

Executive Summary

Overview

This report explores the opportunity for improving public social spaces on Queen's University campus. It compares six sites on campus against a set of evaluative criteria developed from literature on the design of public spaces. This report applies the concept of tactical urbanism as a method of better understanding how effective these social spaces on campus can be, if provided. The intent of this study is to better understand how tactical urbanism can engage students, faculty, and visitors on campus. The research questions addressed in this report are:

1. What sites present suitable conditions for other temporary and permanent set-ups on Queen's University campus?
2. What is the potential for the successful implementation of a 'pop up' cafe at Stauffer Library?

The six sites chosen for evaluation in this report are: Library Square at Stauffer Library, the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, the Tea Room, the Grad Club, the existing bike rack area located adjacent to the John Deutsch University Centre, and two spaces located outside of the Khao Restaurant in the John Deutsch University Centre. Of these spaces, Stauffer Library presented itself as the most ideal site to host a pilot project displaying key elements of tactical urbanism.

Research Methods and Evaluation Criteria

This report relied heavily upon a set of criteria that were developed to evaluate the potential for successful social spaces on campus. These criteria were developed primarily from initiatives led by Project for Public Spaces, Jan Gehl's book, *Cities for People* and Reid Ewing's book, *Identifying and Measuring Urban Design Qualities Related to Walkability*. This report combined these resources and adapted them to address specific objectives. Several methods were employed to determine the suitability of these spaces as potential permanent social spaces on campus. These methods included a literature review and direct observation. Once a site for the pilot project was determined, a video camera was used to further monitor the success of the installation.

The evaluative criteria that were developed for the purposes of this report were grouped into the following categories:

1. Accessibility, Access, and Linkages;
2. Activities and Uses;
3. Comfortable and Good Image; and
4. Sociable

Each of these criteria looked at a number of sub-criterion which were assigned grades ranging between "does not satisfy criteria" to "excellent". A summary of these findings is provided on the next page.

Data Analysis

These sites were evaluated based on the criteria developed specifically for this report. Grades were assigned as a result of direct observation.

Accessibility, Access and Linkages

Criteria	Stauffer	Agnes	Tea Room	J-Duc BR	Kao Outside	Grad Club
Continuity	●	●	●	●	●	●
Proximity	●	◐	◐	●	●	◐
Connection	●	●	◐	●	●	●
Readable	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐
Walkable	●	●	●	●	●	●
Convenient	●	●	◐	◐	◐	●
Accessible	●	●	◐	●	◐	●

Comfortable and Good Image

Criteria	Stauffer	Agnes	Tea Room	J-Duc BR	Kao Outside	Grad Club
Safe	●	◐	◐	●	●	●
Clean	●	●	●	◐	●	◐
'Green'	◐	◐	◐	●	●	◐
Sittable	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	●
Charming	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	●
Attractive	●	●	◐	◐	◐	●
Historic	●	●	●	●	●	●

Sociable

Criteria	Stauffer	Agnes	Tea Room	J-Duc BR	Kao Outside	Grad Club
Diverse	●	◐	◐	●	●	●
Stewardship	◐	◐	●	◐	●	◐
Neighbourly	◐	◐	◐	●	●	●
Pride	●	◐	◐	●	◐	●
Friendly	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	●
Interactive	●	◐	◐	◐	●	●
Welcoming	●	◐	◐	●	◐	●

Activities and Uses

Criteria	Stauffer	Agnes	Tea Room	J-Duc BR	Kao Outside	Grad Club
Active	●	◐	◐	●	◐	●
Vital	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●
Special	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Useful	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	●
Sustainable	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	●

The results presented Stauffer Library as having the greatest potential to host a pilot project.

Pilot Project

From October 16th-18th, 2014, a pop-up cafe was implemented in Library Square at Stauffer Library. This initiative required extensive pre-planning and the development of crucial partnerships with the Queen's University Head Librarian, Martha Whitehead. Ms. Whitehead provided library staff to help us setup and take down the cafe each day. During Homecoming, which fell on the 17th and 18th, a tent serving coffee and baked goods was set up, further emphasizing its use as an outdoor cafe. October 16th was used as a control day, allowing us to analyze the space with seating and furniture on a weekday afternoon. The results on this day showed approximately forty people per hour enjoying the space, as contrasted with approximately four people per hour on a weekday afternoon without the provision of outdoor seating. This confirmed the results of our evaluation, making Stauffer Library a successful pilot project.

Recommendations

A number of recommendations were developed as a result of the evaluation conducted for each individual site. These recommendations were formed to address various shortcomings that have prevented these sites from being successful social spaces on campus. The recommendations provided for Stauffer Library were a direct result of the findings from the pilot project. These recommendations are as follows:

Stauffer Library:

1. Provide clear signage for entrance options. Unlocking all doors will allow for through-access and help improve readability of the space.
2. Adding movable chairs, tables, and umbrellas that are comfortable, accessible, and visible will provide greater opportunities for students and faculty to stay in the space rather than simply passing through it.
3. The inclusion of way-finding markers at the corner of Union Street and University Avenue will make the space unique and bring people to the site, but will also allow people to use the Library as a primary benchmark on campus.
4. Chain furniture during the evening or set up appropriate schedule for take-down crews.
5. The addition of planters and moveable seating around the trees will capture the changing shade throughout the day and would make a positive addition to the space.
6. If there was outdoor seating on the west side of the entrance by the indoor café, the space will have a greater sense of stewardship. The introduction of an outdoor seating space for students may lead them to feel pride and care for the space.
7. Introducing seating will also make the space more sociable because it gives users a space to sit, relax and enjoy.
8. Keep the Library Café open in the spring and summer and have the operators responsible for the outdoor seating.

Agnes Etherington Art Centre*:

1. The use of comfortable outdoor seating will improve the sittability of the space. It will also change users' perception of the space as being merely a through way space, and instead make it a destination on the south end of campus.
2. The provision of outdoor seating would also provide seating for employees of the Kingston General Hospital, located just south of the site. This will attract users into the south end of Queen's Campus and can encourage greater use of the area. It will provide a quiet, social seating space away from the activity on Union Street and University Avenue.
3. Provide signage to indicate the presence of ongoing exhibits indoors. It will bring users into the site and allow them to explore the Centre.
4. The AEAC (Agnes Etherington Art Centre) should host programmable activities such as art programs for children that can utilize the outside space during the summertime. The large frontage would allow enough space not only for seating and tables but also for a picnic table that would allow children and young adults to also engage in the space.

Tea Room

1. Open the existing glass doors to improve accessibility and convenience to and through the interior café.
2. Have way finding tools and signs to indicate the presence of a café inside to improve readability of the space.
3. Configure tables and chairs to allow for partial shade and sun exposure in order to improve comfortability for all users in the space.
4. Extend café service out to the patio area and allow patrons to bring

food and beverages outdoors.

John Deutsch University Centre Bike Rack*

1. Relocate a portion of the existing bike racks in order to make it accessible to the public as an outdoor seating space. Keep a set of two rows of bike racks at the south end of the site to provide opportunities for cyclists to park their bikes there and enjoy the space. It will also provide an additional barrier away from the busy intersection of Union Street and University Avenue. The remaining bike racks could be located across the street near Stauffer Library or near the southern corner of John Deutsch University Centre.
2. Have benches along the wall adjacent to the John Deutsch University Centre to provide a range of seating options.
3. Include landscaped features or planters in the area to add character and greenery into the space.
4. Provide string lighting in the trees to add character as an extension of Stauffer Library tree lighting and to improve the image of the space.
5. Include small-scale pedestrian lighting as an extension from the existing lighting configuration outside Stauffer Library such as the lamp posts.
6. Include a waste disposal bin for users in the space to allow for continuous maintenance of the space and to instill a sense of stewardship in the users of the space.
7. Chain the furniture together to prevent theft over night. Arrange a partnership with either maintenance crews in charge of the John Deutsch University Centre or Physical Plant Services to lock and unlock furniture each day.

John Deutsch University Centre Khao Outdoor Seating

Area in Front of Glass Wall:

1. Remove existing concrete planters and seating completely and replace with inexpensive, moveable, comfortable chairs and tables. Consider including additional umbrellas to provide shade from excessive sunshine in the space.
2. Install seasonal vertical plantings along the interior cement wall to complement existing shrubbery that separates the seating space from the sidewalk. This also improves the comfortability and micro-climate of the space.
3. Retrofit the existing glass wall that separates the interior cafeteria with the exterior space with a retractable glass wall. It will provide people a unique patio setting while observing the outdoors. The provision of the outdoor seating space and the open wall also makes users of the outdoor space feel a part of the activity occurring indoors. In the short-term, doors should be unlocked and kept open for users to improve the readability of the space.
4. Provide outdoor waste disposal bins so that users can have a sense of stewardship over the space and engage in daily maintenance.

Alcove Area:

1. Replace concrete seating with benches or improved seating spaces.
2. Replace existing central planter in the alcove with covered fire pit.
3. Develop a partnership to ensure that the fire pit is being used for certain months of the year and during a set schedule.

Grad Club

1. Open up patio access from Union Street so that it is both accessible and easy to see from a distance.