

15 Architectural Design Element

ELEMENT 15 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDELINES ELEMENT

Introduction

Architectural style is to be guided by and consistent with what is broadly described as “the South Florida style”, much of which has been influenced by the work of Addison Mizner; however, it is clearly understood that this campus will be of a current architectural style that will draw from and reflect upon, but not copy verbatim, these historical references. Graphic examples of DPZ’s “new urbanism” concept as developed for ABACOA’s master plan, along with a series of photographs of selected architecture, both buildings and details, will supply those references.

The image of the College Buildings should convey long term stability while encouraging an atmosphere for creative thinking.

The major portion of Campus buildings should work essentially as groupings or compositions rather than as individual buildings both functionally and aesthetically. The architectural style of new structures may and should vary to reflect current technology, however, maintaining a harmonious, aesthetic connection with existing campus structures.

Building colors should be chosen to emulate natural material colors native to the South Florida landscape and should be accomplished with those materials whenever budget will allow.

Walkways that architecturally respond to building entry or activity spaces can be covered or shaded by the use of either architectural elements or landscaping materials. These linkages can be wonderfully devised to enrich campus life, by linking buildings, especially within the same Architectural Zone. Other considerations would be to link parking areas to the core campus, helping to shape courtyards, and connecting buildings in differing Architectural Zones. These must be considered carefully before implementation and must be designed as integral parts of those structures and/or areas connected. Planning for the connection from the walkway to a building can include several options. First, a building can connect directly along its entire length, with the walkway forming a porch or portico. Second, portions of the building can be pulled away from the walkway to form one or more courtyards between the building and the walkway. Third, the building can envelop the walkway, using it as a major part of the facility's circulation system. These options and others can be used alone or in combination to create rich architectural edges between buildings and the campus pedestrian circulation system of walkways.

These large-scale concepts are not the only guidelines that FAU should follow as it develops this campus. FAU should continue to develop the campus by means of a coordinated design strategy at two levels of detail: at the campus scale (in terms of framing open spaces, defining courtyards, etc.) and at the individual building scale (materials, scale, proportions). Both of these levels of detail will be addressed below.

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Future building projects such as campus expansion and the Scripps Research Institute shall continue to comply with the South Florida Style in terms of color, material, and scale. Future buildings should complement each other and the existing campus structures. Framing open spaces and definition of courtyards will continue to be encouraged by the University Architect as new projects develop. The new Scripps buildings are traditionally larger than the existing Campus structures. The placement of the buildings within the site and the framing of the views toward these buildings help to break up the size and scale of the facilities. The colors, materials, and landscaping of the Scripps buildings is compliant with the recommended aesthetic for the campus. Future FAU buildings will comply as well.

Goal 1

To establish excellence in architectural design that will help produce an aesthetic and functional campus.

Objective 1A

FAU will seek to enrich the architectural envelopes of all buildings with response to the South Florida environment.

Policy 1A-1

The designers of facilities throughout the campus will use, as major aesthetic elements, shading devices that shield a building's envelope from the hot South Florida sun. Setbacks, overhangs, and arcades may occur at any floor levels.

Policy 1A-2

When developing the building's envelope, the architect and the mechanical engineer must balance the building's envelope efficiency with the indoor air quality. FAU will be cautious of making "too tight" a building which could cause the so-called "sick building" syndrome which frequently results from the high humidity levels of South Florida.

Objective 1B

When the correct programmatic and functional reasons exist, smaller identifiable outdoor courts should be created.

Policy 1B-1

In the making of these small-scale courts, the designer should take great care with the scale and also color of the paving material. The ground plane is one area where color can be used as a design feature. These courts must be developed with a close collaboration between architect and landscape architect. Water features, statuary and casual seating areas are strongly recommended to be incorporated within these areas

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Objective 1C

Develop covered walkways which architecturally respond to building entries, activity spaces, and landscape architecture.

Policy 1C-1

Where covered walkways are used, it is important that they remain sensitive to adjacent structures and landscaping as they explore and exploit shade and shadow.

Policy 1C-2

Promote and enhance the use of covered walkways (arcades) to connect the various buildings in the central quadrangle providing additional shade and gathering areas.

Objective 1D

Materials native to South Florida shall be used for wall and roof coverings whenever possible.

Policy 1D-1

The basic building material is concrete, either cast-in-place architectural, pre-cast architectural, concrete with a plaster finish or concrete masonry unit with either split or ground face. Natural stone is encouraged to be used where budget allows. When it is used it should be of the native Florida shell stone and limestone.

Policy 1D-2

Added color should be limited to building accents such as entry canopies, handrails, metal framing, site lighting and furnishings.

Policy 1D-3

Glass should be clear or tinted light blue, light green or light blue-green. A reflective or mirrored finish is not desired.

Objective 1E

Not used

Objective 1F

Develop buildings and spaces to emphasize neighborhood concepts and human scale to respect and augment the traditional neighborhood development planning approach of the adjacent Abacoa development.

Policy 1F-1

Articulation and fenestration of buildings shall emphasize human scale at the pedestrian level.

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Policy 1F-2

Along Main Street, all aspects of campus site and building development, including circulation links, shall be coordinated with facing Abacoa Town Center development to mutually reinforce the neighborhood development concept.