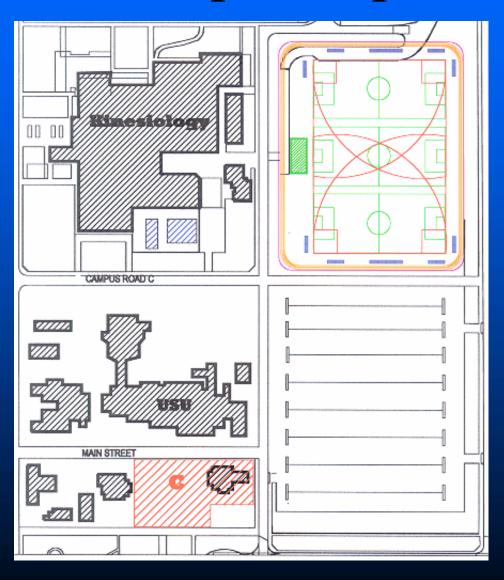








Proposed Campus Improvements



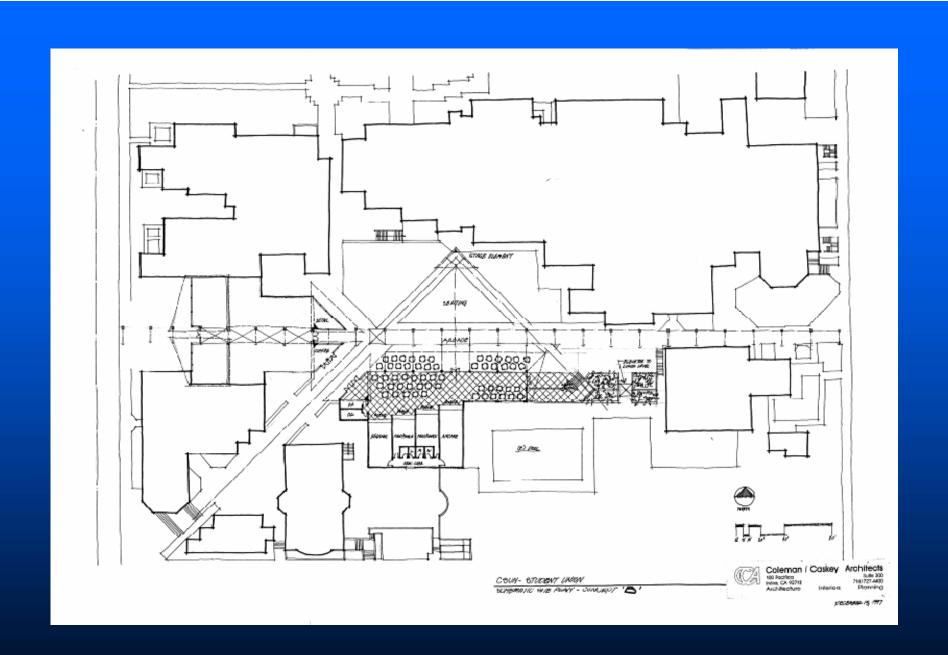
"The Design & Implementation"

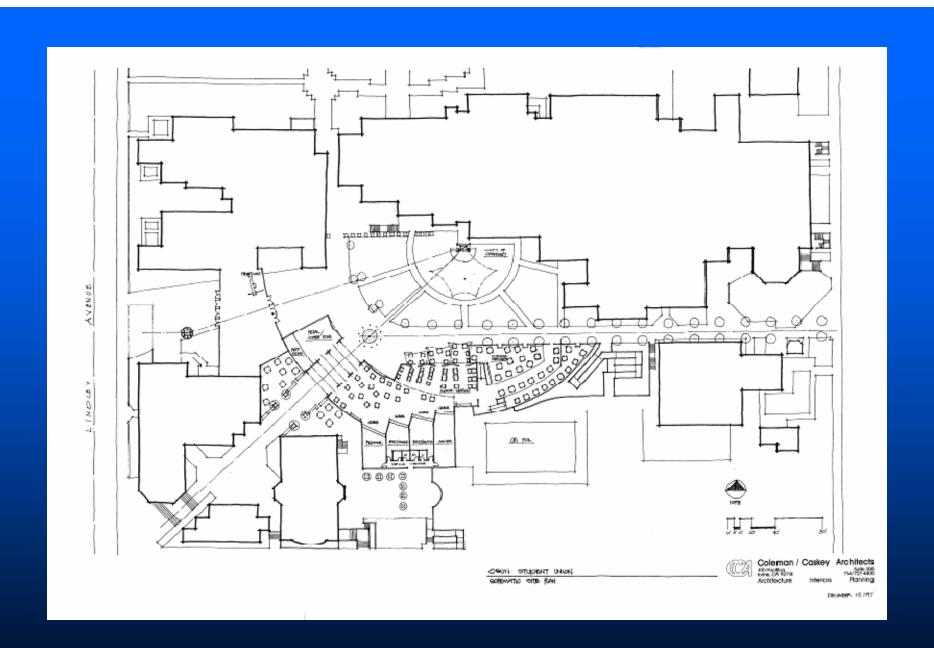
Program Refinement and Design

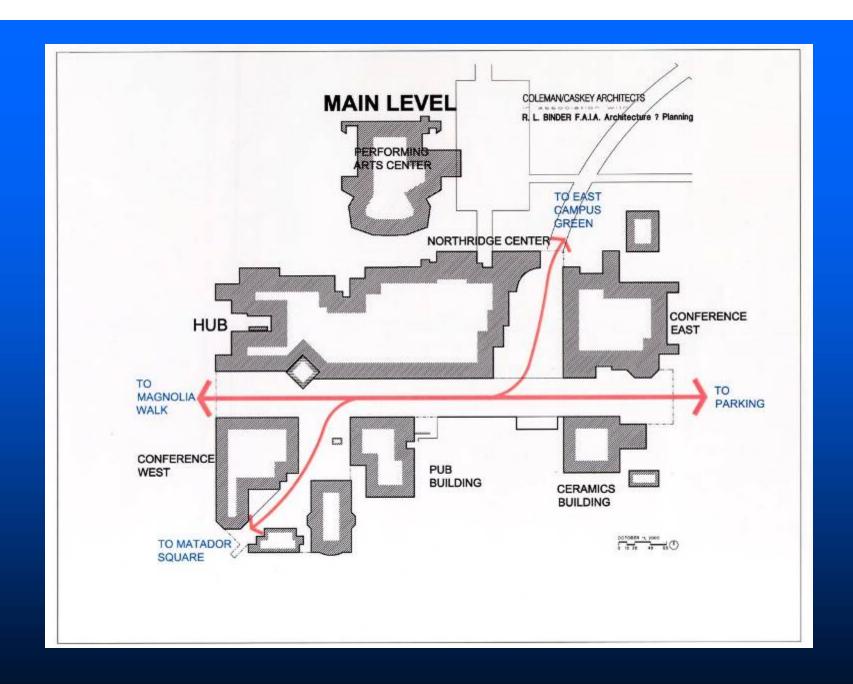
INTERACTIVE PROJECT APPROACH

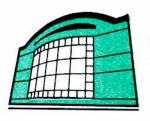
- Interactive Program Verification Process:
 - Staff interviews and questionnaires
 - On-site observations of operations, tours, programming, and data gathering sessions
- Interactive On-Site Design "Charrette" Process
- Design Coordination: Special problem solving and coordination tools

A successful and functional facility design hinges on the Design Team's approach and their ability to include the facility users in functional, operational, and equipment-related design decisions.

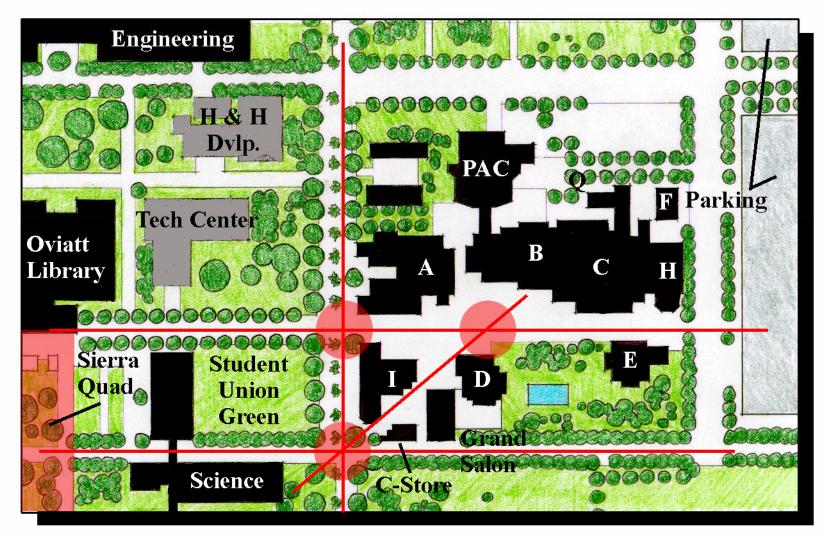




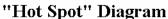




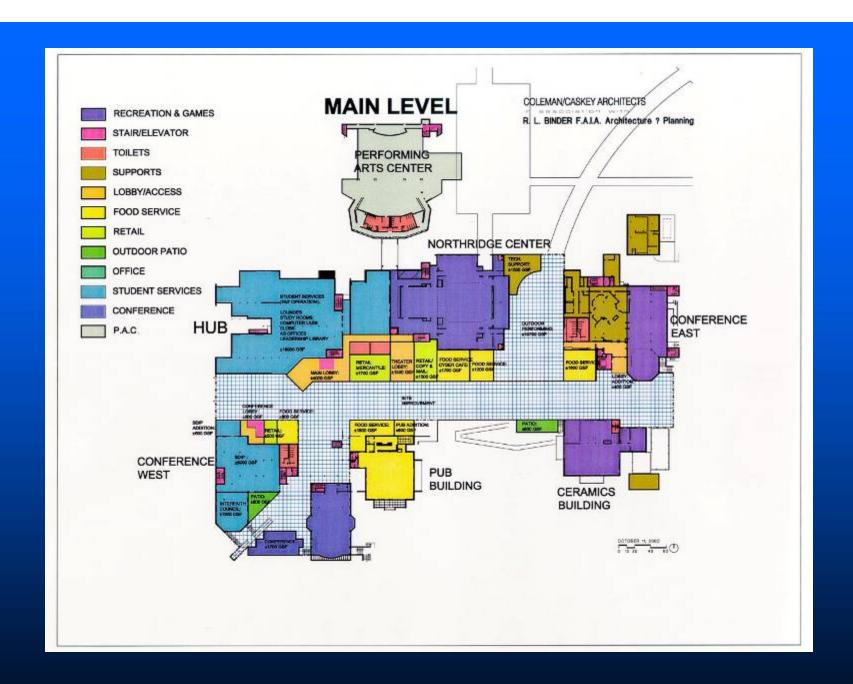
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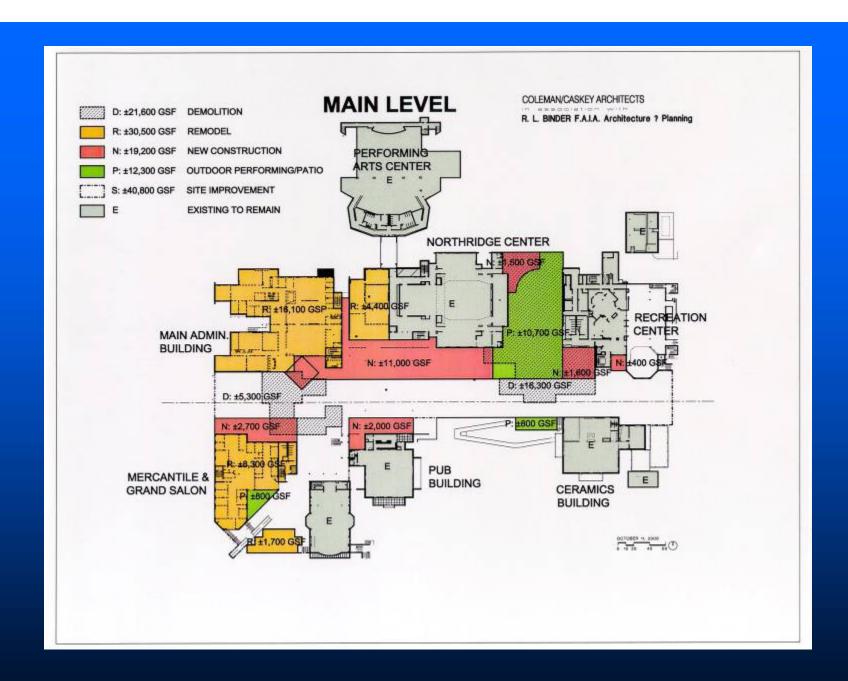






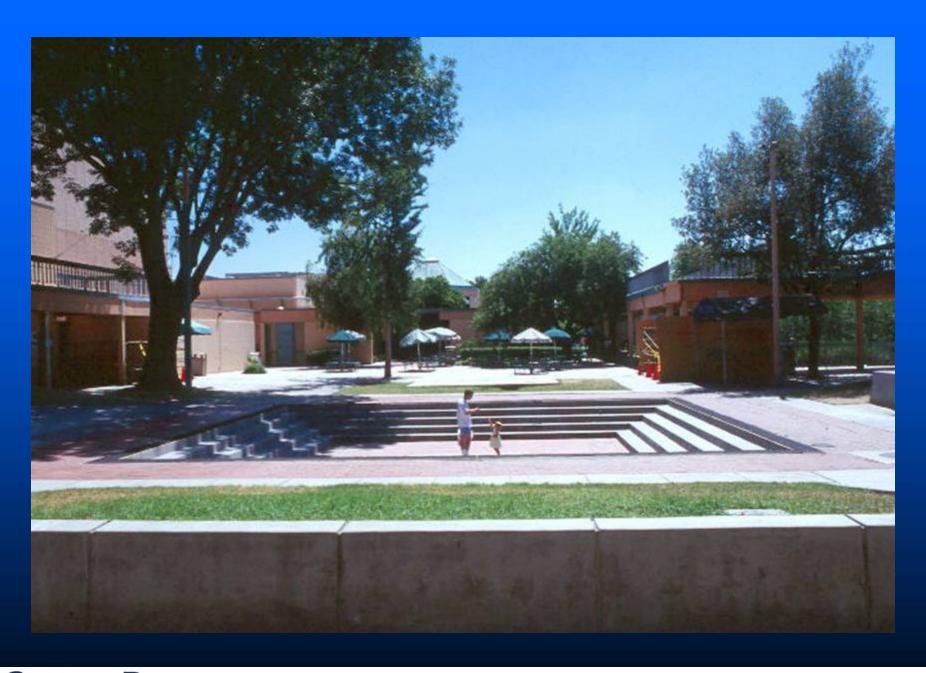












Carter*Burgess



CSUN University Student Union Site Plan





Carter:Burgess







The HUB – Activities & Services

- Student Services (24/7 Operation)
- Media Lounge
- Student Lounges
- Study Rooms
- Computer Labs and Training Lab
- Clubs
- USU Administration
- Financial Services/ATM's
- Coffee House
- Leadership Library

Lessons Learned

- Student Involvement Throughout
- Cross-Country Site Visit
- "Pay to Play" Approach
- Open Book Approach
- Renovation vs. New Construction
- Deferred Maintenance Issues

Discussion



