

THESIS STATEMENT

Based on research of Christian Missions and determining the diversity of needs, it can be shown that a Christian Ecumenical Centre can be successfully integrated into the Edmonton capitol city region to provide a unique missionary service for the community at large.

by brett clayton woodrow

DEFINITION OF ECUMENISM

As it is, there are many parts, but one body.
1 Corinthians 12: 20

The definition of ecumenism is the uniting of people under one faith and one theology as called for through the Bible.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12: 27

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace
Ephesians 2:11-22

Unity in faith

- Common Scripture
- Common Theology

Unity in sacraments

- Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Holy Absolution, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick; Ministry

Unity in decision making

- Ecumenical councils and church government

Unity in Mission

so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12: 25

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer
Acts 2:42

THE VISION OF AN ECUMENICAL CENTRE

The vision is to provide a centre to show a united front as one Christian group that encompasses people of all backgrounds and emphasizes unity, service, missions and renewal; elements of full communion.

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another
Hebrews 10:19-25

TODAY'S ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATIONS

The most recognizable Christian Ecumenical organizations in the world today are:

- Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
- World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)
- World Council of Churches (WCC).



**World Council
of Churches**



NAMING EDMONTON'S ECUMENICAL CENTRE

DERIVED FROM THE GREEK MEANING
"UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH"



OIKOUMENE

Pronunciation "ecumene"

This word is recognized around the world as a Christian Ecumenical term.

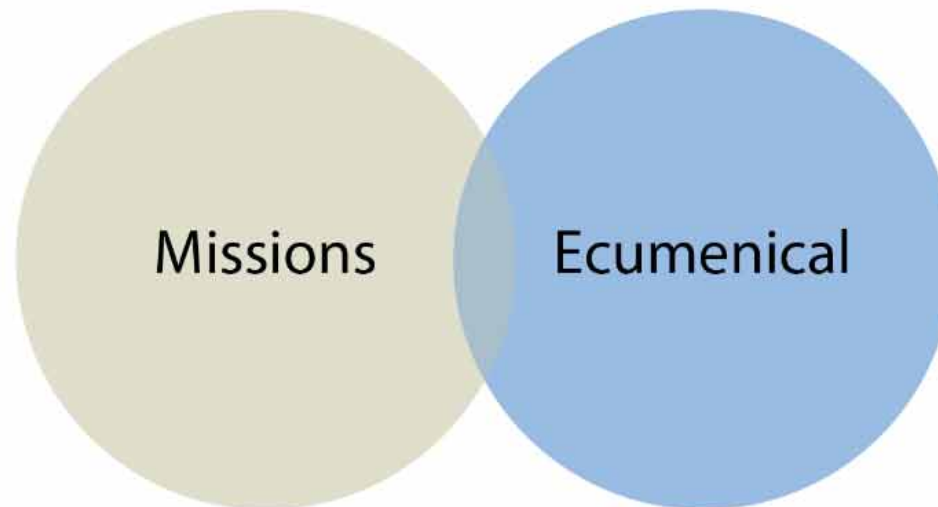
As the Ecumenical Centre's purpose is to unify the Christian Church, the Greek word Oikoumene defines that meaning and becomes the name of the building.

OIKOUMENE PRINCIPLES

Based on Research of Ecumenism and Missions

1. The Centre is to implement in some form the three main philosophies of the early Christian missions and the church:
 - .1 To be located within a community.
 - .2 To have educational, learning and resource areas.
 - .3 To have a worship space.
2. The centre needs to have an ease of accessibility within the community.
3. To put unity back into the Christian Comm'unity'
4. To be a mission to its community.
5. To address and respond to the needs of the community.
6. To have a recognizable identity.
7. The centre should embrace and reflect current and innovative technologies and implement them within its use and function.
8. To be respectful to the environment and its surroundings.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



In developing a program for the Centre an evaluation of ecumenism and community were explored.

COMPONENTS OF AN ECUMENICAL PROGRAM

The vision of program areas within the centre from an ecumenical standpoint would be:

Ecumenical Administration

- Head Office for Western Canada
- To promote dialogue and reconciliation between the Christian Churches.
- Recognize and celebrate diversity.
- Offer Love and Compassion
- Respect Traditions and History.
- Come to harmony or acceptance of theology through Scripture, Traditions and History.
- Support local and abroad missions.

Worship

- To learn, to share, and to participate through experiencing various styles of praise and worship. This promotes community and offers opportunities to learn and understand each other.

Education

Training

Renewal

- Education promotes growth, understanding and knowledge.
- Training provides
- Mission support
- Higher education
- Specific training
- Skills
- Renewal is important for rest, reflecting and equipping.

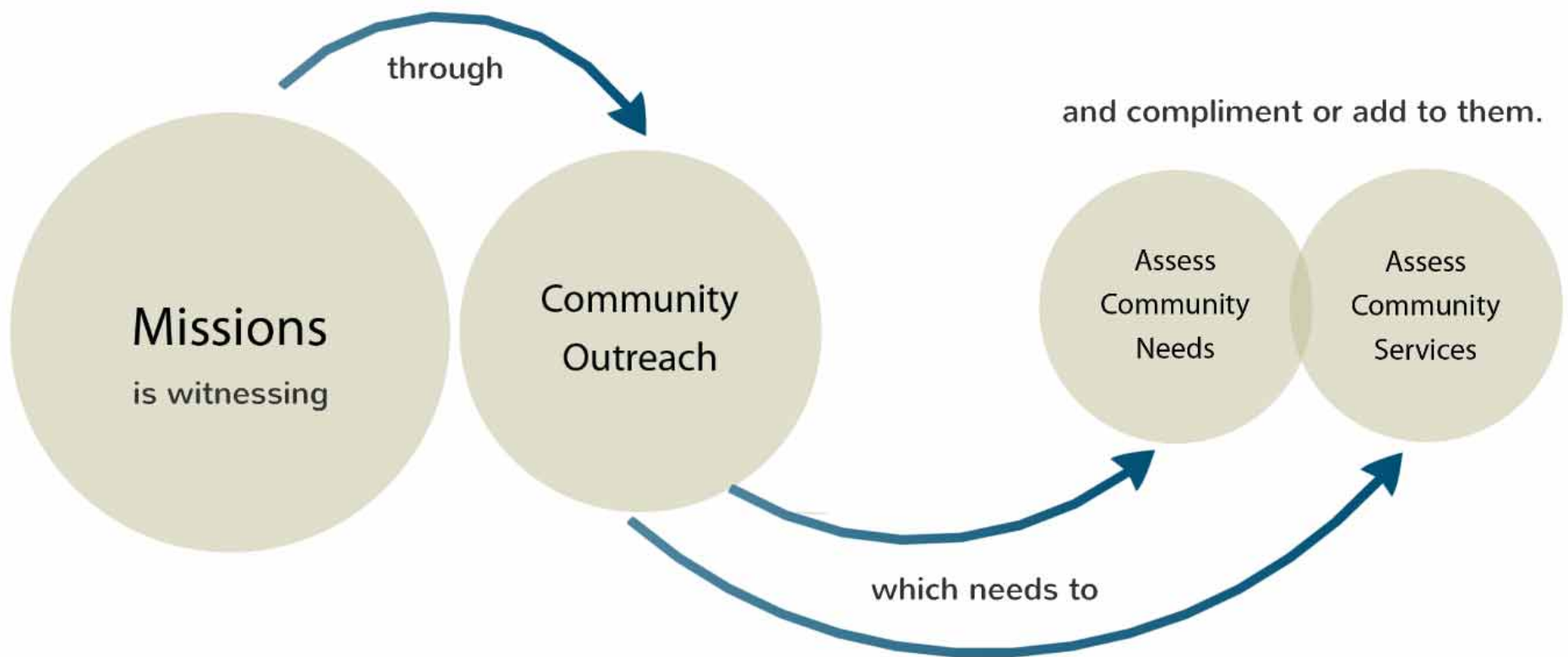
Fellowship

Gathering

Holding a meal

- Fellowship promotes free discussion and sharing.
- Gathering promotes unity through social interaction and helps develop new relationships.
- Holding a meal promotes togetherness and hospitality.
- Assist in helping social needs.
- Enables communication on different levels
- Enables learning between people.

COMPONENTS OF AN ECUMENICAL MISSION PROGRAM



PLACING AN ECUMENICAL CENTRE IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON

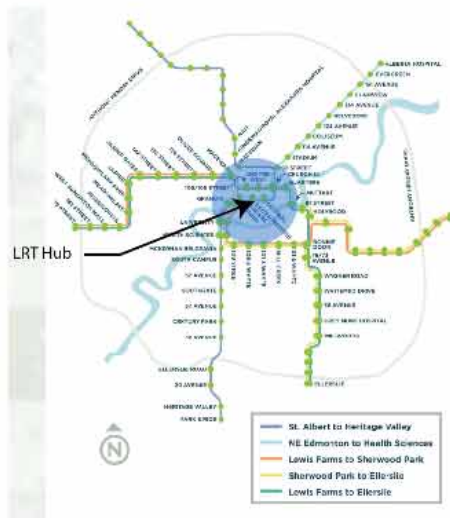
The centre needs to be within Edmonton's Community



Population 2012: 817,498

PLACING AN ECUMENICAL CENTRE IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Accessibility



Current and Future LRT Routes



Edmonton Transit System
25 Transit Centres Throughout Edmonton
● High Density Routes / Stations



Edmonton Trail System
Bicycle and pedestrian trails run throughout Edmonton. The largest network of paths and trails run along the river valley



Edmonton Street System
The street system follows a typical grid system with collector roads placed throughout the city.

PLACING AN ECUMENICAL CENTRE IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Tradition and History

- Edmonton's rich with history, tradition, culture and diversity.
- It's origin is located near the current day Legislature Grounds and was called Fort Edmonton.
- Edmonton Christian Missions began in the centre of the city and was integral to Fort Edmonton.

Respect and Learning from Tradition and History

- Mission opportunities often followed main roads, transportation routes and rivers which linked them to the centre of the communities.
- Missions were often placed along arterial paths to ensure opportunity for outreach.
- Missions were naturally associated with movement and travel as they were constantly active within the community.

Fort Edmonton
1795

First Protestant Missionary
at Fort Edmonton – 1840
Robert Rundle



Siting an Ecumenical Centre

- Optimal placing should be in new neighborhoods or revitalized areas with increased densities and growth.
- It is to be easily accessible.
- It is to be by Community Nodes and high traffic areas.
- It is to have the opportunity for missions and community outreach.
- It is to promote diversity and respect of individuals and groups.
- It is to have the opportunity to become active and involved within the community.
- It is to be family orientated.
- It is to be neutral to avoid association with any specific denomination.
- It is to allow for the opportunity to promote and engage relationships for bringing people together in unity.

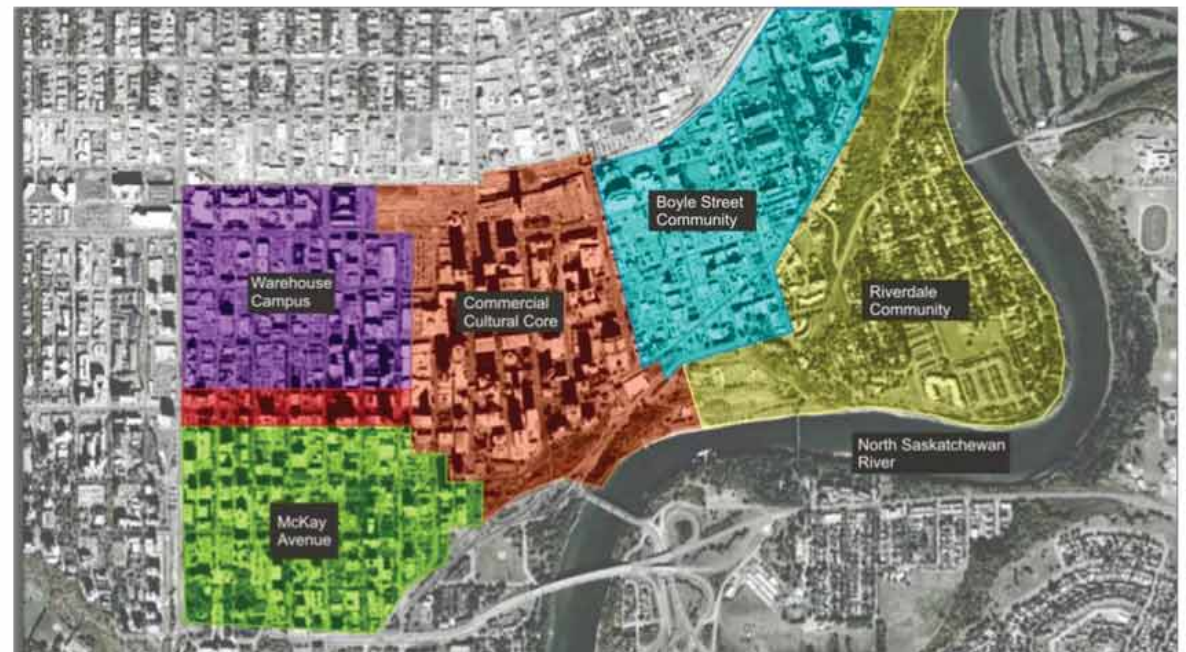
The Siting an Ecumenical Centre

1. The most accessible place in Edmonton is within the downtown area. It can be accessed by vehicles, light rail transit, buses, bicycles and pedestrian paths.
2. It is expected that five billion dollars will be spent in the redevelopment of the area adjacent to the new hockey arena and the downtown core including the arts and entertainment district.
3. Edmonton is planning for higher density population in the cities core.
4. Edmonton is also committed to revitalizing downtown to bring life back into the core.



CITY CENTRE CONTEXT

- The City of Edmonton is developing a plan to help revitalize the downtown core by being more:
 - Compact and Creating Higher Densities
 - Transit Orientated
 - Sustainable
- These principles anchor the philosophies of siting an ecumenical centre downtown.
- Higher densities overload the existing Christian facilities. It is necessary to provide and allocate more Christian facilities to accommodate the projected densities.
- The improved transit system will help accommodate the accessibility and help create a walkable community and an active site.
- The Christian faith respects the earth's environment and its resources. By re-using and revitalizing existing properties, it shows an environmental respect for the surrounding area in which it is placed.

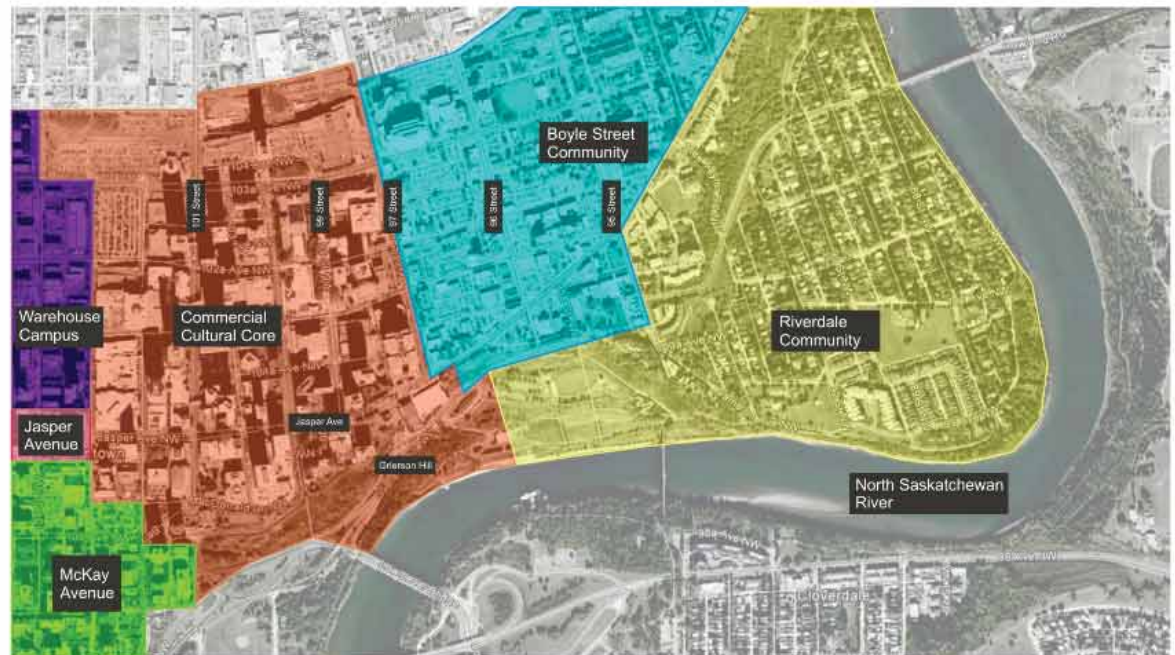


CITY CENTRE CONTEXT

The east end of downtown Edmonton is an ideal place for an Ecumenical Centre.

It will not only serve the greater Edmonton Community but also the projective growth and expansion of downtown. It will be accessible by the downtown businesses and associations for outreach, professional and public use.

It is adjacent to the commercial cultural core of Edmonton which compliments the philosophies of ecumenism in celebrating diversity and social interaction through arts and activities throughout the year.



COMMERCIAL CULTURAL CORE

The heart of social interaction for the City of Edmonton is concentrated in the commercial cultural core downtown through:

Government:

- City Hall, Edmonton's Government
- Canada Place, Federal Government

Arts and Entertainment District

- Art Gallery
- Windspear Centre - Music
- Churchill Square
 - Year round community festivals
- Citadel Theatre

Learning and Resources

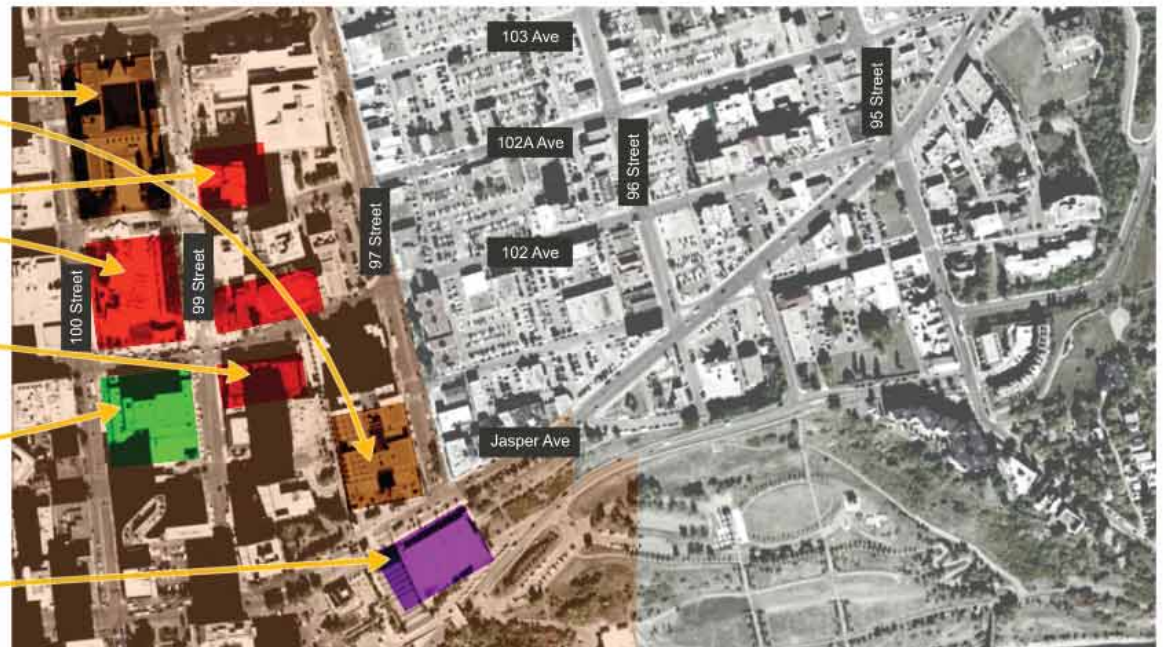
- Milner Library

Business's

Shaw Conference Centre

Future home for

- Provincial Art Gallery
- Edmonton Oilers's Hockey Arena



CITY OF EDMONTON IS CANADA'S FESTIVAL CITY

Commercial Cultural Core – Festivals and Activities

Edmonton has become very successful in creating an active community within the downtown core by focusing on family, community relationships, diversity, culture and respect for each other. Tens of thousands of people visit the downtown core throughout the year.

Edmonton's Downtown Community

- Celebrates multiculturalism and diversity.
- Committed to revitalizing downtown.
- Committed to environmental awareness
- Committed to good health.



Edmonton Art Gallery



Taste of Edmonton – Churchill Square



Stanley A. Milner Library



The Works – Churchill Square



International Children's Festival



Street Performers – Churchill Square



Citadel – MacLab Theatre



Shaw Conference Centre



Windspear Centre

OIKOUMENE RELATIONSHIPS - ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

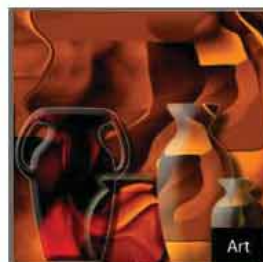
The idea of full communion is growing among Christian Churches.

The Christian Community has a strong connection with the Arts and it will compliment the Commercial Cultural Core of Edmonton. It will provide the opportunity to stimulate and nourish ecumenical relationships with similar type venues and activities complimenting them.

These activities will provide a sense of harmony and order that will promote the ideals of Christianity within the community at large.

The mission is to create an active site within an active community. Working together strengthens ecumenical relationships. By providing community outreach that compliments Edmonton's festivals and activities, it will also build ecumenical relationships that will provide a mission to Edmonton's greater community.

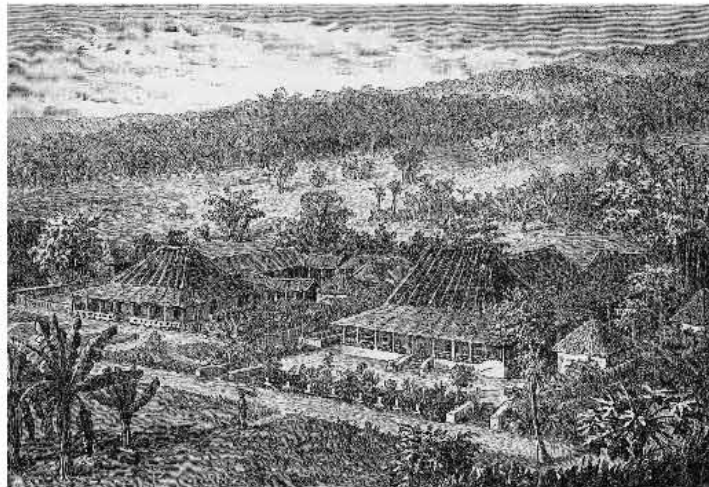
The centre is to be immersed into the culture of the people that are to be served.



OIKOUMENE

Early Missions

Typical structures:
Houses
Education
Worship



Dutch Settlement in Sumutra



Settlement in Mbau

Missions developed settlements and became an identifiable community within a community. They provided a large area to offer multiple uses. Exterior spaces and gardens provided a welcoming access to help initiate community interaction and to bring people in.

TODAY'S ECUMENICAL CENTRES

Today the development of ecumenical centres are located on campus style or larger sites within urban areas.

An identifiable place within a community.

Choosing a site will focus on nurturing internal unity however it must have the opportunity for community outreach.



Bigelow Chapel, New Brighton, Minnesota
An Ecumenical Campus chartered by the United Church.

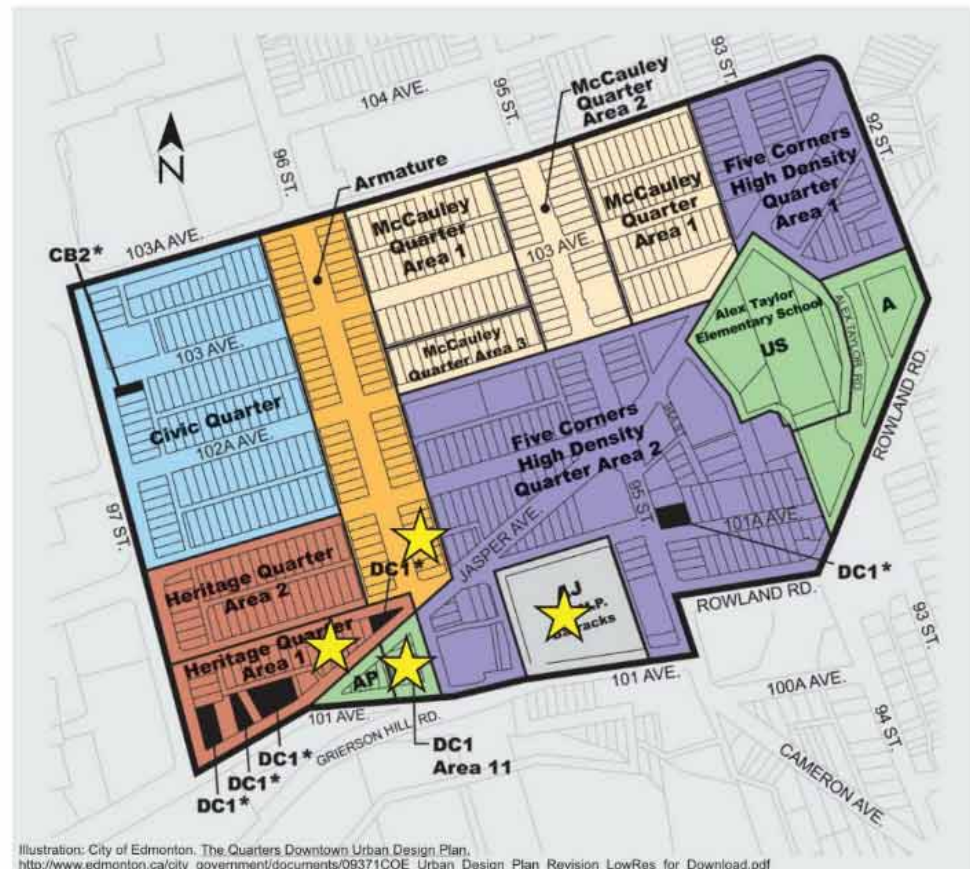


Pope John Paul II Ecumenical Cultural Centre, Washington D.C.,
Roman Catholic Church

CITY OF EDMONTON

The City of Edmonton plans to re-develop a community of five distinct areas incorporating high densities with linear park systems. The City of Edmonton promotes:

- Sustainability
- Improved circulation with strengthening connections
- Providing open spaces in the form of parks and plaza's accessible throughout the year.
- Developing strong communities composed of diversity of people and uses.
- Pedestrian and bicycle friendly
- Importance of Public Space



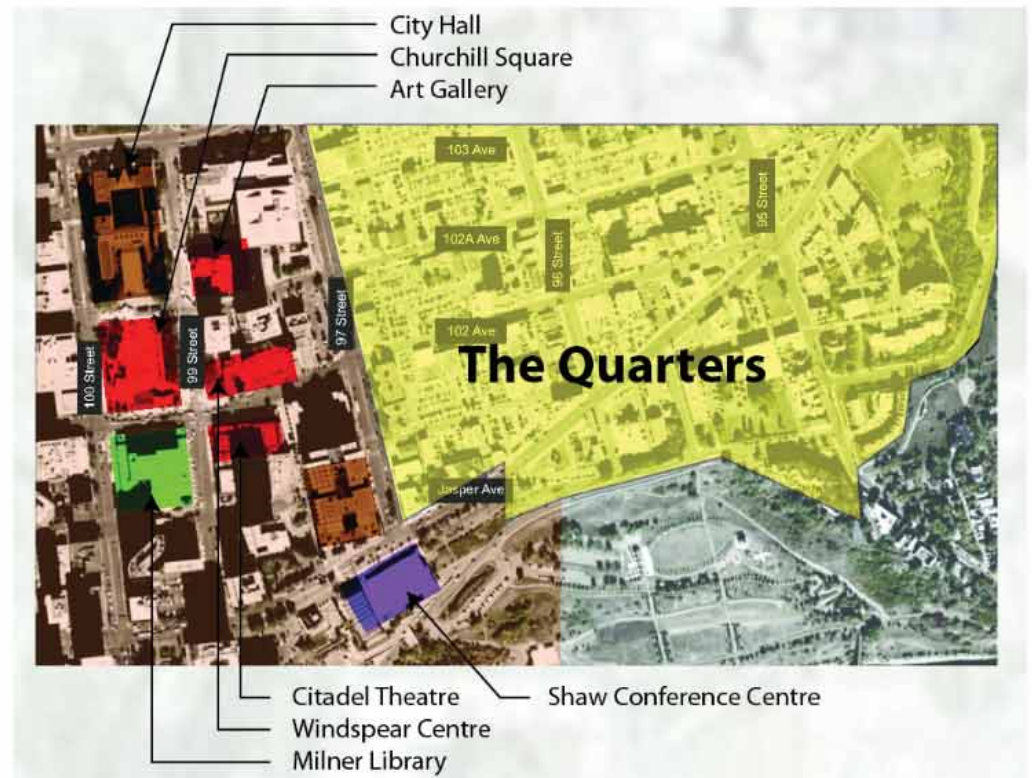
CITY OF EDMONTON - THE QUARTERS

The Quarters

The Quarters was an original residential neighborhood of Edmonton.

It is adjacent to the Arts District and the commercial cultural core of downtown. This district has a concentration of high-density commercial uses. All but one of Downtown's major office towers (25 storeys or greater) are located in the Arts District.

- The Quarters has close proximity to varying street ministries.
- This area supports multiculturalism and diversity through distinct areas like Little Italy, China Town, and the Boyle Street and Riverdale communities.
- The Quarters borders the river-valley and has direct access to Edmonton's multiuse trail system.



CITY OF EDMONTON - THE QUARTERS

These potential sites follow the site principles of early missions:

1. They are located in the heart of Edmonton's community.
2. They have ease of accessibility from all types of transportation and is central to Edmonton's Community.
3. The sites are neutral and are zoned for redevelopment and have no affiliation with any Christian denomination.
4. They are adjacent to sites that host major community events, festivals and entertainment.
5. It is within a multicultural area of the City.
6. Mission opportunities exist from street ministries to complimenting the arts through activities in Edmonton's city centre. The centre will focus on creating an active site that will compliment and connect with the arts and activities of the commercial cultural core.
7. These sites follow environmental guidelines by revitalizing a decaying neighborhood and by re-using exiting properties rather than developing untouched lands.
8. These sites respect the historical significance of the area and are in close proximity to the original protestant and catholic missions of Fort Edmonton.



Potential Sites within the Quarters.

THE GRIERSON SITE

The Grierson Site best suits the program requirements and criteria of the Site Principles.

Programs will be developed that will offer deeper learning , renewal and spiritual growth that will compliment the teaching of the arts and activities of downtown.

The site will focus on nurturing internal unity however will have the opportunity for community outreach.

The Grierson Site offers a space that respects history and tradition.

It will provide a place that will house ecumenical relationships and a unified body that will be an identifiable community within a community.

It will be accessible to the community at large by creating an active site and active edges.

It will have the opportunity to provide community outreach through activities on site that will compliment the Commercial Cultural Core and grow its purpose.



1935 R.C.M.P. K Division Building

1912 R.N.W.M.P. Barracks

Existing building to be demolished.

THE GRIERSON SITE



THE GRIERSON SITE



THE GRIERSON SITE



THE GRIERSON SITE

Currently the Grierson Complex is a federal minimum security prison that will be moving out with the opportunity of restoring the existing buildings and developing the site.

The Grierson Complex has two historical buildings that may be restored.

1912 - R.N.W. M.P. Barracks

1935 - R.C.M.P. K Division Building

The centre of the site was the parade grounds for the RNWMP overlooking the river valley to the south west.

Proposed Armature



1935 R.C.M.P. K Division Building

1912 R.N.W.M.P. Barracks

THE GRIERSON SITE BUILDINGS

The 1935 building is a Collegiate Gothic and Tudor Gothic style.

Elements include crenelated towers, a parapet, and decorative brick work.



The building reinforces the institutional character of the former RCMP.

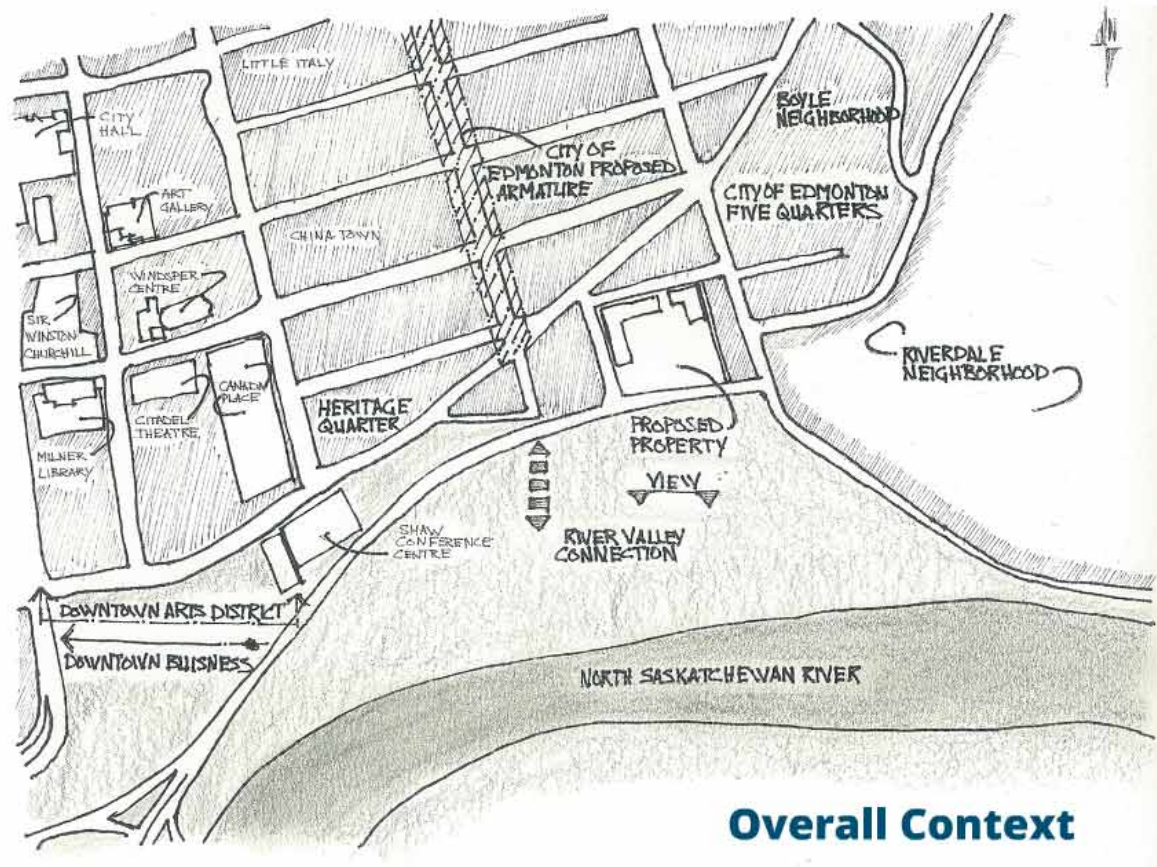
The buildings have an image of status that served the needs and development of the forces between 1912 and 1936.

The purpose of the detachment was to police and administer national law enforcement.

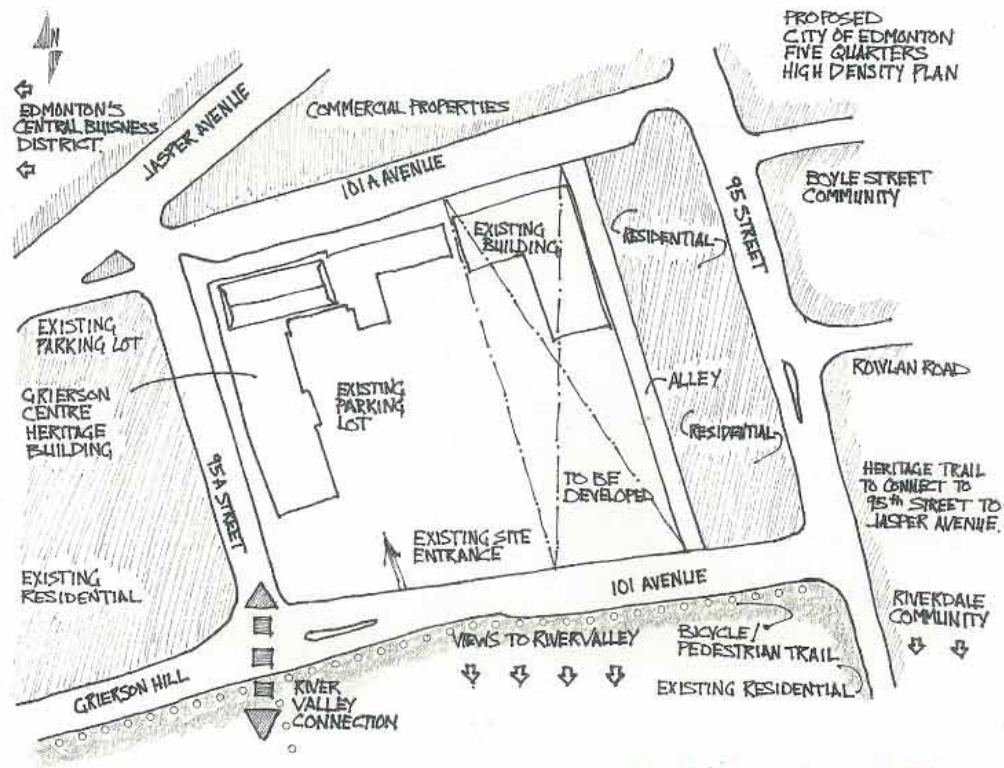


The 1912 building exhibits good craftsmanship and reinforces materials and its presence on site.

THE GRIERSON SITE



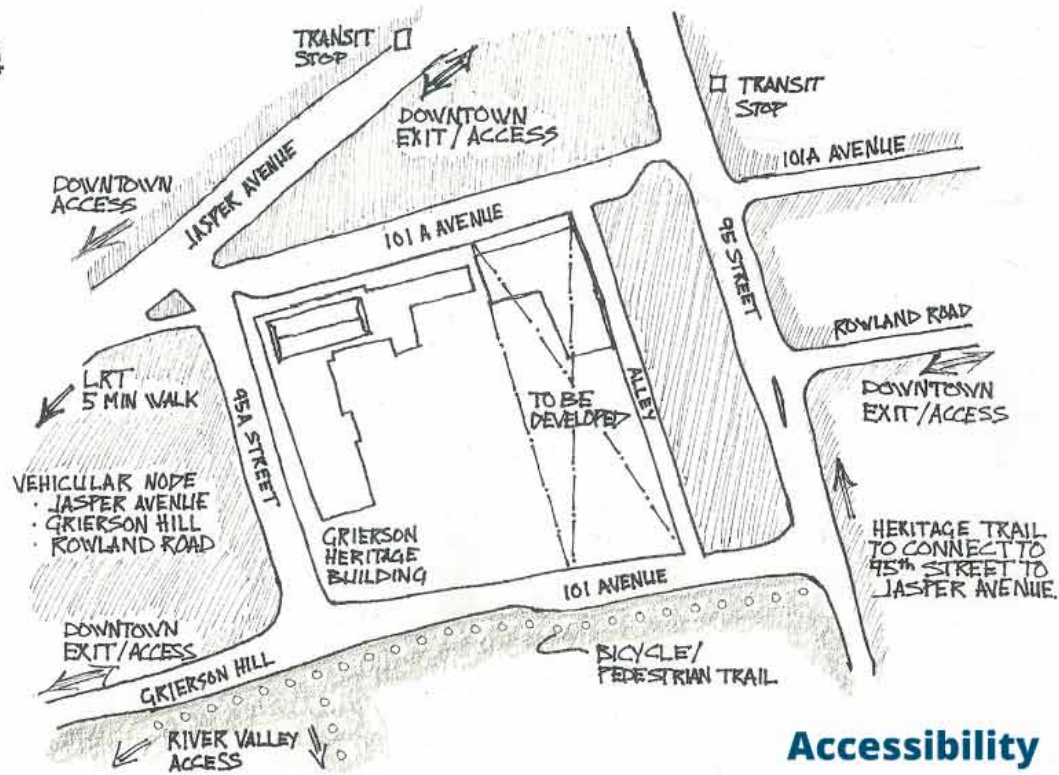
THE GRIERSON SITE



Existing Land Use

The existing Land Use is appropriate for the building classification. The adjacent properties have no direct relationship or effect on the property other than the residential complex on the south side of 101 Ave to the east.

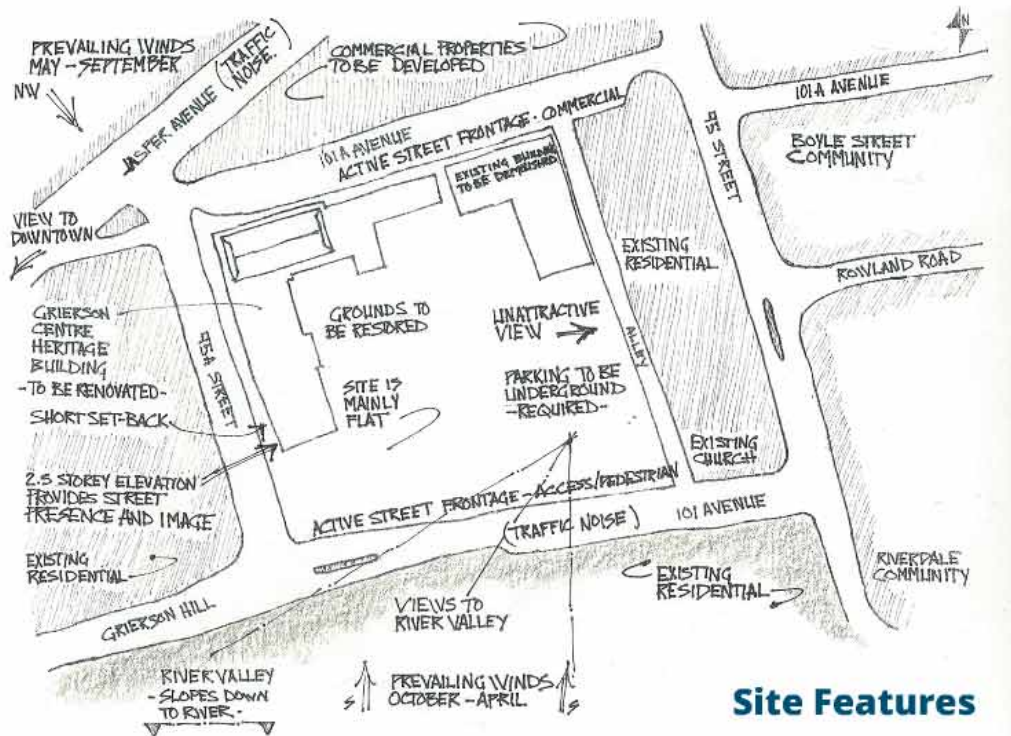
THE GRIERSON SITE



Accessibility to the public is exceptional via vehicle, transit, bike and pedestrian ways.

Accessibility

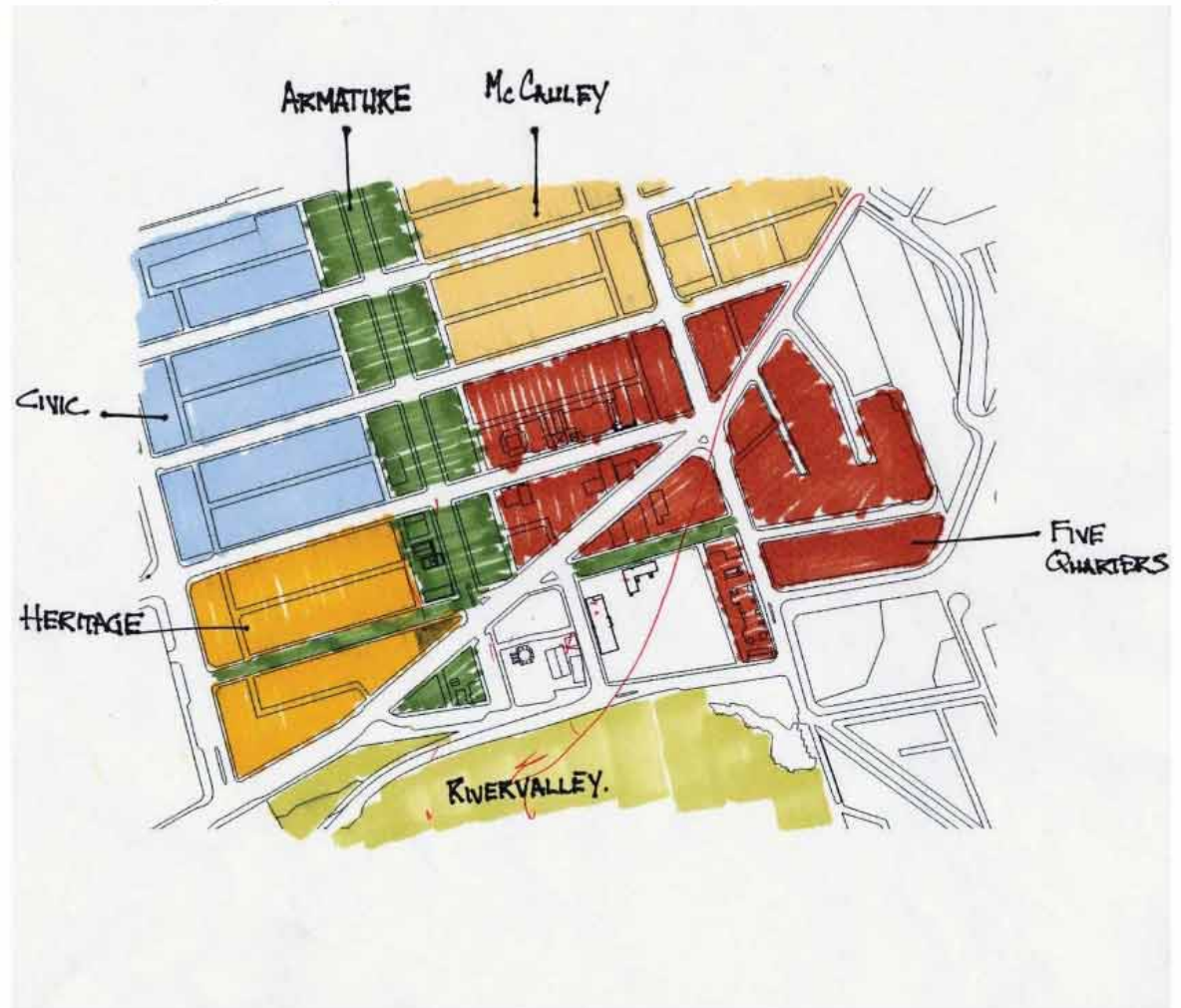
THE GRIERSON SITE



The most notable site features are the views to the river valley, the existing heritage buildings on the site and the open green space in the centre of the site.

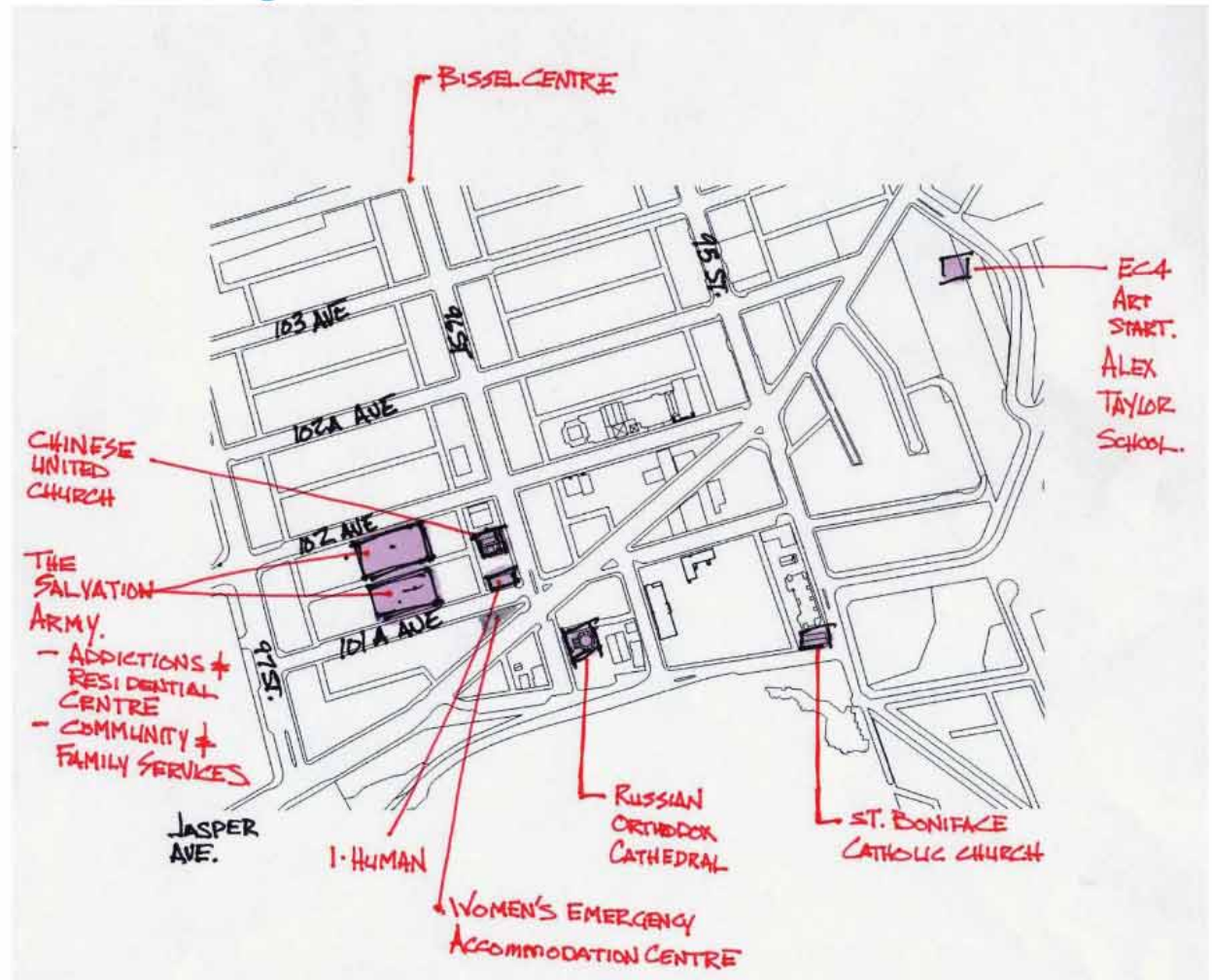
Community Study

1. Heritage Corner
 - To preserve Heritage Buildings
2. Civic Quarter
 - Civic Accomodations
 - Medium and High Density housing
3. Armature
 - Pedestrian Friendly
 - Urban Plaza's / Parks
4. McCauley Neighborhood
 - Medium Density Residential
5. Five Corners
 - High Density Residential
 - Mixed commercial use

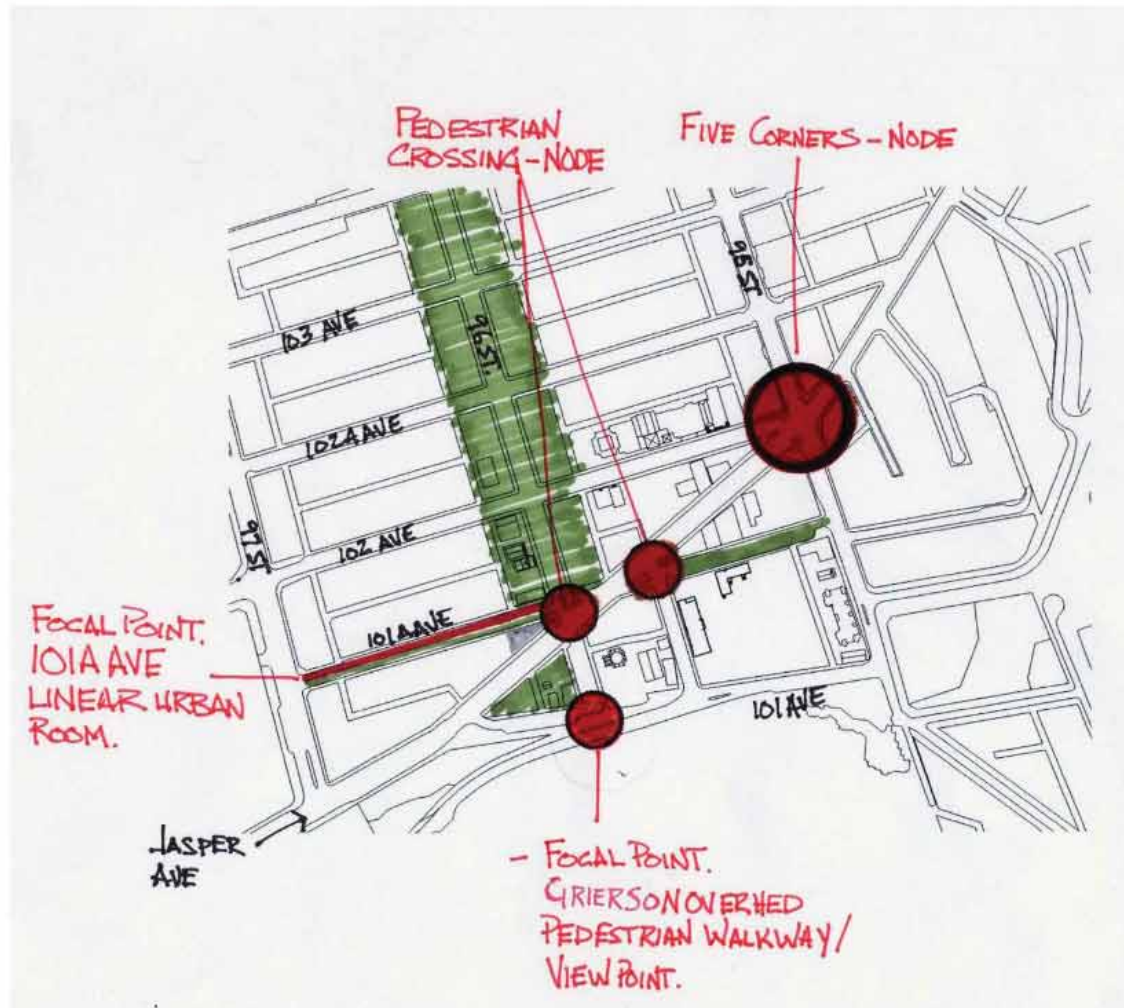


Non Profit Organizations

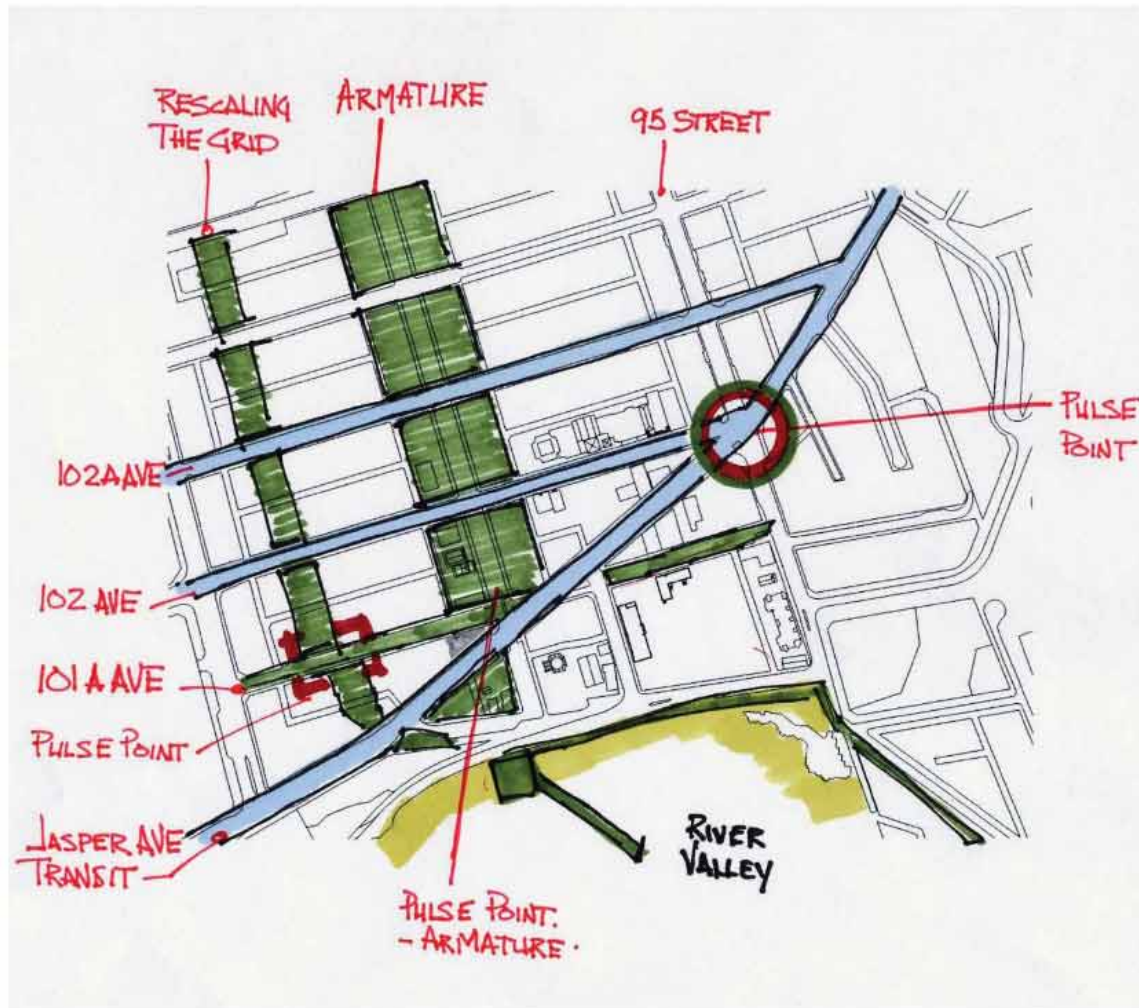
1. Bissel Centre
 - focus to eliminate poverty
2. EC4 - Art Start
 - focus to eliminate poverty
3. St. Boniface Catholic Church
 - Place of Worship
4. St. Barbara Cathedral
 - Place of Worship
5. I-Human
 - Youth arts program
 - Youth at Risk
6. The Salvation Army
 - Community & Family Services
 - Addiction & Residential Centre
7. Chinese United Church
 - Place of Worship
8. Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre



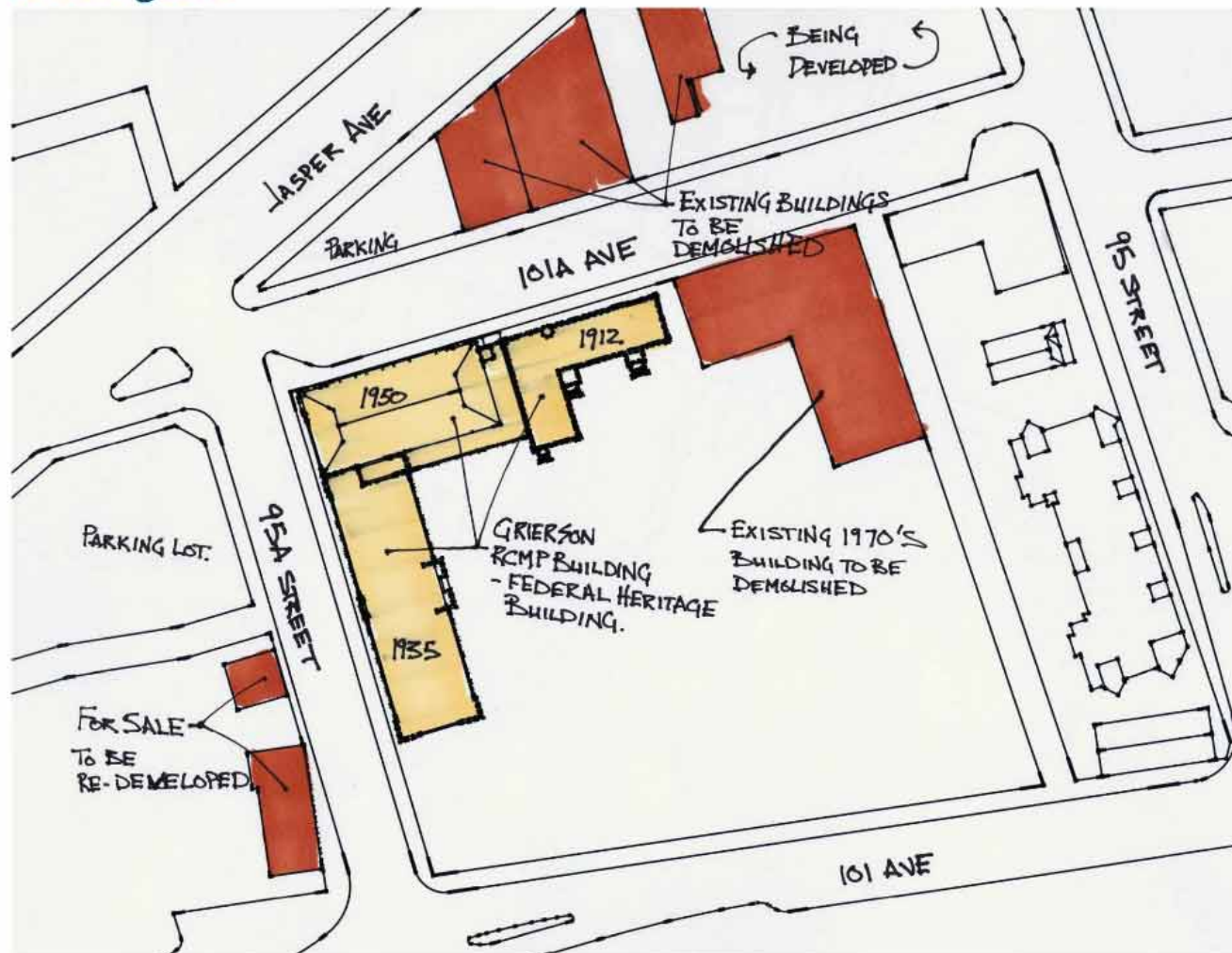
Community Nodes & Focal Points



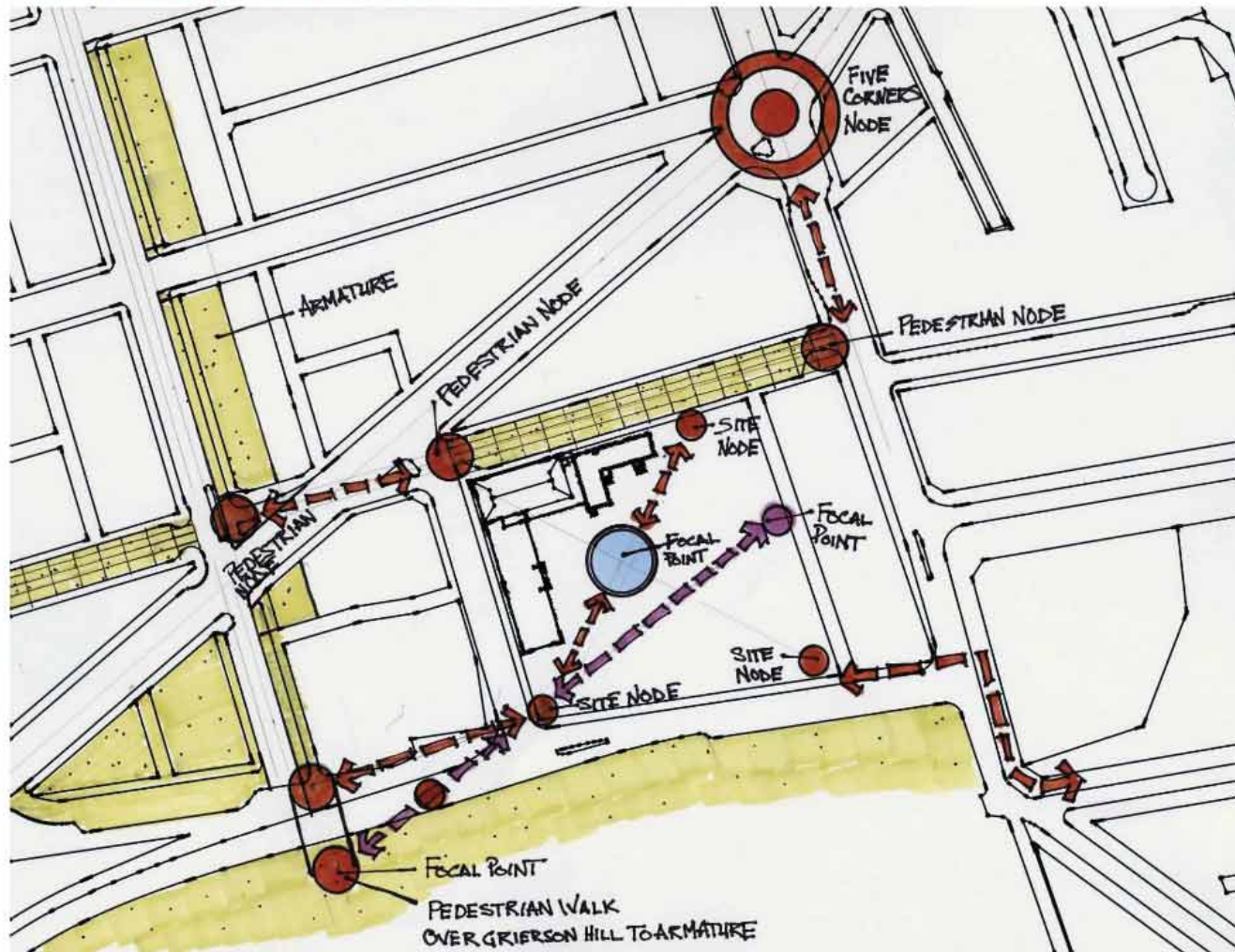
Pedestrian Street & Connectivity



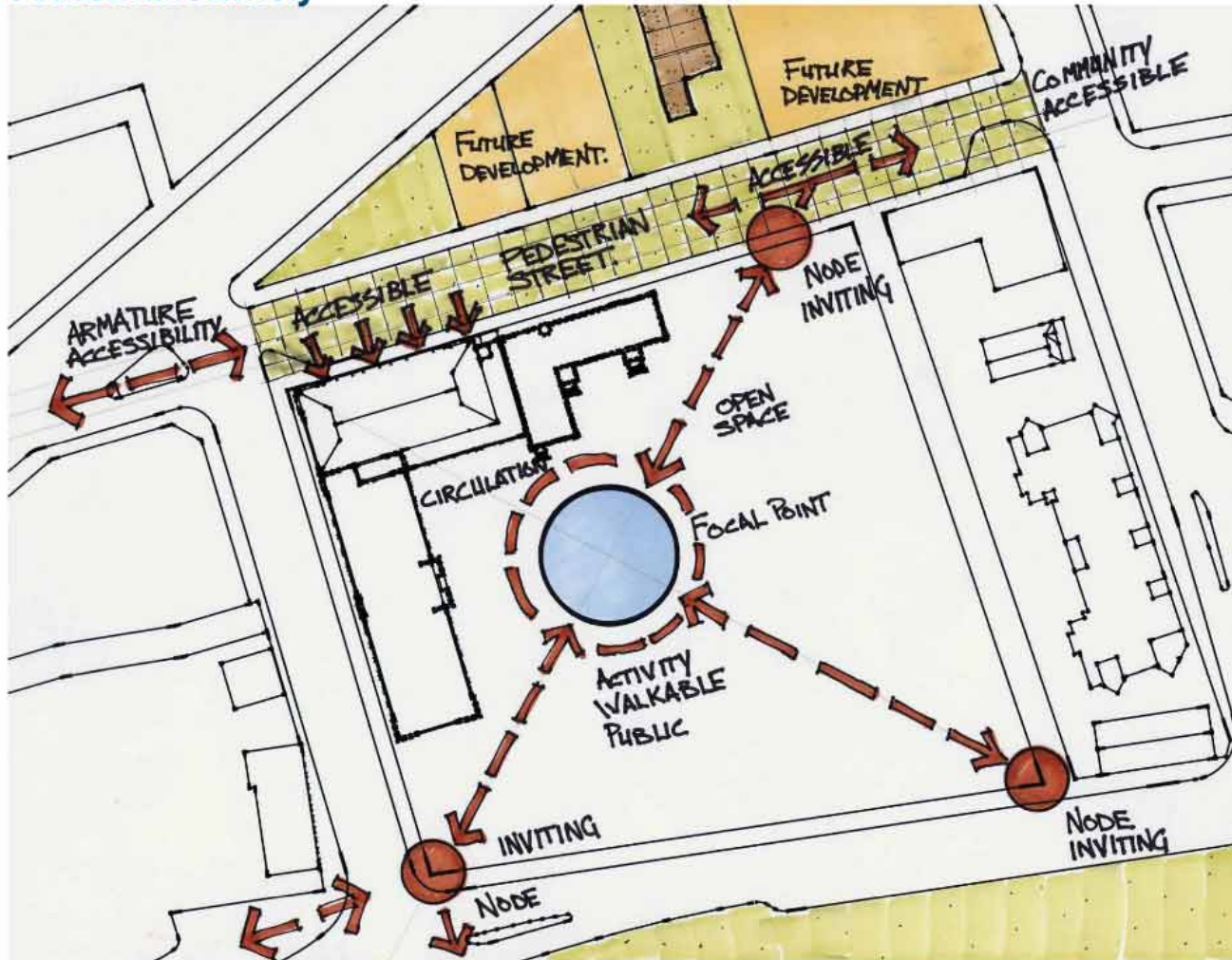
Existing Site



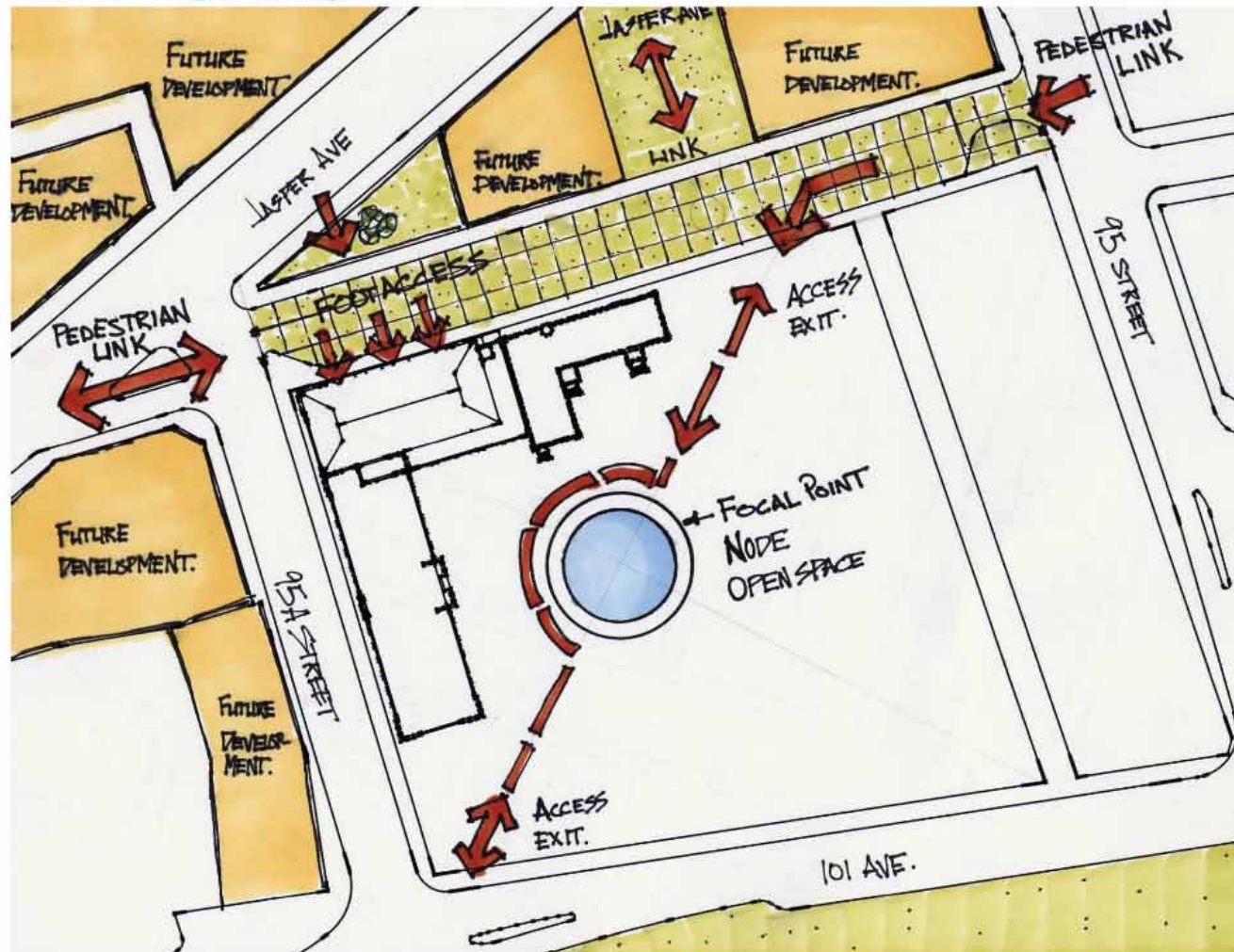
Surrounding Nodes and Focal Points

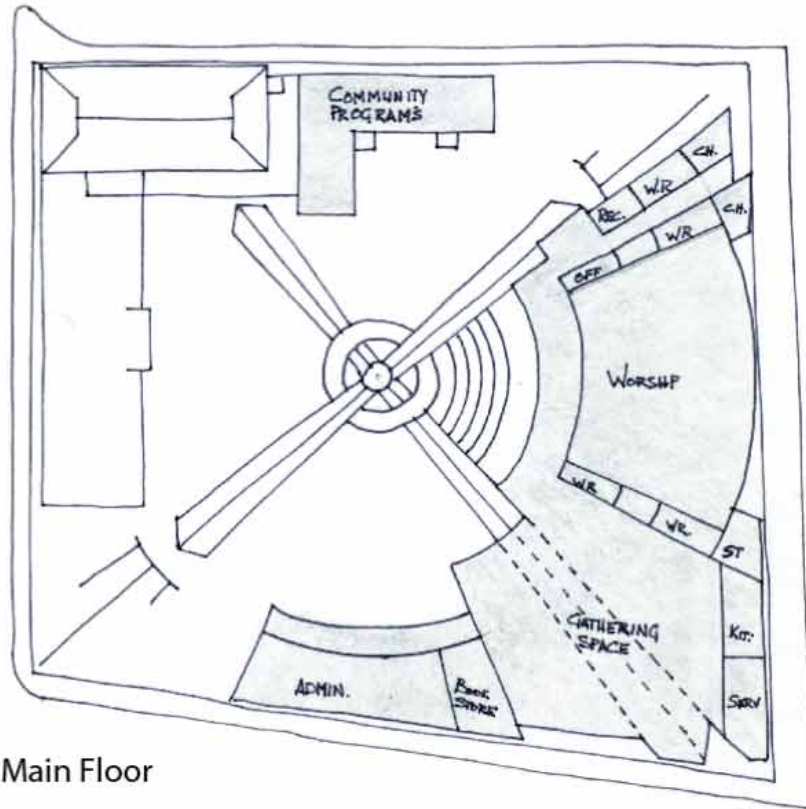


Pedestrian Activity

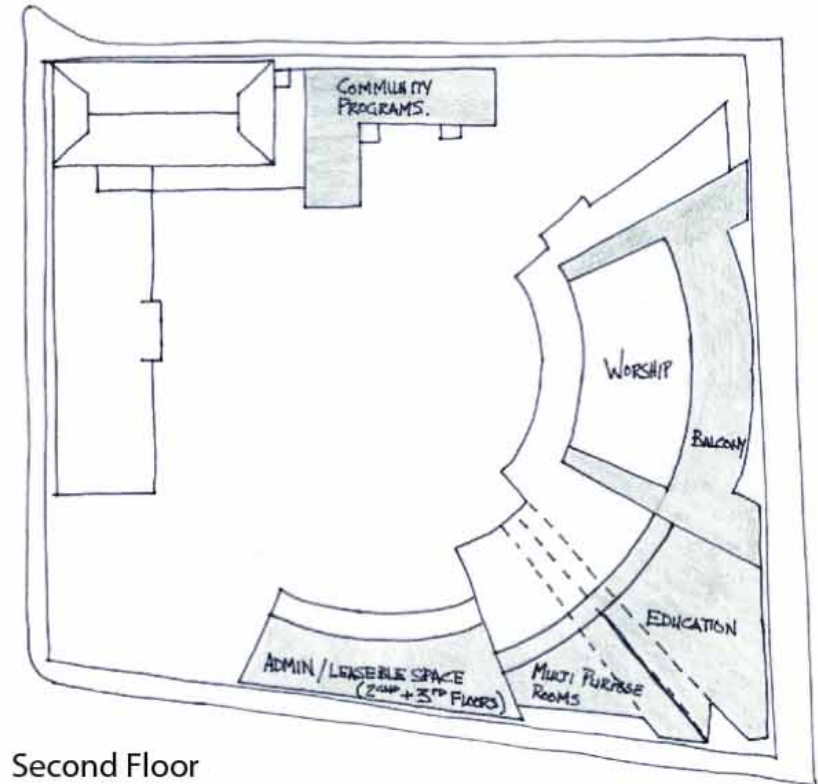


Surrounding Development





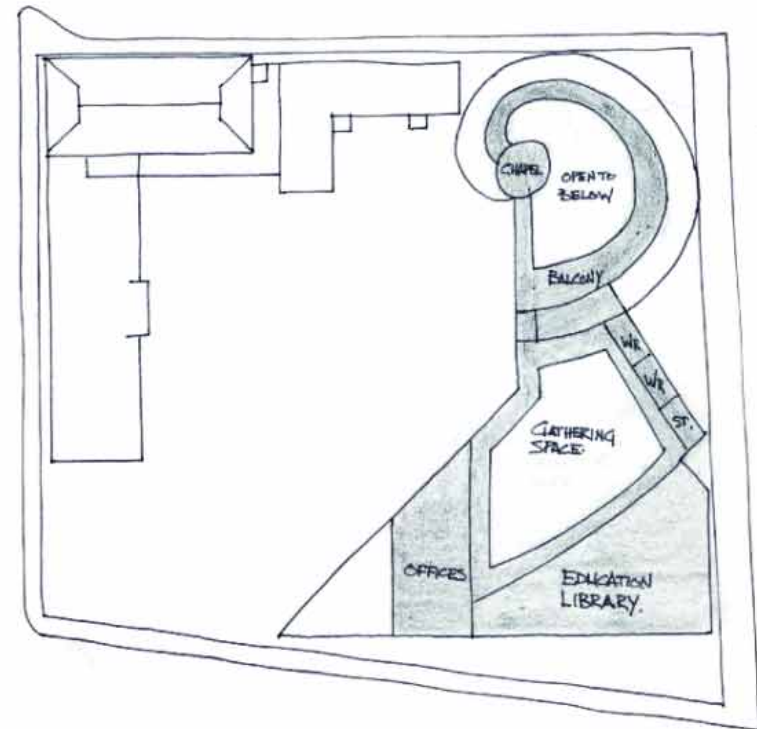
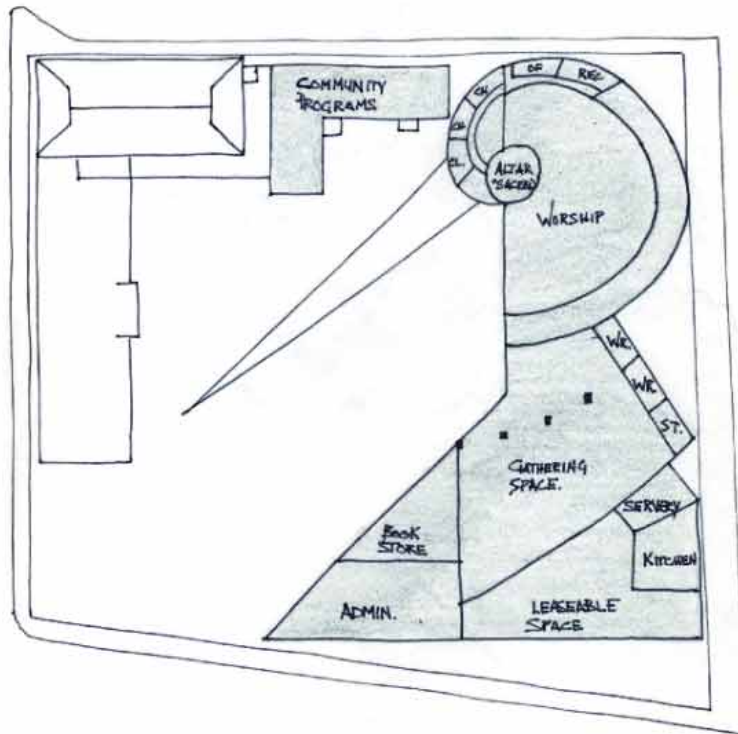
Main Floor



Second Floor

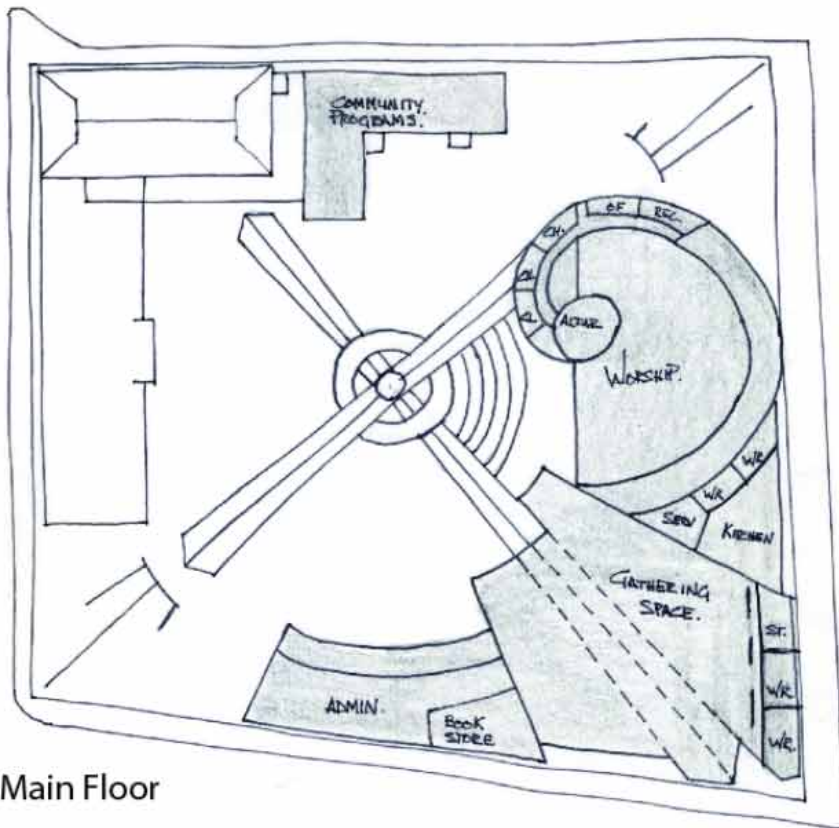
Option A

A protected exterior space defined by buildings where the arms of the cross, through landscaping, become the pedestrian access. The gathering space is set at the foot of the cross on the interior.



Option B

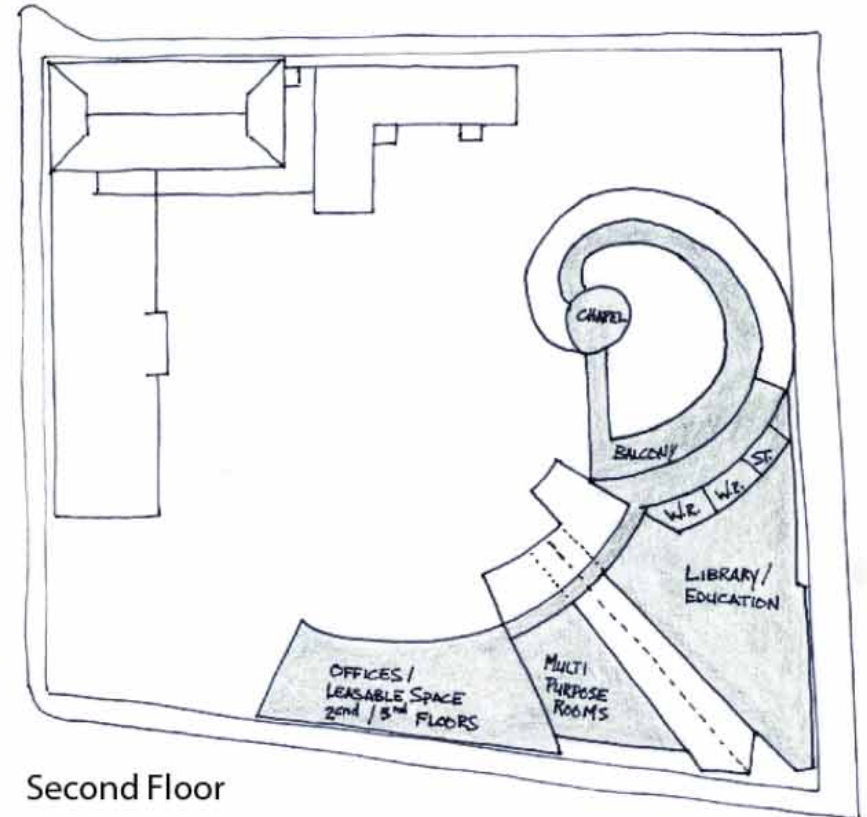
A protected exterior space with the altar at the beginning of the Golden Section extending outwards to the river valley creating an action "to go out", a mission philosophy.



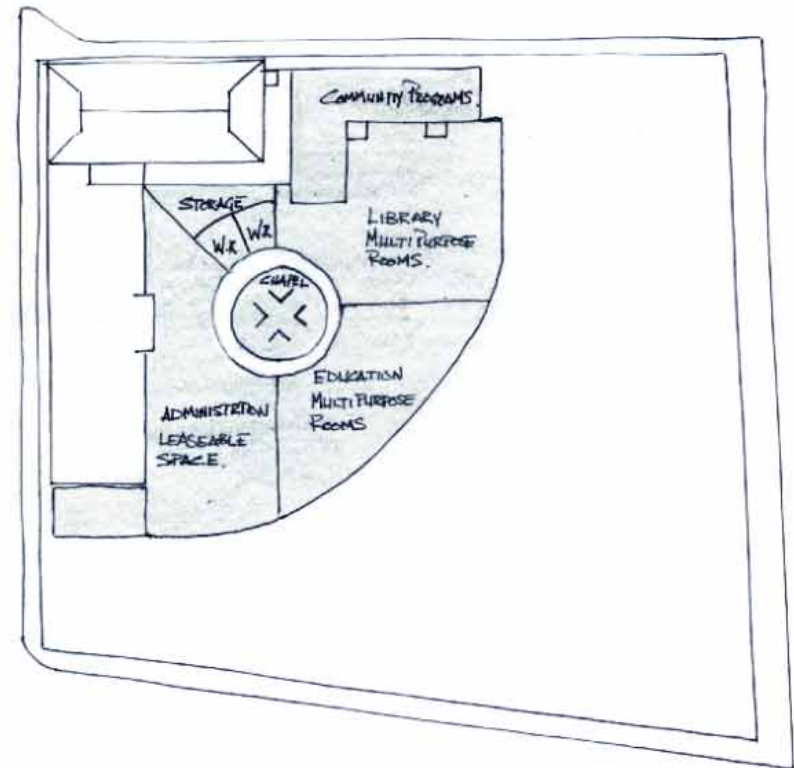
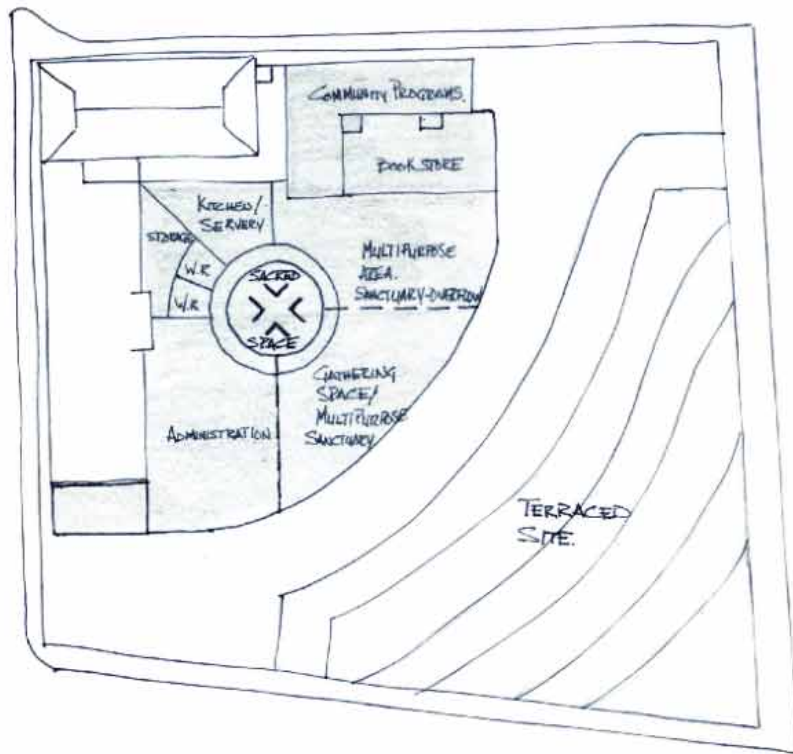
Main Floor

Option C

A combination of Option A and B in plan and philosophy.

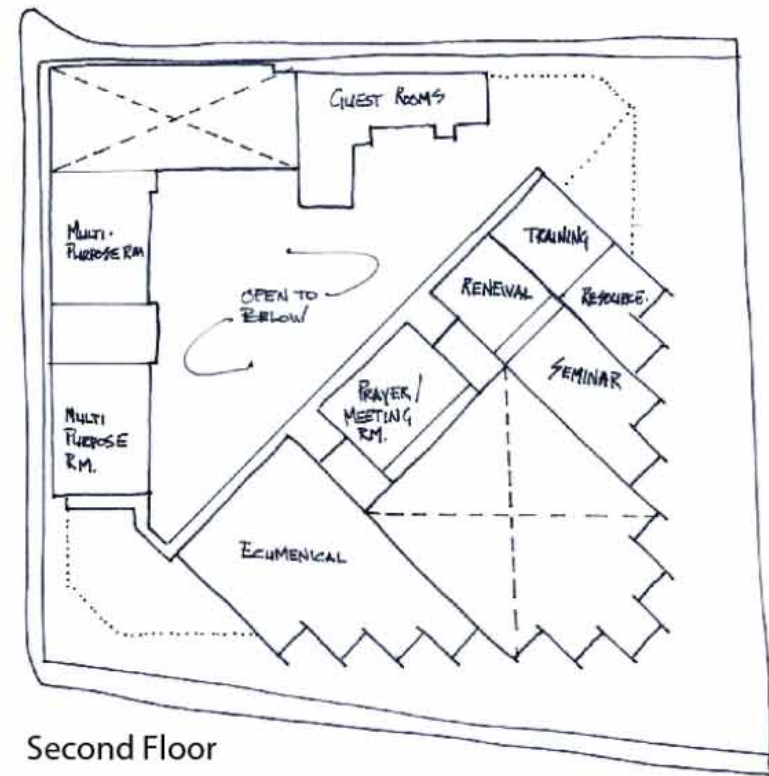
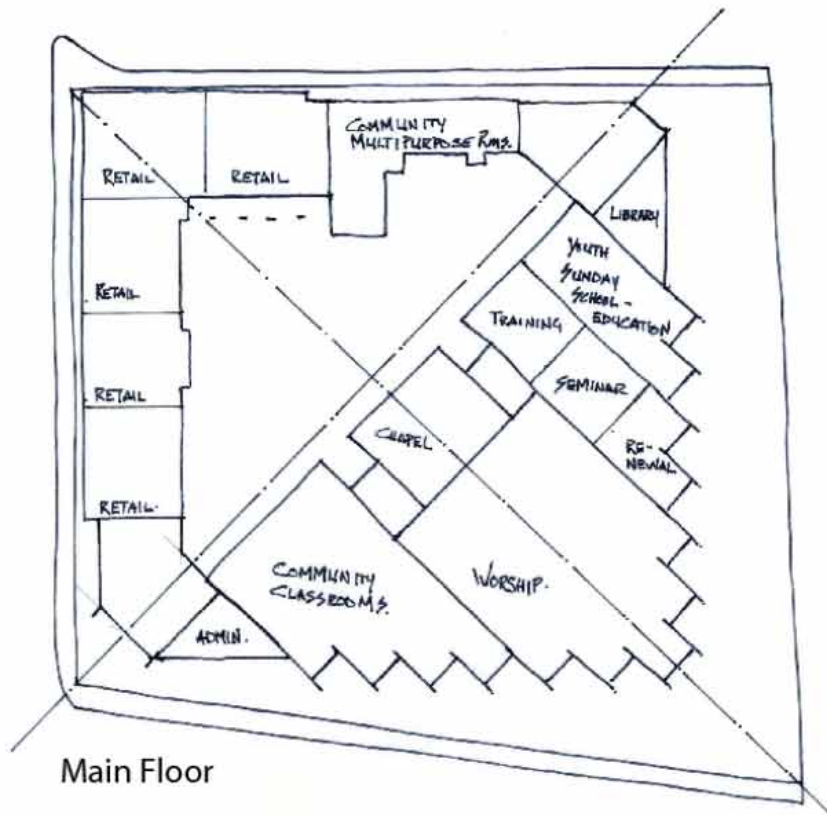


Second Floor



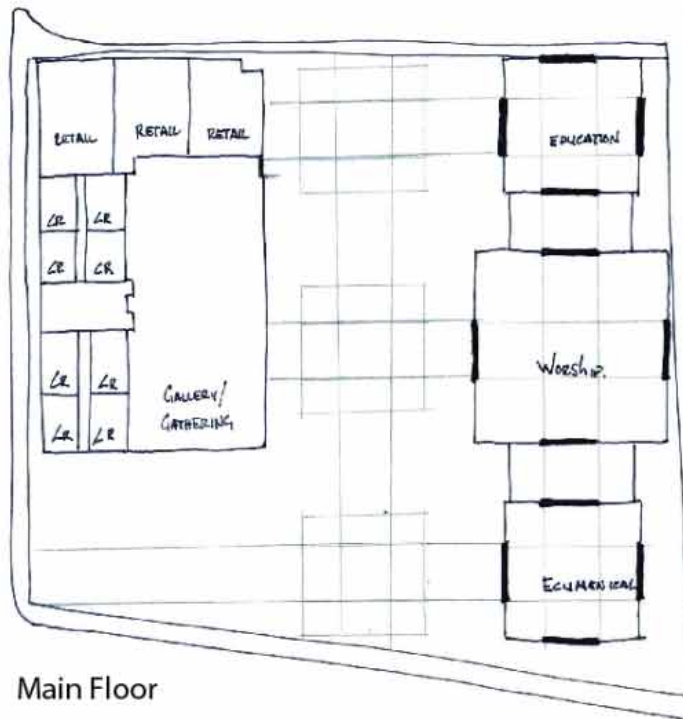
Option D

Consolidates the mass of old and new buildings that allow pedestrian access to be opened up to the south view creating a terraced amphitheater style site.

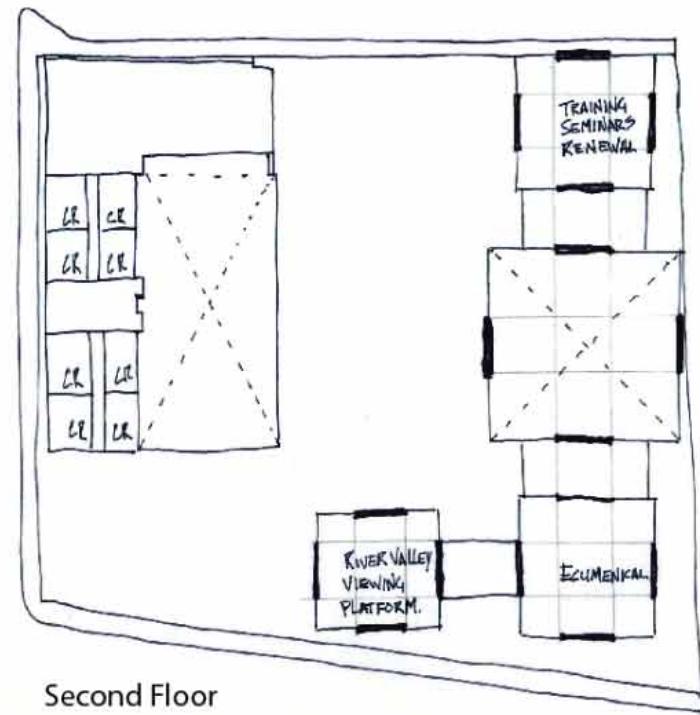


Option 1

The old and new buildings are combined to define the square of the block with step backs. The main pedestrian access goes through the interior of the building with the worship space being centred on the axis.



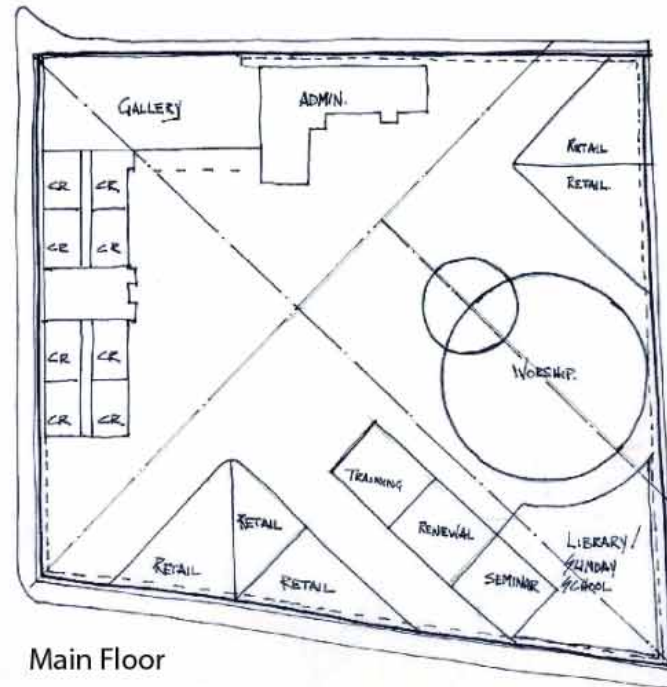
Main Floor



Second Floor

Option 2

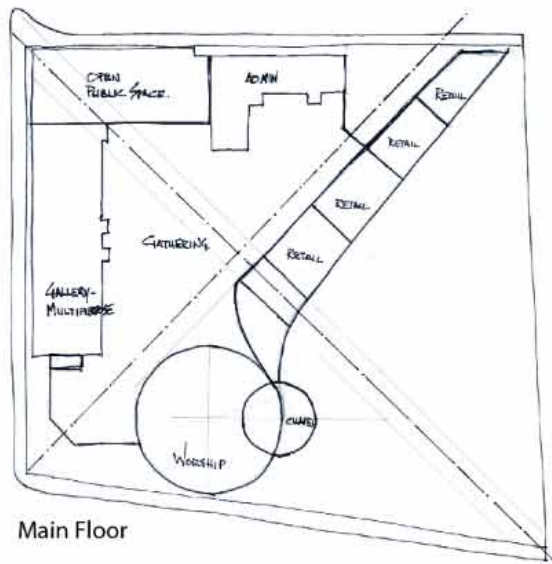
The 1912 - R.N.W. M.P. Barracks building is relocated to Fort Edmonton Park opening up a linear design from north to south. This allows an open site however is still protected by structures. Pure forms of the square are used to define the site and are symbolic to King Solomon's Temple.



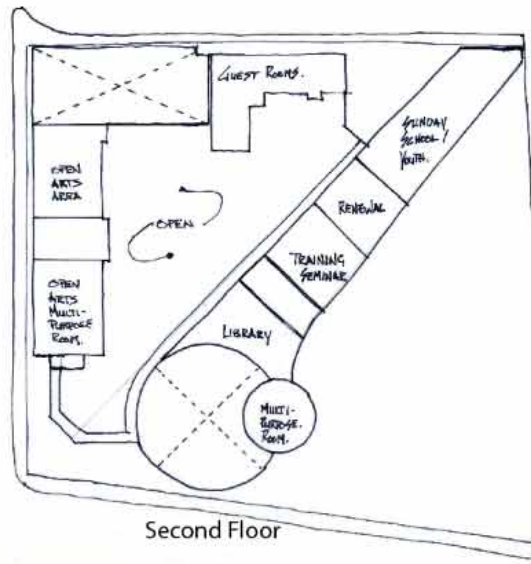
Main Floor

Option 3

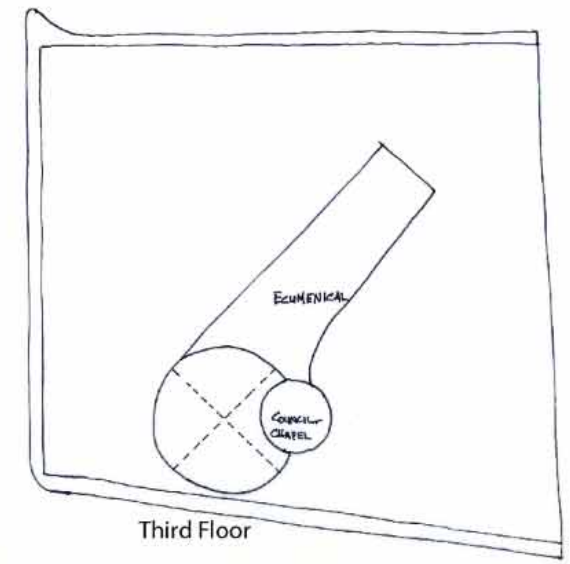
Biodome style scheme. The whole property is incased within a glass skin leaving a environmentally controlled interior.



Main Floor



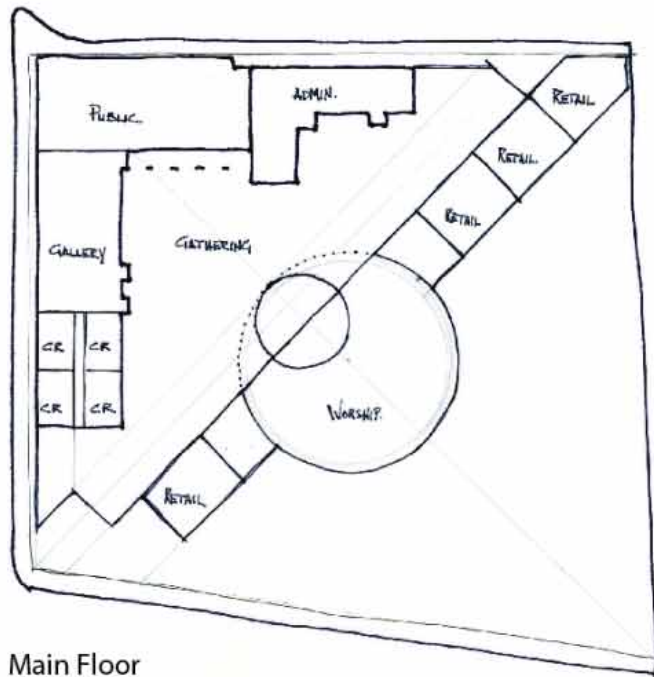
Second Floor



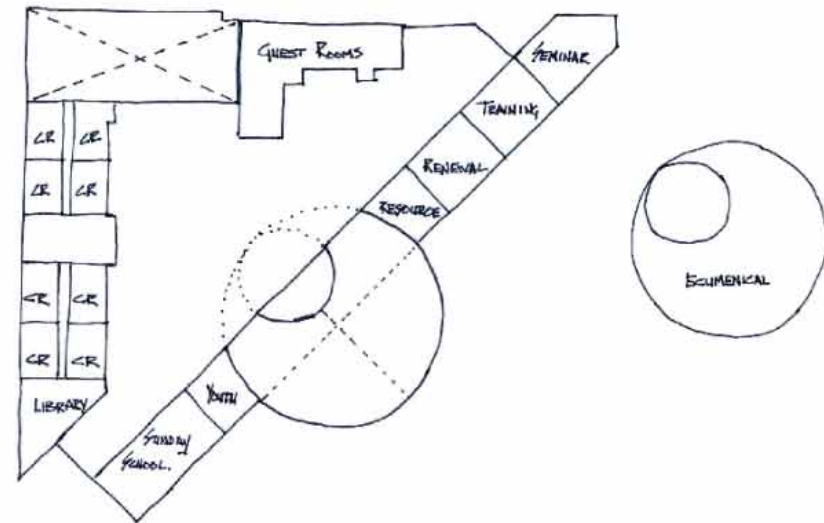
Third Floor

Option 4

The northeast to southeast main pedestrian axis is strengthened and defined by building form. The worship space is positioned on the south west corner as a focal point and a beacon over the rivervalley. The perpendicular pedestrian access provides as a secondary entry and access to an exterior gathering space.



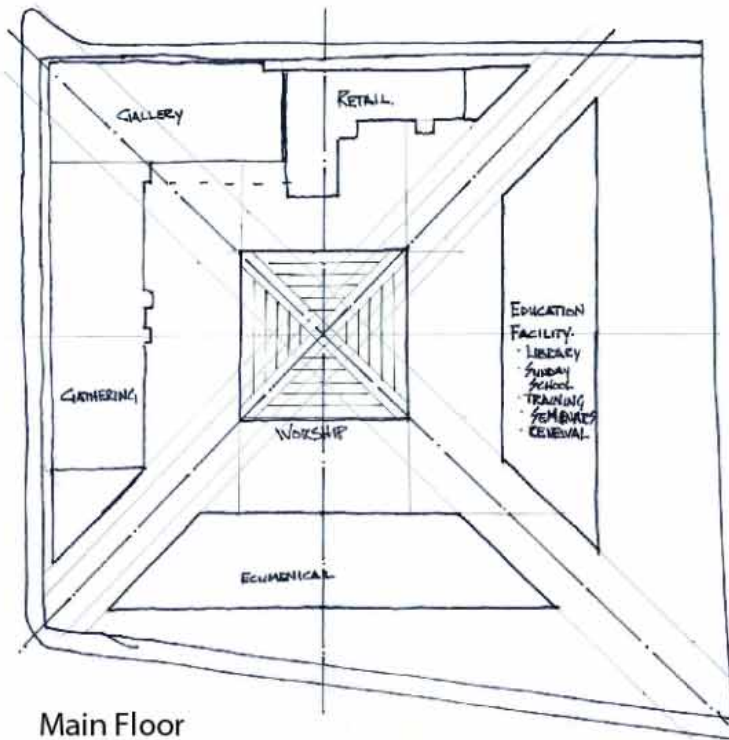
Main Floor



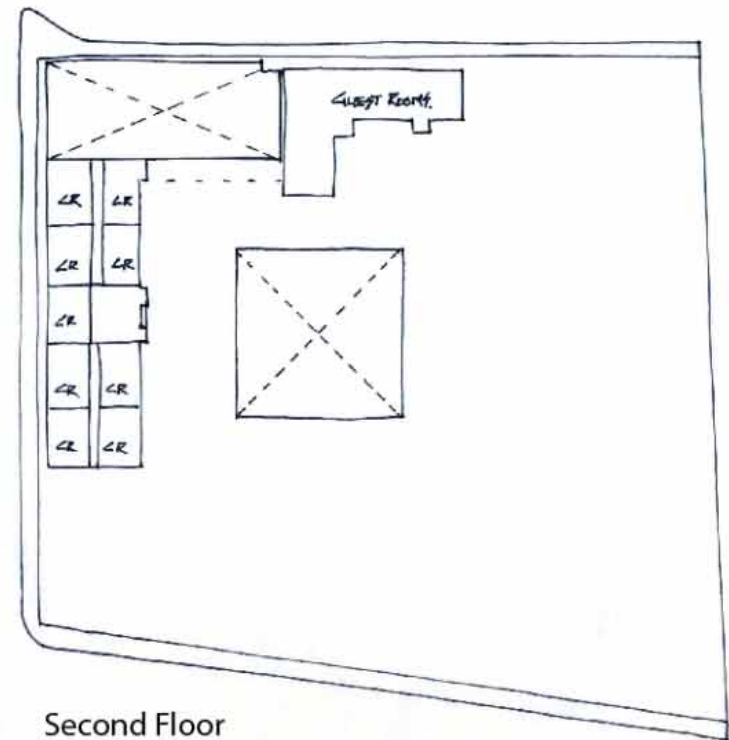
Second Floor

Option 5

The northeast to southeast main pedestrian axis is strengthened and defined by building form. The worship space is centred on the perpendicular access giving it a central hierarchy. The open site to the south east would be left open for multipurpose uses including worship.



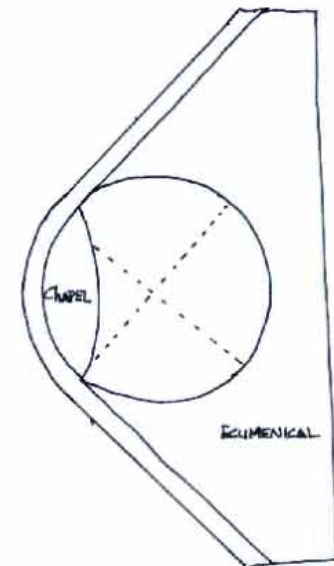
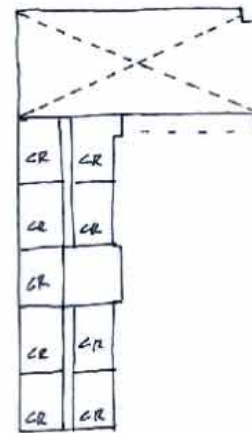
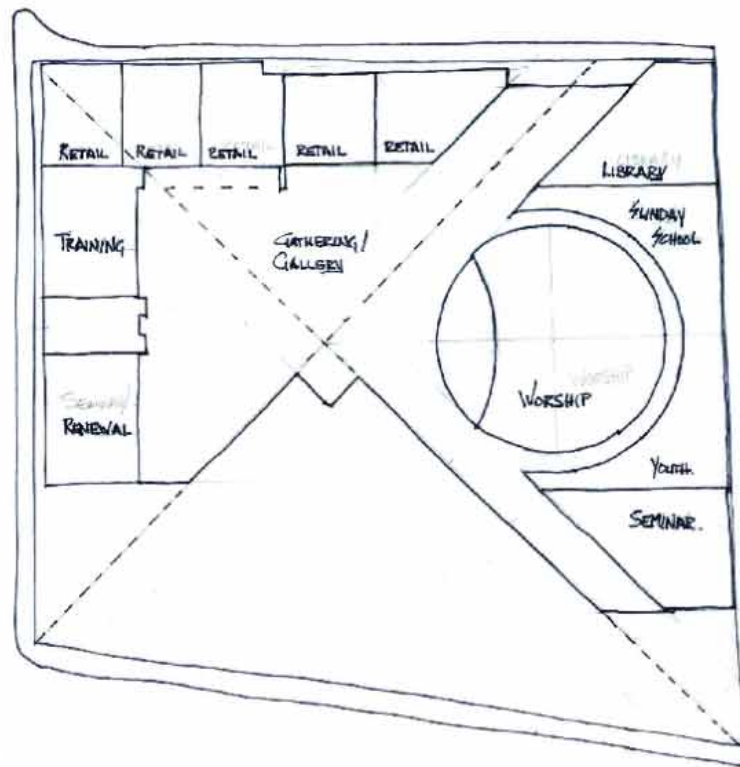
Main Floor



Second Floor

Option 6

The main and secondary pedestrian axis form a cross with the worship space being placed at the intersection in a glass box. The remaining program elements protect the sanctuary and are broken up to allow access to the centre space and other program elements.



Option 7

The 1912 - R.N.W.M.P. Barracks building is relocated to Fort Edmonton Park allowing a large central gathering space at the centre of the site. The worship space is centered on the east side of the axis and the form of the building, as a whole creates and protects an open southern exterior space.

The Ecumenical Program

The Oikoumene Centre in Edmonton will be Western Canada's head office.

Council and Administration

The administration will hold the head office for western Canada and will include a council board room and office space.



Worship

A space will be provided that will be flexible and multipurpose for worship services, musical and theatre performances, and lectures and speakers. It will maintain a sacred significance.



Education Training Renewal

Spaces will be provided for the purposes of education, learning, training and renewal conferences.
A library, classrooms and seminar style rooms will be provided.



Fellowship Gathering Holding a Meal

Spaces will be provided that promote large gatherings for dining and fellowship opportunities.

Multipurpose spaces will be used where possible.



The Mission Program

This mission will focus on the general population of Edmonton and draw relationships to the arts, festivals and activities within Edmonton.

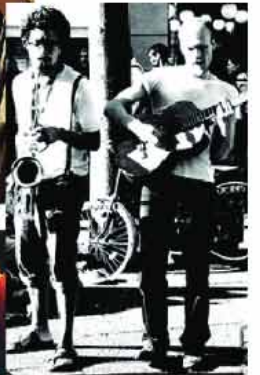
Community Outreach

Spaces will be provided to compliment Edmonton's commercial core by providing and offering: Art, painting pottery, sculpture, music and multipurpose rooms that create a synergy with the Arts community.



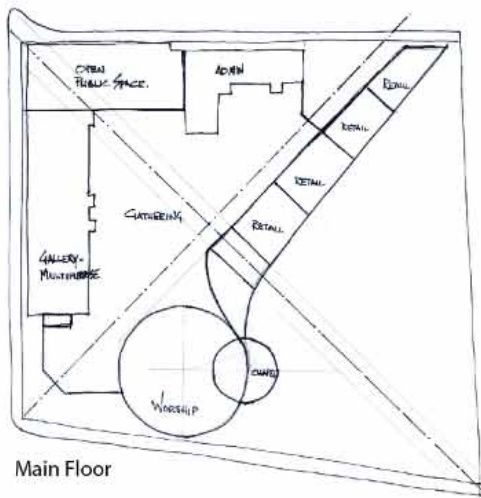
Community Outreach

Areas will be provided that will bring in the community to partake in fellowship activities such as: festivals, an arts market, theatre, music, entertainment, coffee house, an eatery, garden markets, retail...

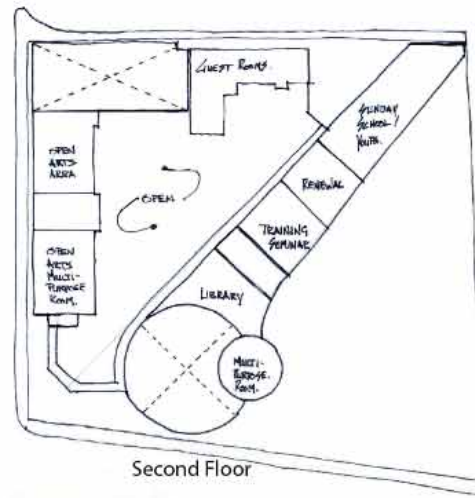


CHOSEN OPTION

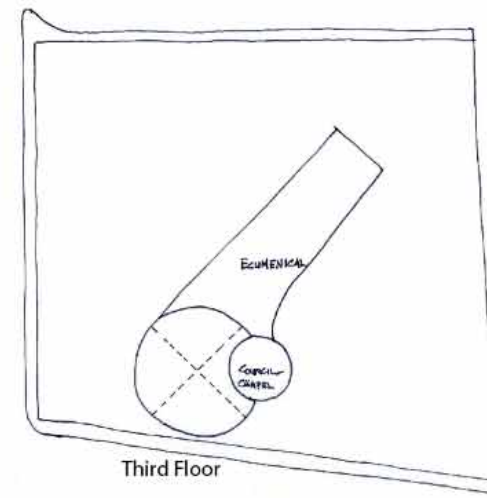
Schematic Option 4



Main Floor



Second Floor

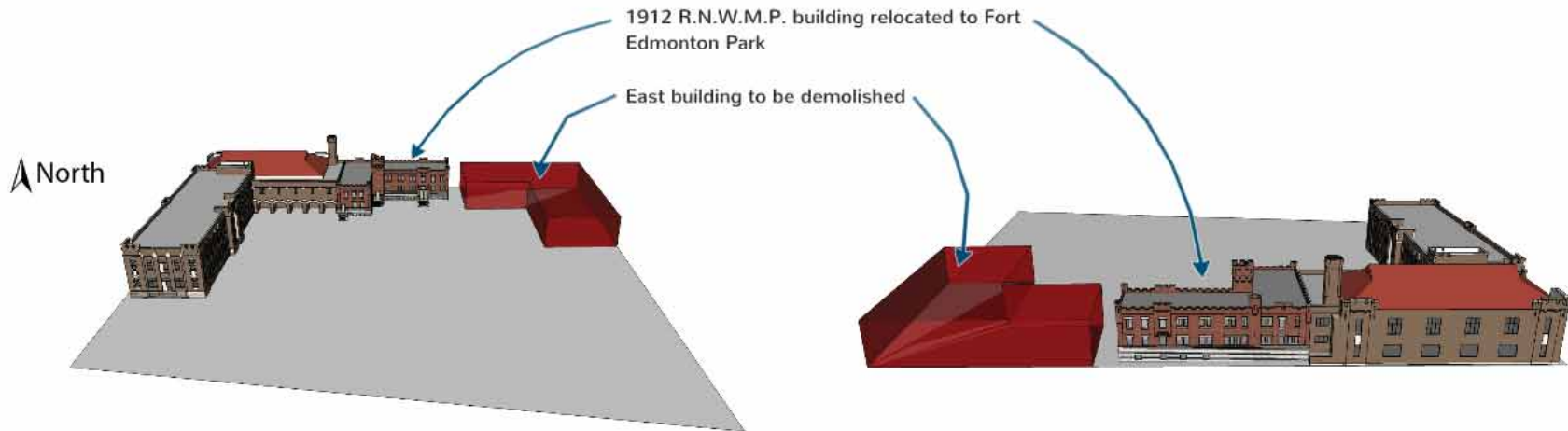


Third Floor

Option 4

The northeast to southeast main pedestrian axis is strengthened and defined by building form. The worship space is positioned on the south west corner as a focal point and a beacon over the rivervalley. The perpendicular pedestrian access provides as a secondary entry and access to an exterior gathering space.

EXISTING SITE



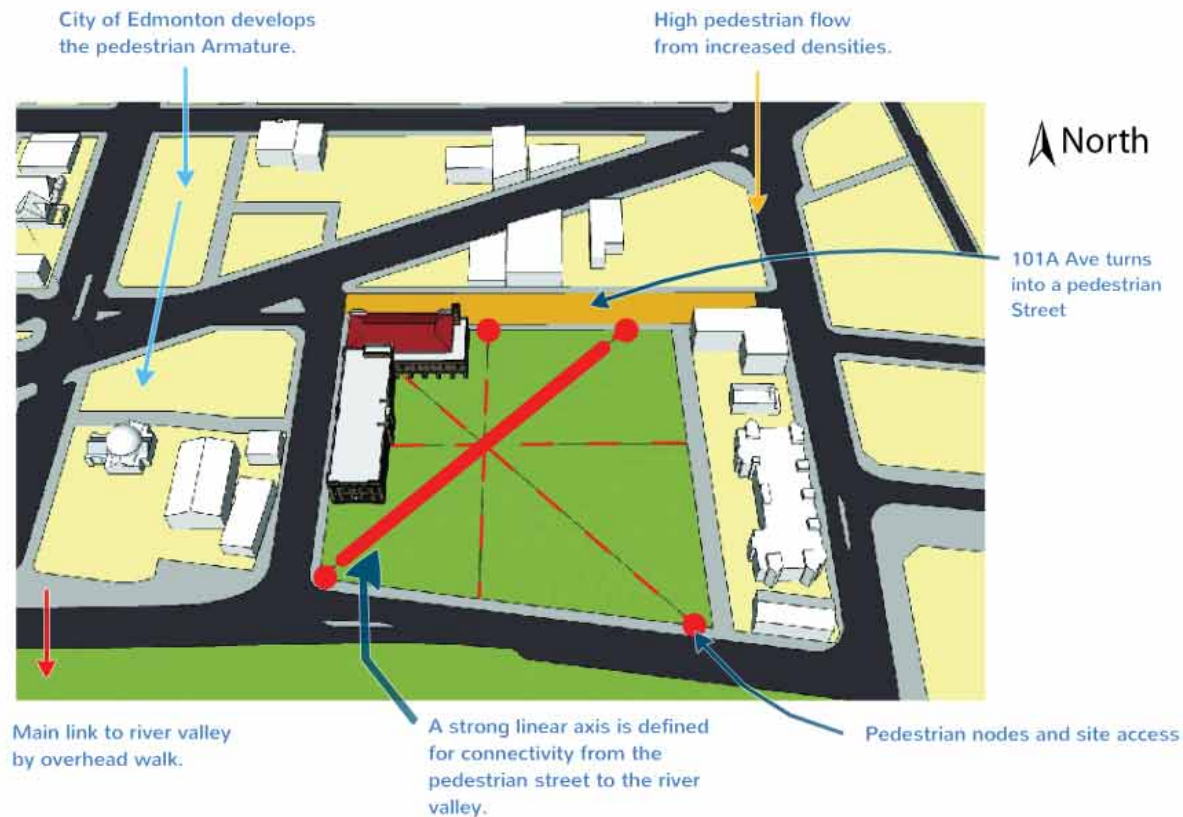
After studying the heritage buildings it was decided to relocate the 1912 R.N.W.M.P. building to Fort Edmonton Park for the following reasons:

- The 1912 building is of historical significance to the city and should be enjoyed by everyone and made public.
- The architectural styles of the 1912 and the 1935 building clash.
- As this area has been developed, the scale and the relationships to the streets and the context of the community have been ignored.
- The 1950's corner addition gives no respect to the 1912 building or the street scape leaving an imposing and confrontational presence.

The existing building on the east side of the site has no historical significance and would be too costly to renovate. This building would be demolished.



SITE REVIEW



By relocating the 1912 Original Grierson Building to Fort Edmonton Park and demolishing the east building, the site now becomes open and gives the opportunity to create relationships and address the scale to the surrounding context and foot traffic.

This also allows a strong linear axis to be created that will address the pedestrian flow from the north east to the south west accessing the river-valley.

SYMBOLISM

Numbers in Christianity have significant meaning and were kept in mind when designing the Oikoumene Centre in plan and elevation, for example:

- 1 - unity; new beginnings
- 2 - union; division; witnessing
- 3 - Divine completeness and perfection
- 4 - Creation; the world; Creative works
- 5 - Grace; God's goodness
- 7 - Resurrection; Spiritual completeness
- 8 - New Birth; New Beginnings
- 9 - Fruit of the Spirit; Divine completeness from the Father
- 10 - Testimony; Law and responsibility
- 12 - Governmental Perfection

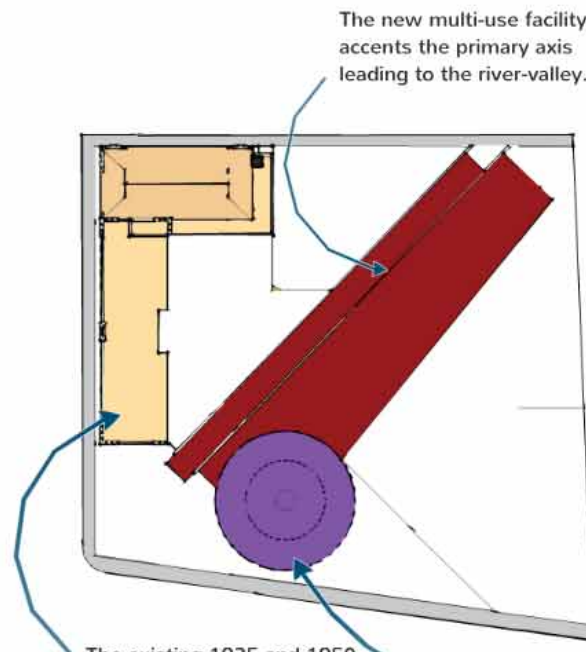
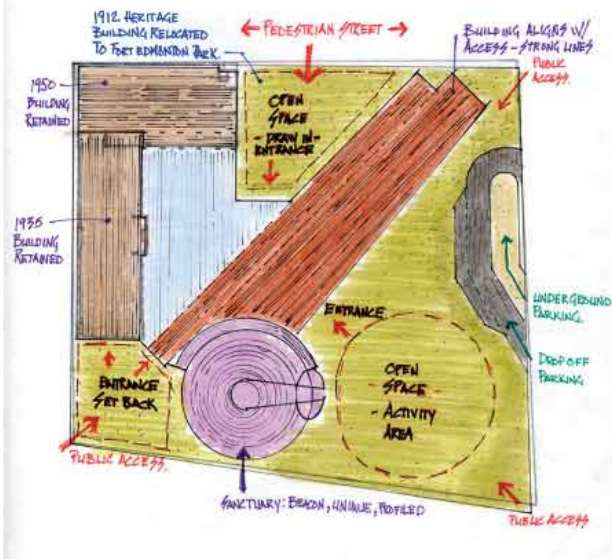
Christianity has many symbols that have significance and meaning.
Some of these include:

- the cross
- the circle signifies an inward bond
- water

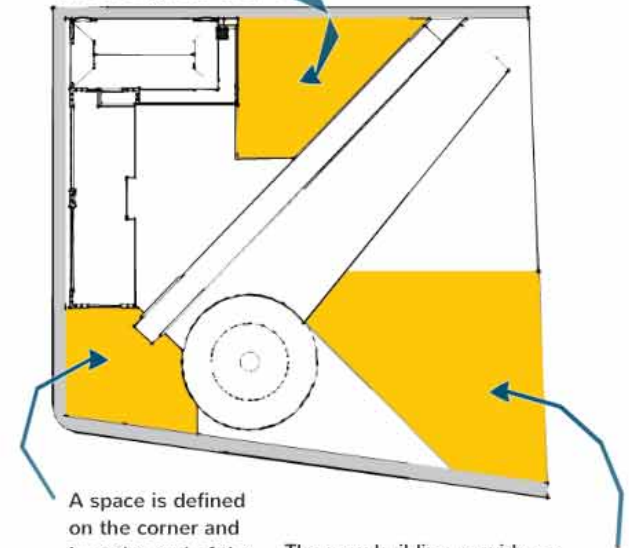
These elements are considered non-denominational and do not represent any one church.

SITING

Three distinct components create three distinct exterior spaces.



A space is defined adjacent to the proposed pedestrian street between the new and existing buildings defining the axis through the site.



PROCESS

Each area is affected by its adjacent components and use. To make a cohesive site and to address principles determined by study, each area will look at immediate and overall relationships.

Site

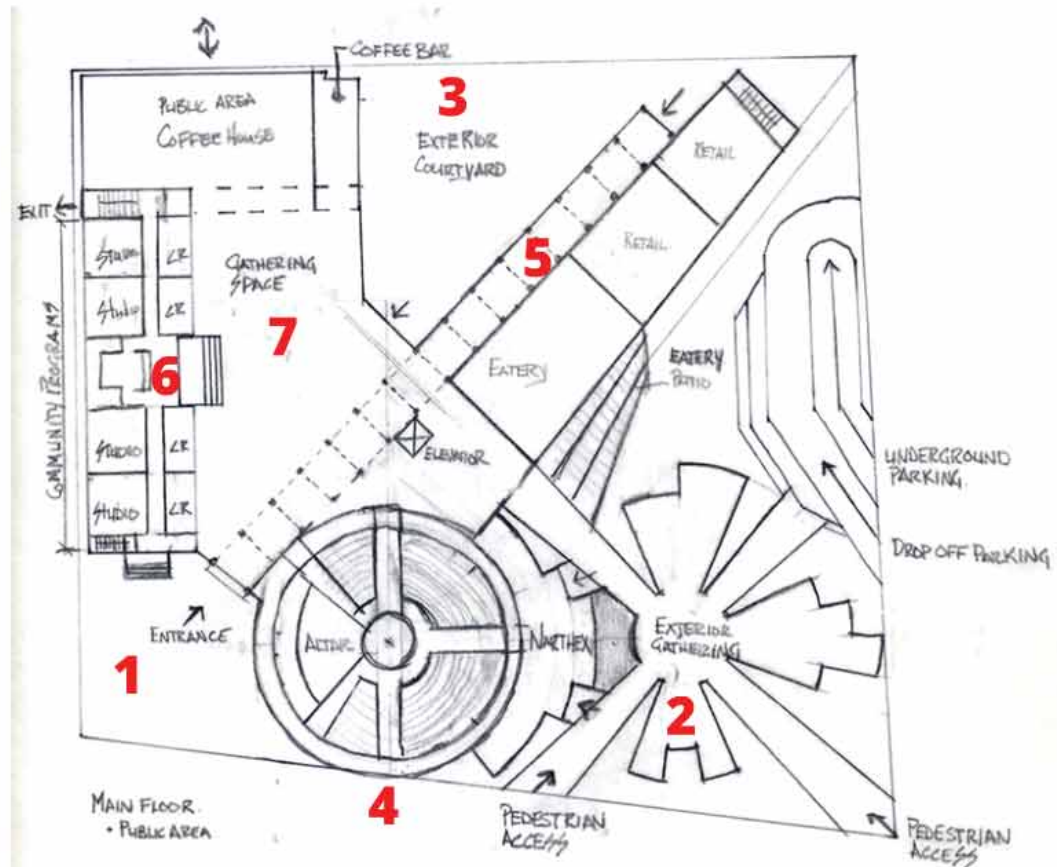
The site is broken down into 3 main components:

1. The main entry at the south west corner.
2. The exterior gathering space on the south east corner.
3. North courtyard

Ecumenical Centre

The ecumenical facility is broken down into 4 main components:

4. The worship space
5. The multi-use building
6. The existing RCMP building
7. The main gathering space

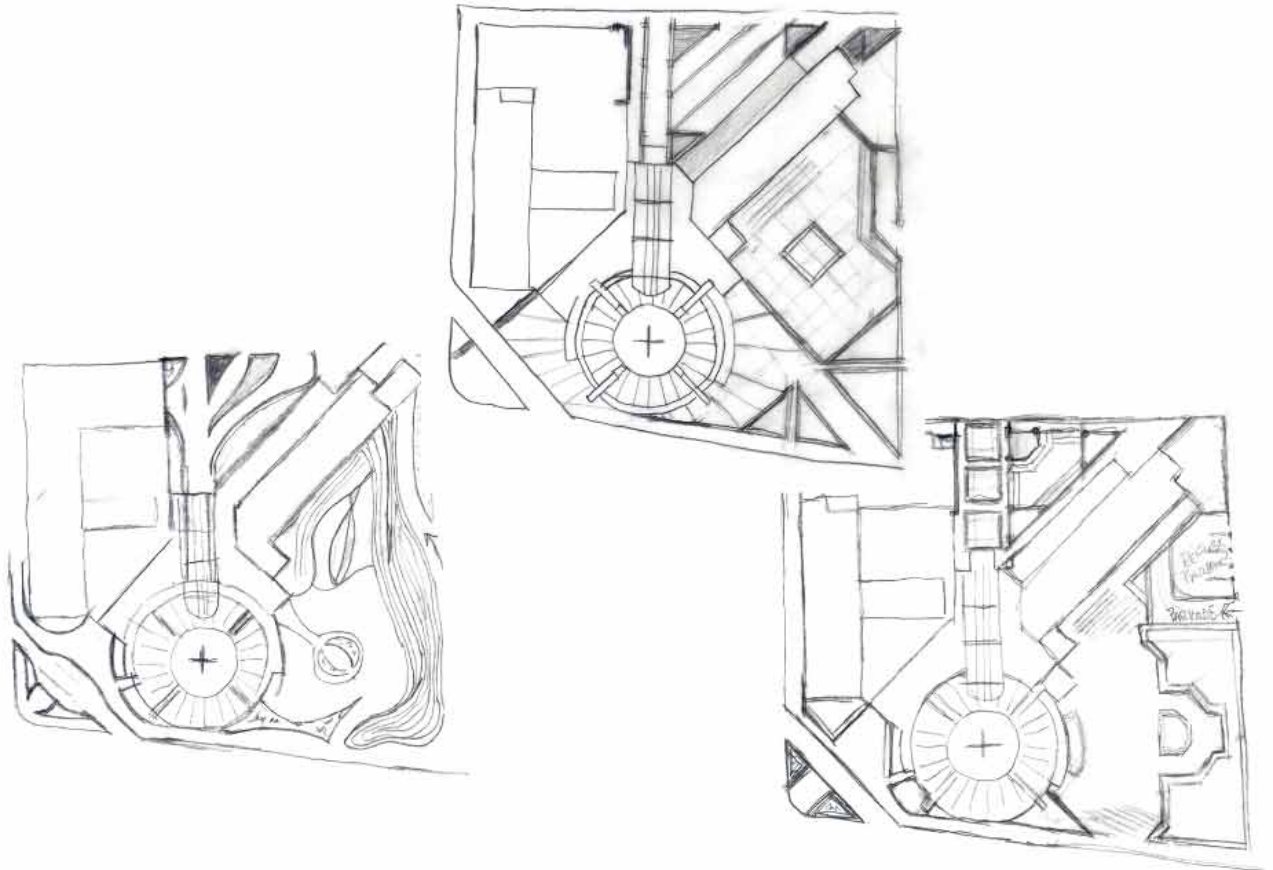


SITE

The site was examined in a variety of ways including an organic flow around the site to a linear flow that emphasized the main axis.

The key methodology of the exterior spaces was not to distract from the building form but to strengthen it.

The site needs to have the ability to stimulate internal unity through fellowship but also to create a welcoming and interactive edge in a modern urban setting.



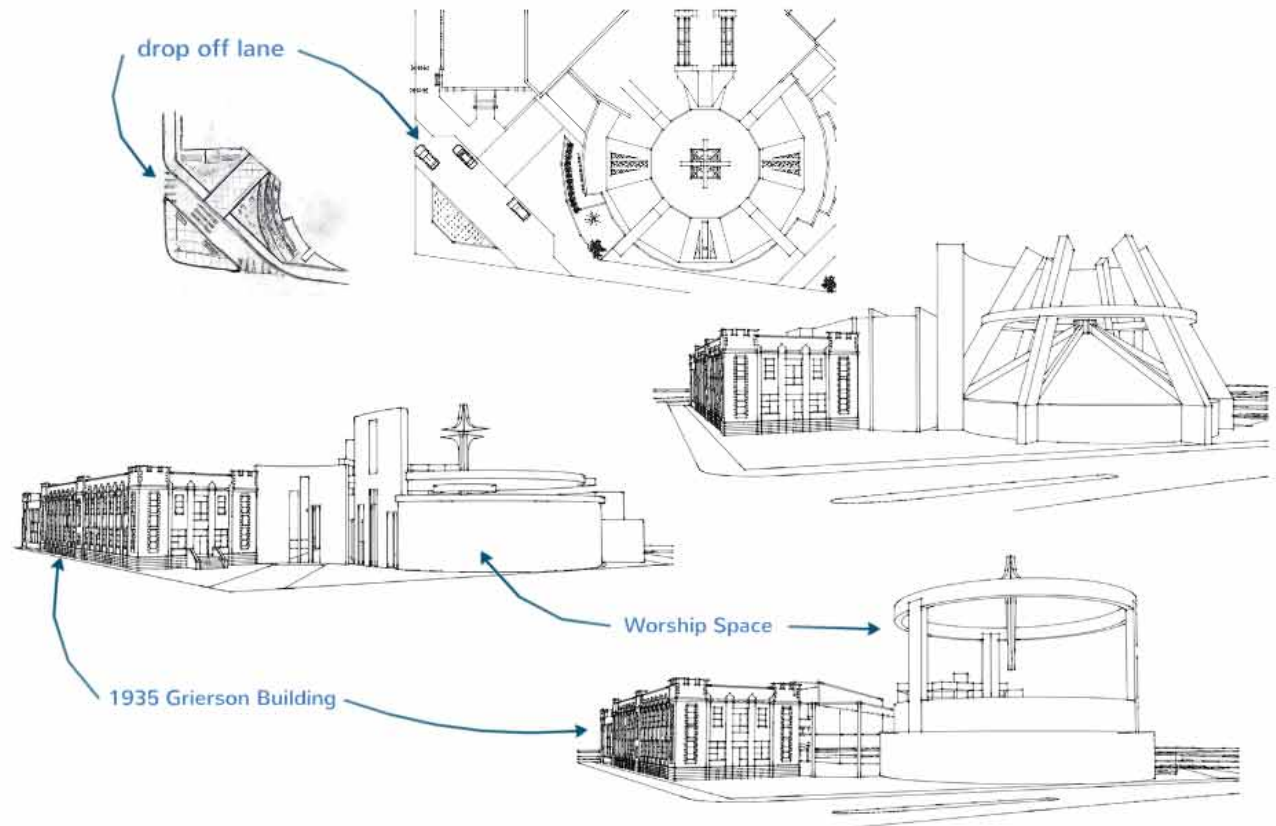
SOUTH WEST CORNER

The south west corner of the site is a prime focal point and becomes a main entrance to the facility.

It also becomes a pedestrian node with access to the river-valley and downtown.

The main challenge in this corner is to respect the 1935 Grierson building but allowing the sanctuary to be the focal and hierarchical element on site.

In addition to this corner being the main entrance, a drop off lane is required for those with limited mobility.

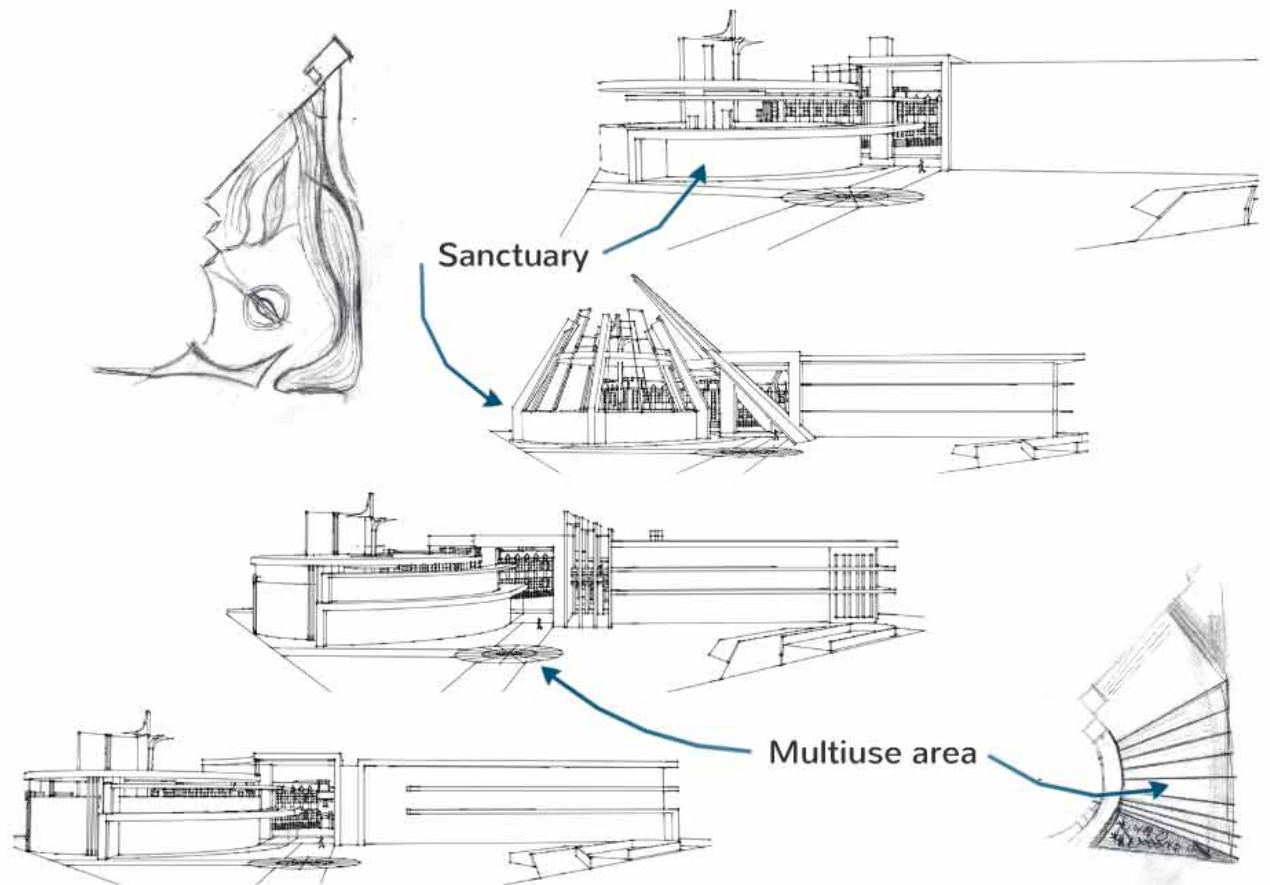


SOUTH EAST CORNER

The south east portion of the site is developed as an important element to the philosophy of ecumenism - to nurture unity through worship, activity and fellowship in an outdoor setting.

A large exterior open space is created adjacent to the sanctuary as a visual connection for an outdoor worship space. This space will be multipurpose and used for activities, events and festivals and will have access on the corner welcoming the community in.

The pedestrian access leads to an entry at the building that transitions the sanctuary to the multi-use building.

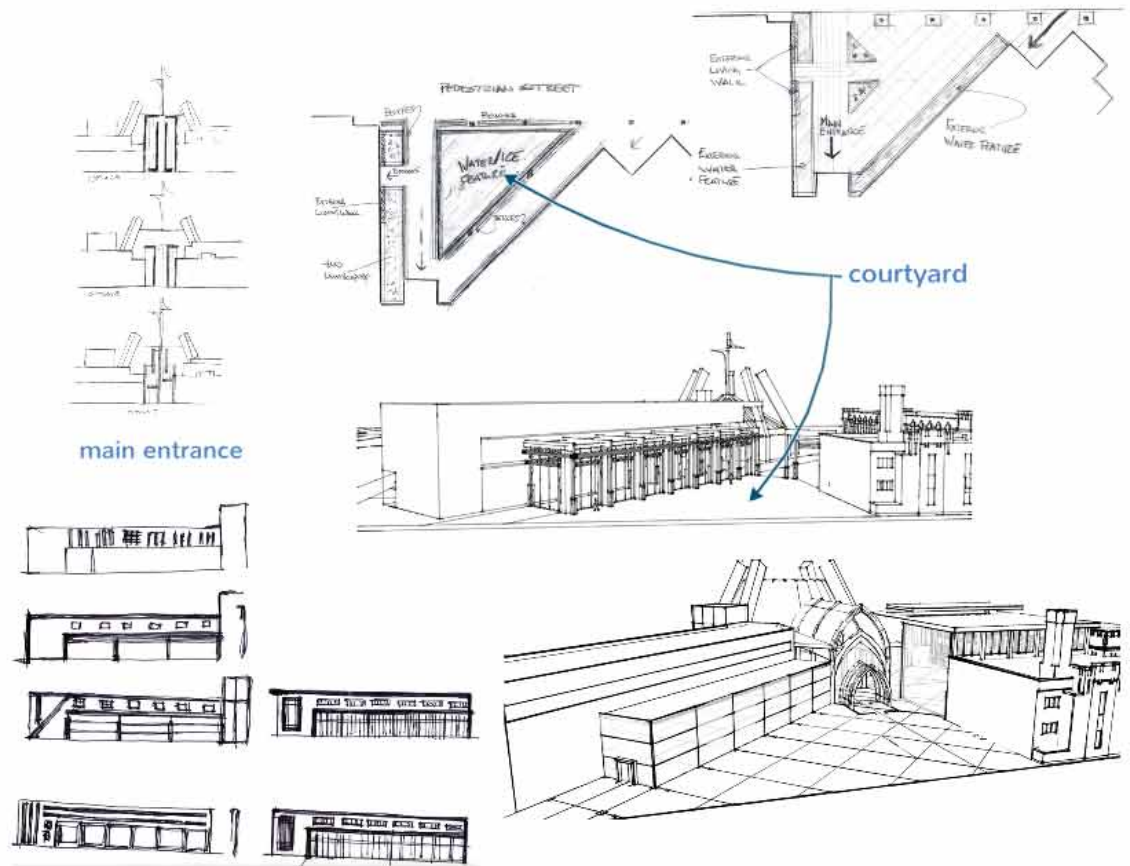


NORTH COURTYARD

The north side of the building will face a pedestrian street created by the City of Edmonton. With the 1912 building being relocated to Fort Edmonton Park, this allows the site to open up and address the pedestrian traffic and scale.

The new building creates a long strong linear line emphasizing the axis of the site to the river-valley with a secondary entrance at the corner. This also creates an open courtyard stepping back the building and softening the approach and balancing the 1950's building.

The main entry runs perpendicular to the pedestrian street and becomes the transition from the 1950's building. It is a progression and frame work to the main focal point of the building inside - the sanctuary.



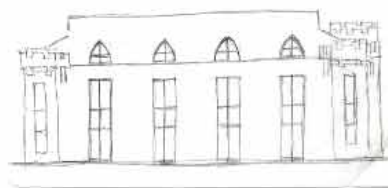
GRIERSON BUILDINGS

The 1935 Grierson R.C.M.P. heritage building anchors the west elevation and will maintain its original facade.

The 1950's addition will be altered to address the pedestrian traffic, scale and connections to the adjacent context.



1935 R.C.M.P.
1950's RCMP Addition



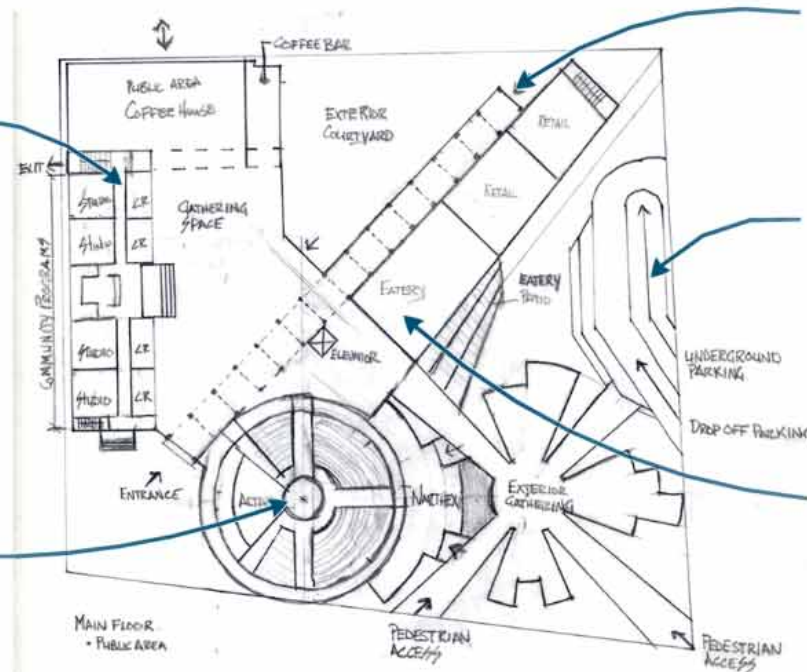
PLAN ORGANIZATION

The RCMP heritage buildings belong to the community and out of respect are programmed for their use. The buildings would include multipurpose spaces for the arts and educational programs as well as providing a banquet and a coffee house area.

The worship space is aligned as the focal point from the intersection of the axis and has a prominent position on the interior and exterior.

Main Floor Plan

The main floor plan is designed to be a public forum to nurture ecumenical and community relationships.



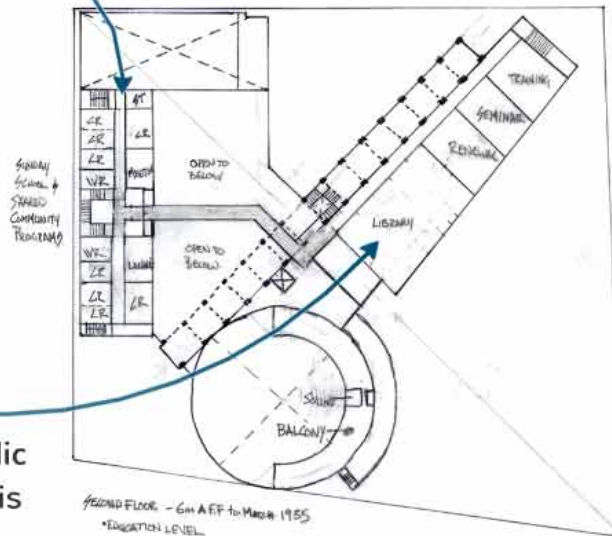
The axis of the design becomes the pedestrian paths within the building.

The back lane accesses the below grade parkade and mechanical / electrical areas.

The main floor is programmed for retail and public use.

The second floor of the 1935 RCMP building is programmed similar to the main floor and is used for community and educational purposes.

The second floor is designed as a semi public area that is quieter and is used for a library and seminar rooms.



The diagram shows a floor plan with a large circular area at the bottom. A path of dots starts from the left, goes down, then up and to the right, following the curve of the circle. A blue arrow points from the right towards the word "Equinoctial", which is written near the path of dots.

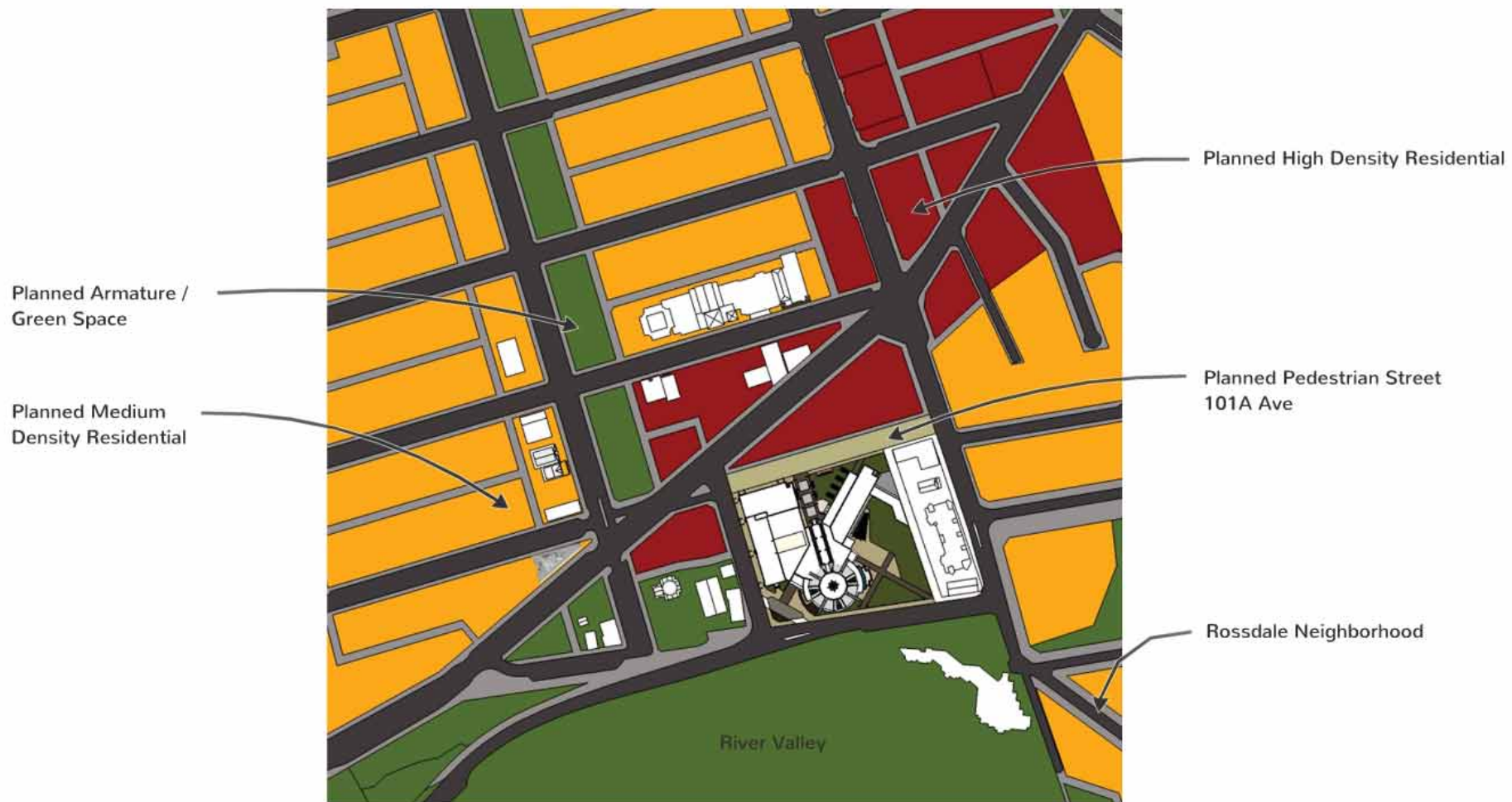
The ecumenical administration is a private and quiet area to conduct business with views to the river-valley and the pedestrian street.

Third Floor Plan

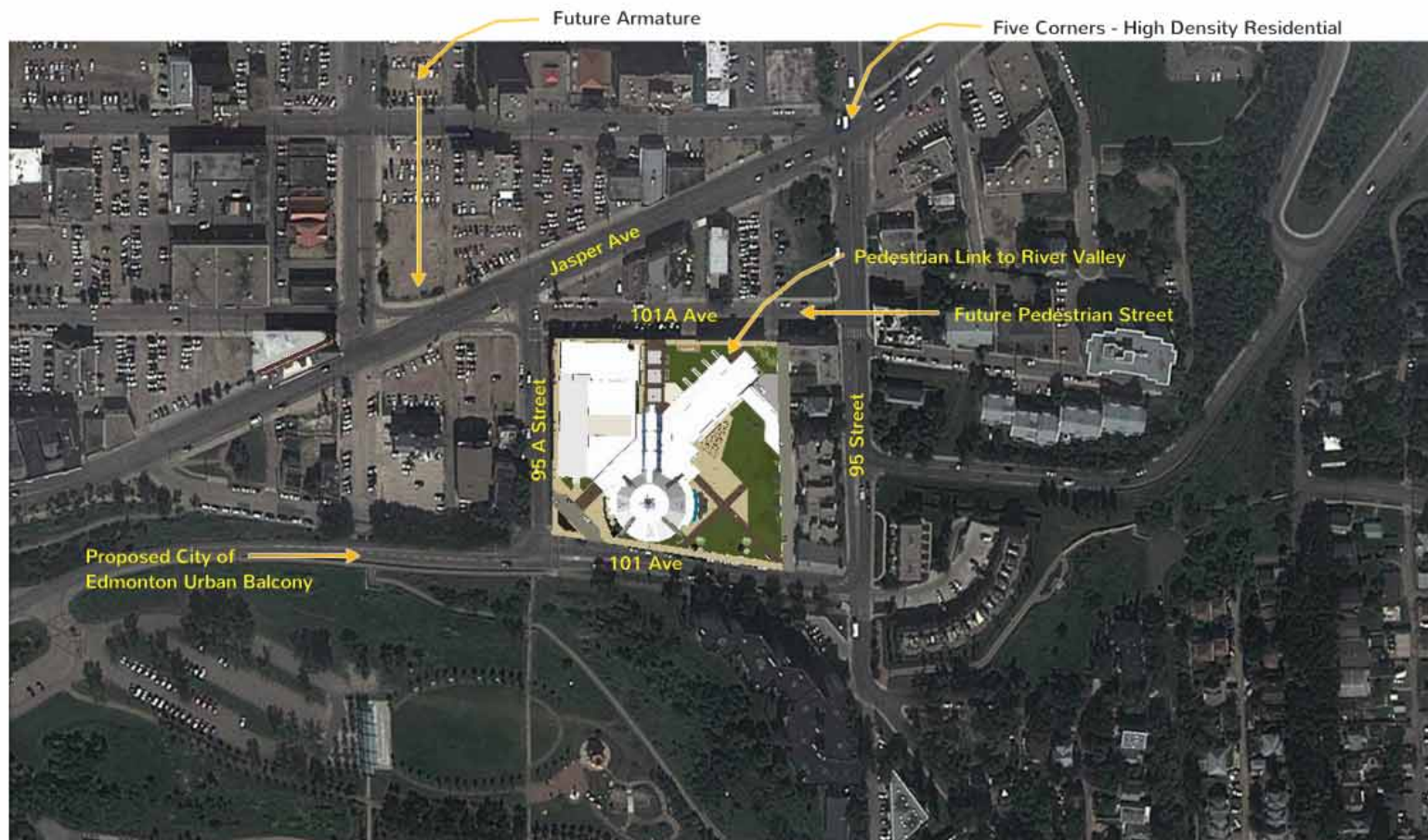
An Architectural Solution for

OIKOUMENE

An Ecumenical Mission



Site Context - Five Corners High Density Quarter

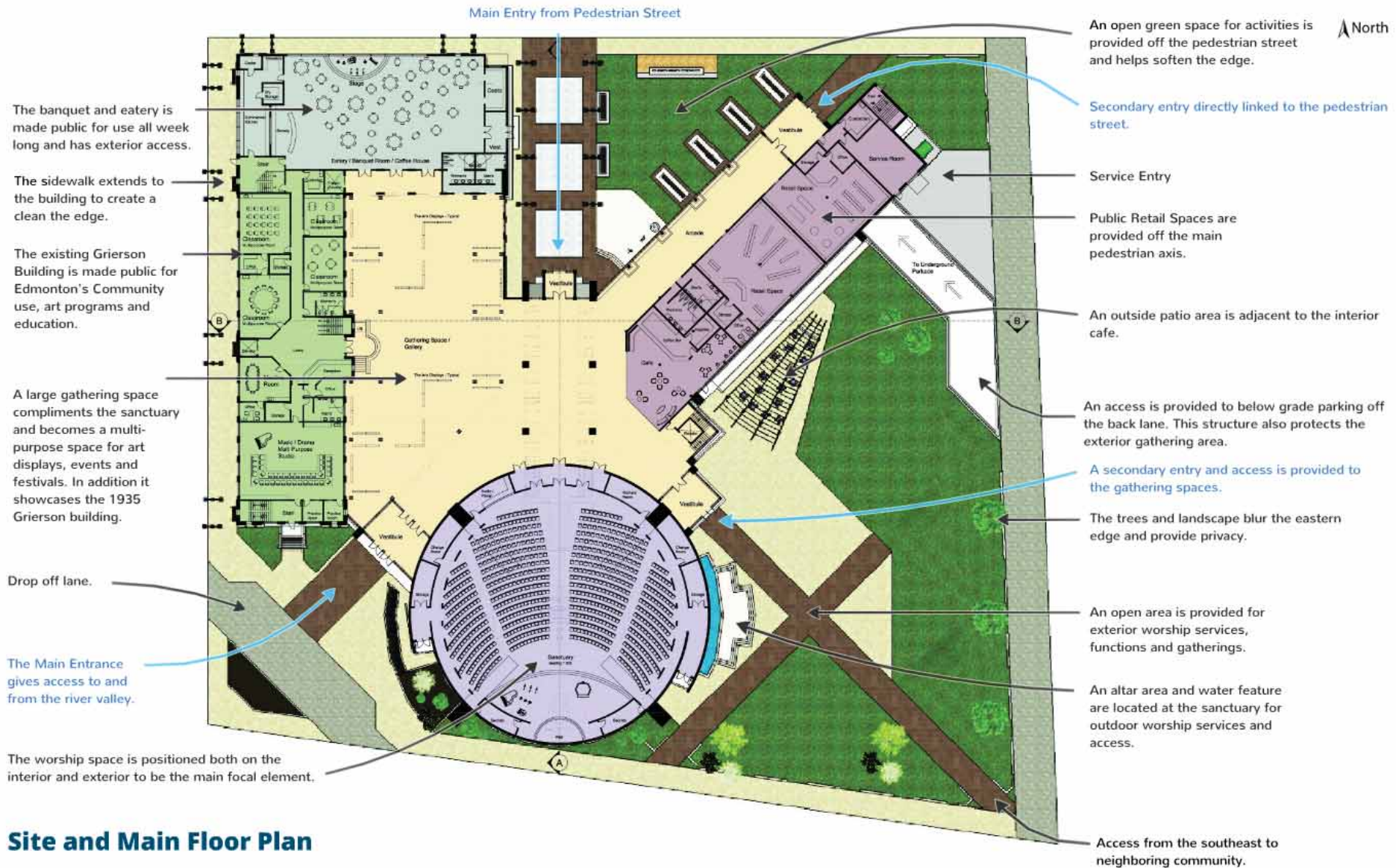


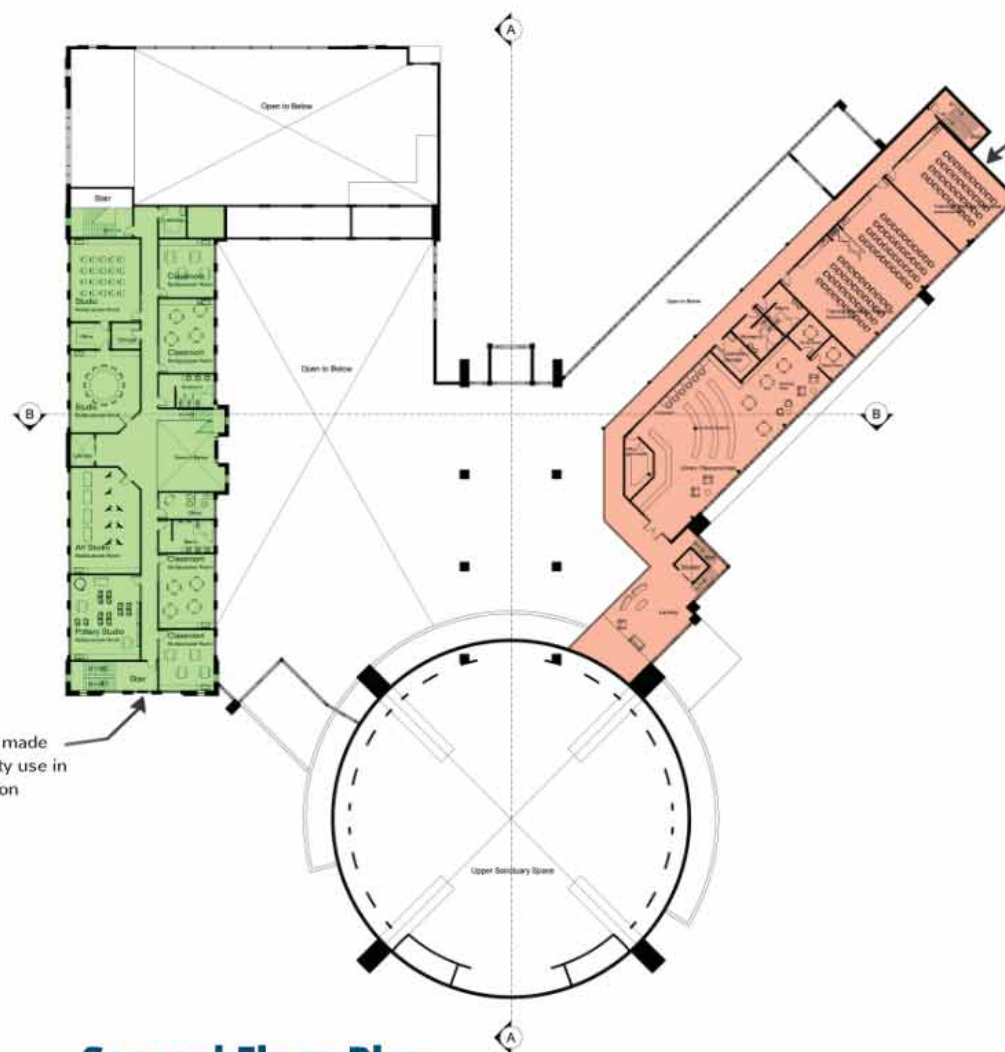
Site Context

From a current overview, this area has decaying buildings and numerous parking lots that are scheduled to be revitalized with new infrastructure and green spaces.



Site Context

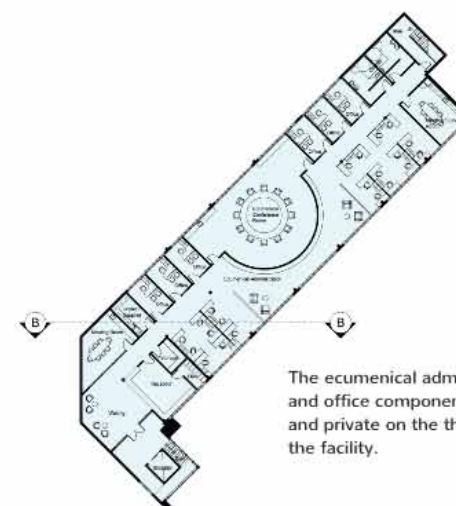




Second Floor Plan

▲ North

- The library and seminar rooms are adjacent to each other and are made semi public to offer some privacy.

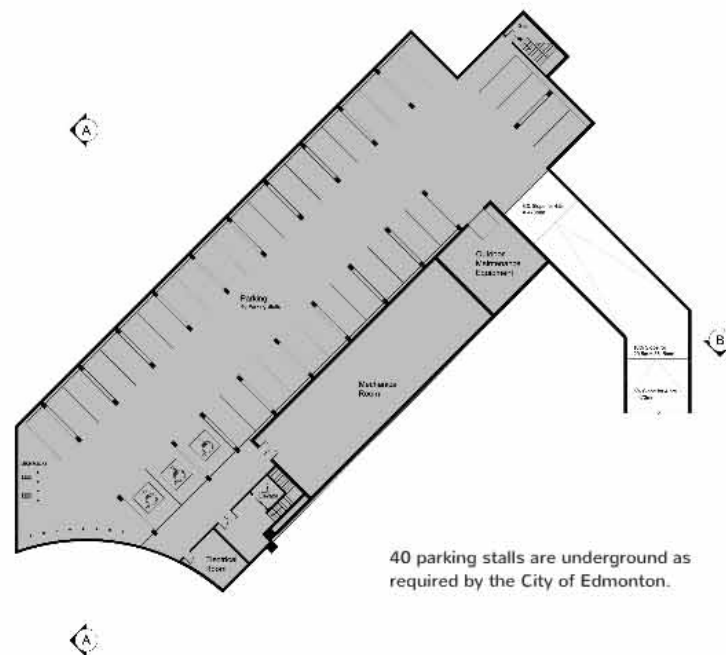


The ecumenical administration and office component are secure and private on the third floor of the facility.

Third Floor Plan

The existing Grierson Building is made public for Edmonton's Community use in the Community Arts and Education programs.

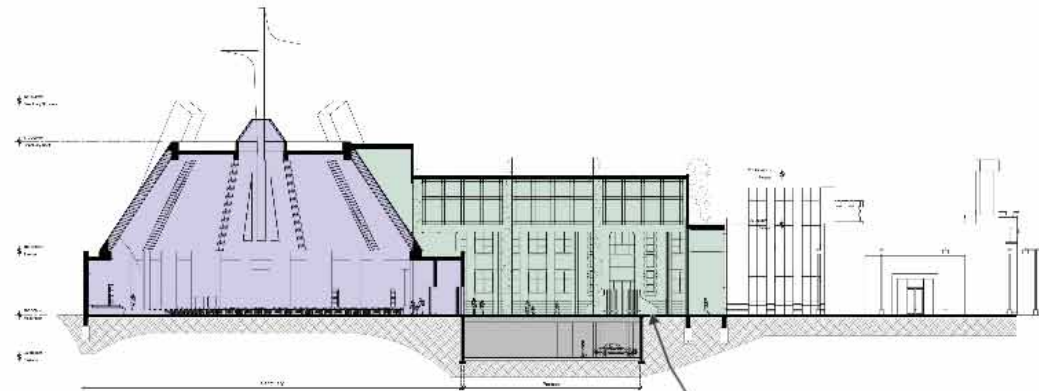
A portion of the lower level in the Grierson Building offers a fitness room. The other areas are designated for mechanical room and storage rooms for the facility.



40 parking stalls are underground as required by the City of Edmonton.

Lower Floor Plan and Parkade

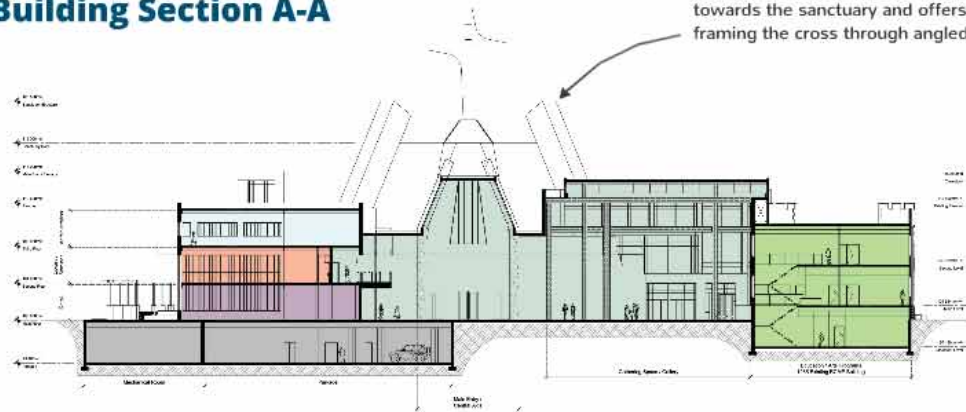
The sanctuary becomes the hierarchical element of the site to distinguish its importance and significance.



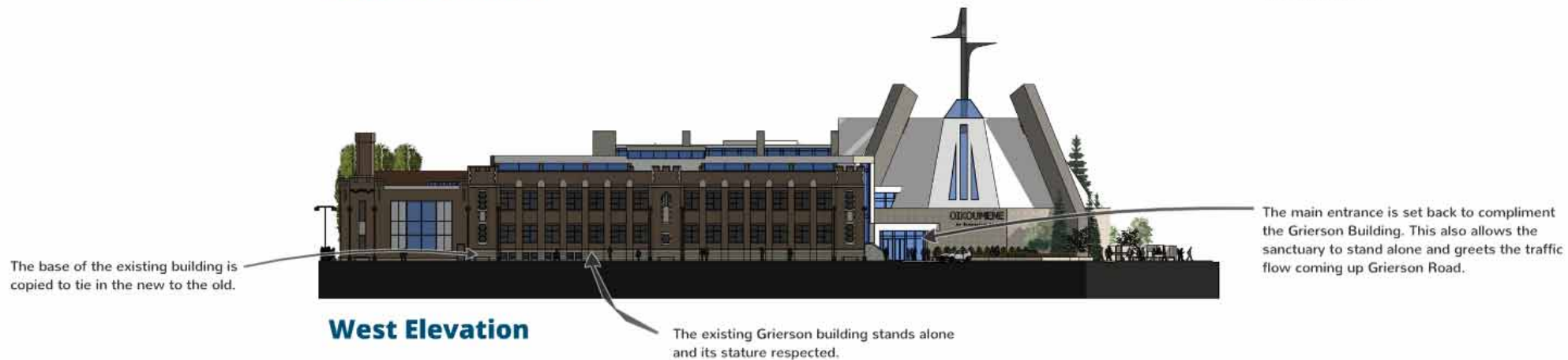
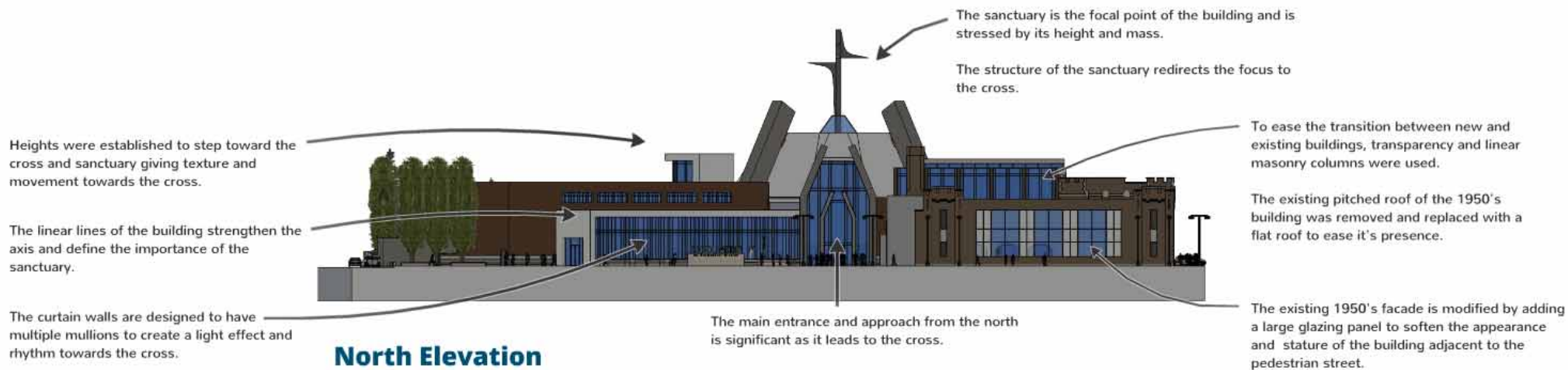
Building Section A-A

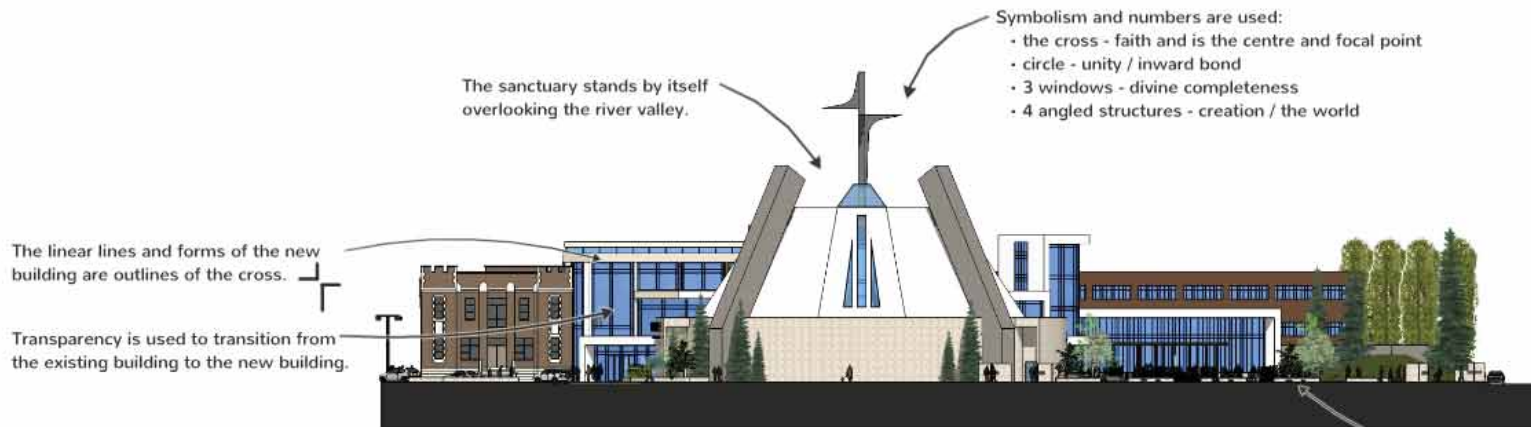
The main entrance provides a grand entrance towards the sanctuary and offers respect by framing the cross through angled structure.

The buildings on either side of the sanctuary are kept linear to emphasize the worship space and to respect the existing Grierson building by balancing it.



Building Section B-B





South Elevation



East Elevation

A concrete parking access defines the exterior gathering space and offers protection.

An edge is given to the property for definition but is made penetrable to welcome the community in.

Trees are used to soften the edge but to also blur the service areas.

The existing Grierson Building remains and is complimented with a new stair and walkway.



The sanctuary is set back to respect the Grierson Building but becomes the hierarchical element from form and size.

The corner is softened with landscape and redirects the pedestrian traffic around the drop off lane.

Southwest Perspective



Southwest Perspective

The main entrance is transparent and has a stepping motion to transition between a historical building and the sanctuary.

The sanctuary becomes the backing to the outdoor worship space and has a raised platform and water feature - symbolism of life and baptism.



Southeast Perspective

Seven windows are provided on the administration level for symbolism.

A large outdoor multi-purpose gathering space is provided for events and festivals that compliment Edmonton's downtown core.

The axis are defined by the pedestrian walking paths.



Southeast Perspective

The south east entrance is similar to the south west entrance and has a stepping action with transparency to transition between the two forms.

A berm and trees protect the site and provide a sloped sitting area for outdoor services and events.



Northeast Perspective

The buildings north elevation is adjacent to a pedestrian street. The building steps back to ease the approach and invites the community in.

Building materials of brick and glazing reinforce and compliment the existing Grierson Building.



Three full height windows and two columns are created for symbolism, transparency and respect for the Grierson Building.

Public access to the banquet area is provided off the main entry walkway.

Northeast Perspective

A soft landscaped area connects and provides a leisure area for events and defines the main entry.

The main entrance is framed by the opposing buildings and the angled structure and leads to the worship space.



North Perspective

The 1950's building is modified and opened up by the addition of glazing to address its relationship to the pedestrian street. Glazed columns and patterning reflect the existing forms.



Interior Perspective - Looking to Sanctuary

The intersection of the axis frame
the entrance to the sanctuary.

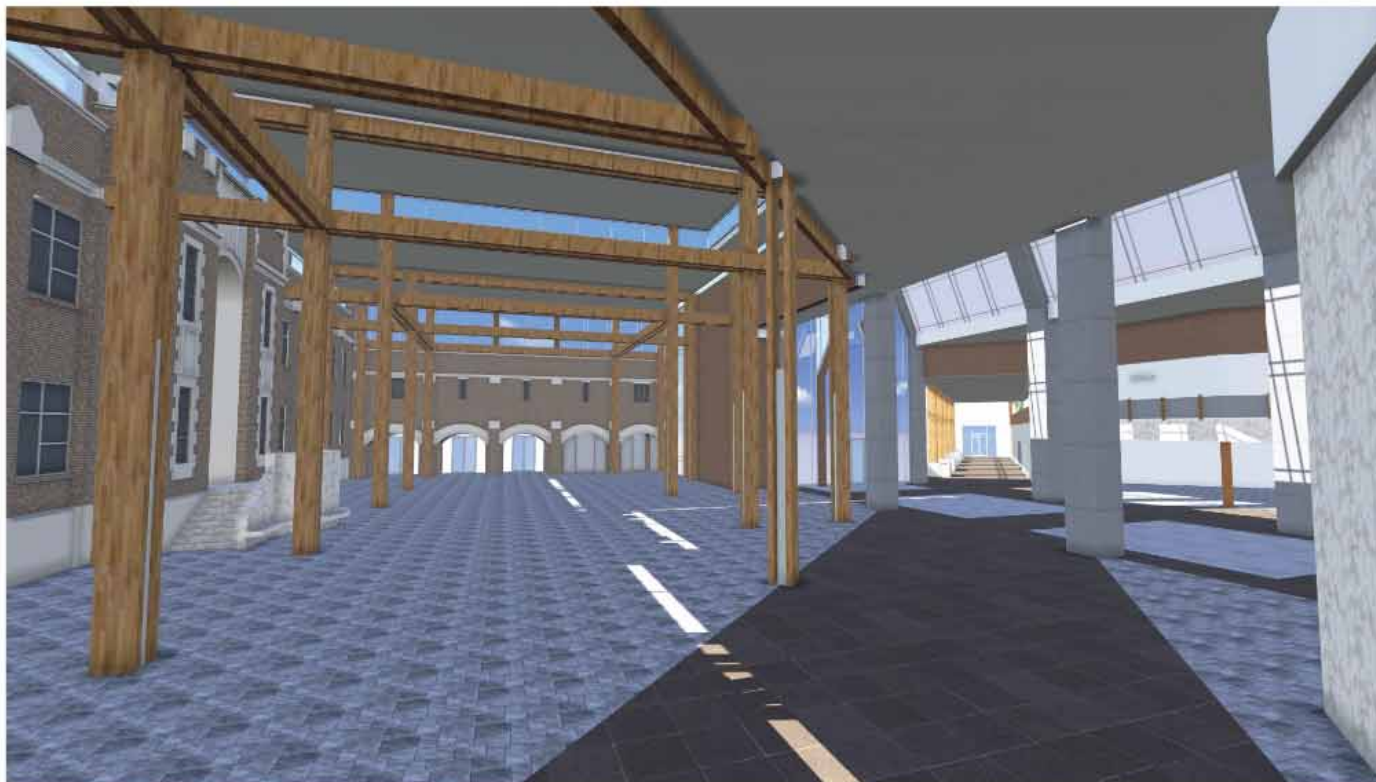
Glazing provides an uplifting feeling through the
skylight and entrances.



Interior Perspective - Main entrance looking south west

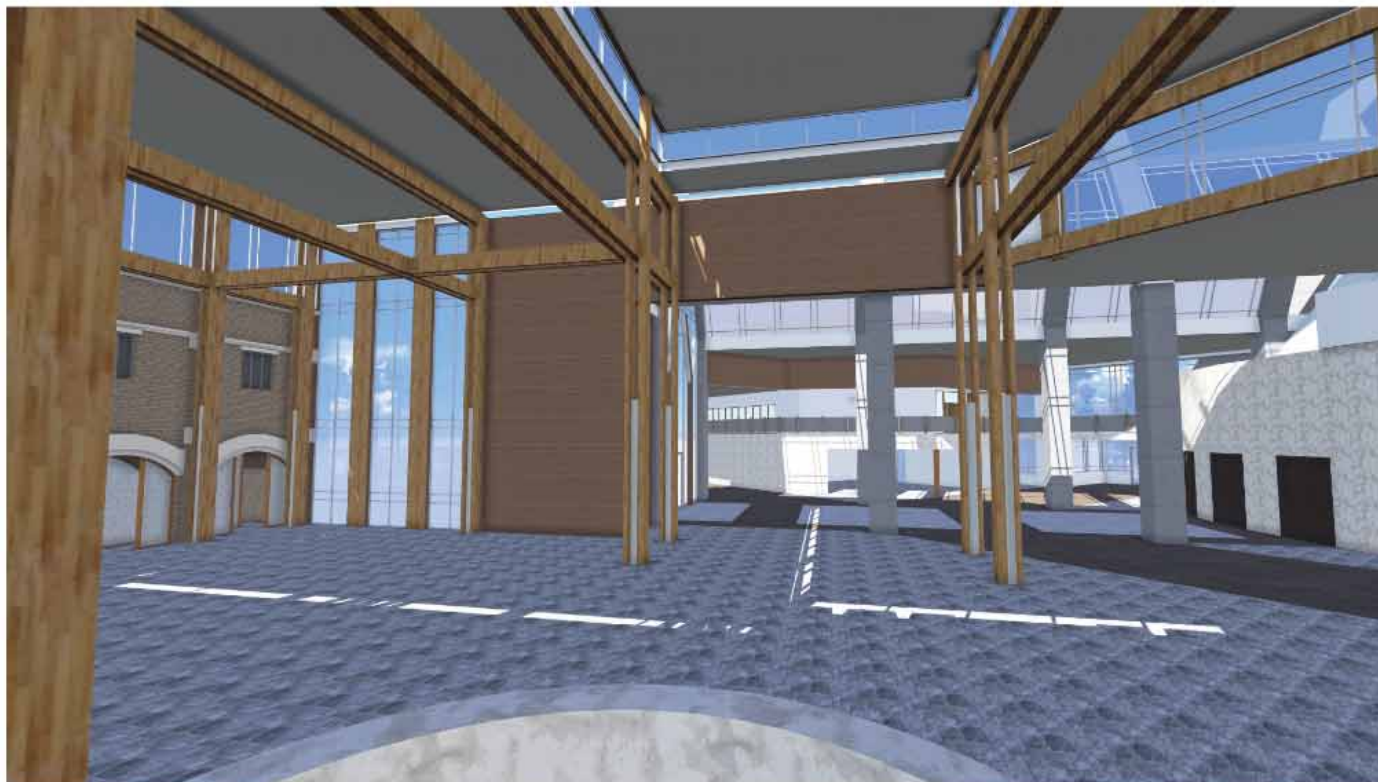
The roof at the entrance to the Grierson building is raised to define it.

Wood and glazing are used to bring warmth into the space.



Interior Perspective - Main Gathering Space

The structure on the interior is open and reflects the mullion design to create an open and airy feeling within the gathering space.



Interior Perspective - Main Gathering Space

A large multi-purpose space is provided for after worship service, gatherings, festivals and art displays.

The second floor overlooks the arcade creating more open feeling.

The window mullions are designed to create texture, rhythm and light for a peaceful and spiritual feel.



Interior Perspective - Main Axis

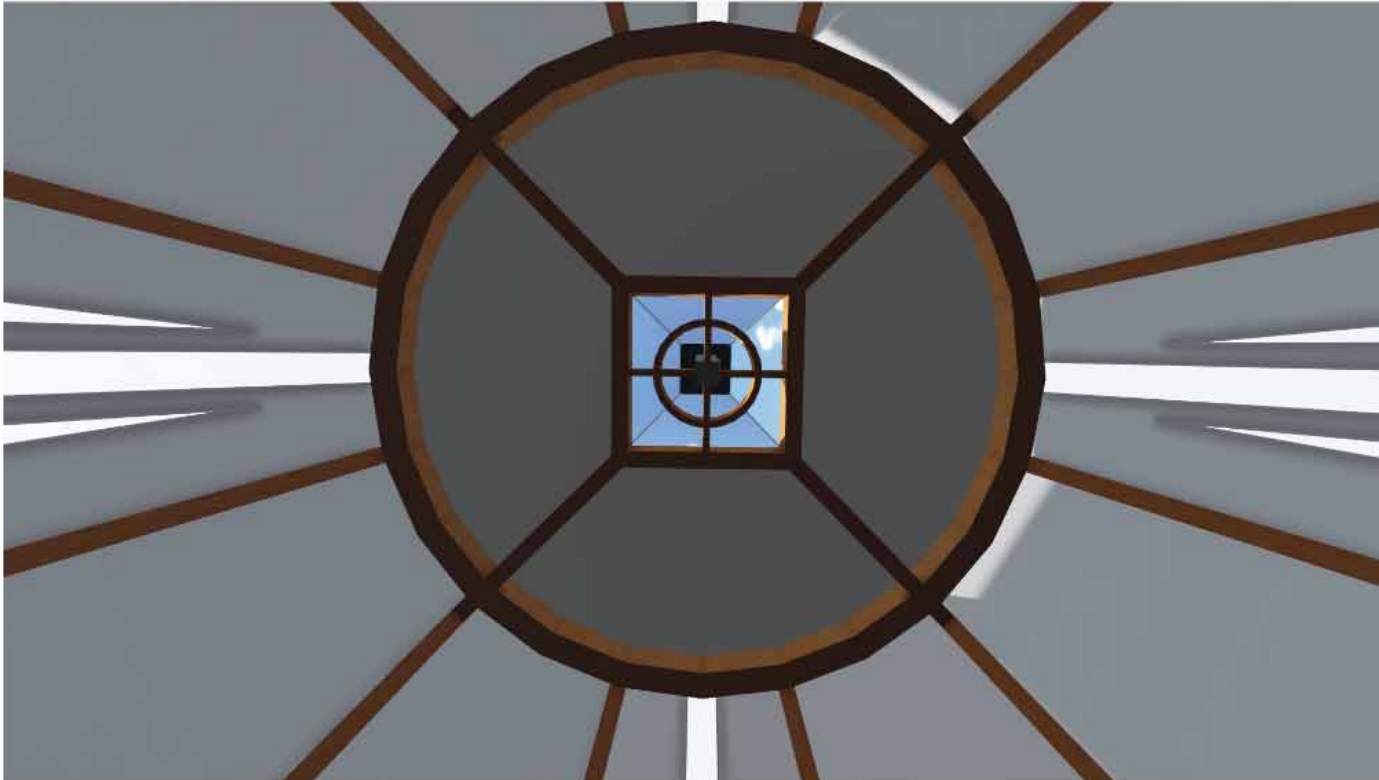
The interior arcade provides passage for the public to the retail spaces and the river valley.

The sanctuary space is designed to be multi-functional while keeping its sacredness.



Interior Perspective - Sanctuary

The floor is kept level to keep the space more flexible.



Interior Perspective - Sanctuary

The cross in the skylight is the centre and focal point of the sanctuary space always keeping a connection to the space whatever the event.

OIKOUMENE PRINCIPLES

Based on Research of Ecumenism and Missions

1. The Oikoumene Centre:

- .1 is located within the heart of Edmonton's community.
- .2 has educational, learning and resource areas.
- .3 has a multipurpose worship space.

2. it has an ease of accessibility to the greater Edmonton community.

3. it has spaces to promote unity.

4. it provides space to enable community relationships.

5. it compliments the arts and cultural core by providing spaces and programs.

6. it has a recognizable identity.

7. it responds to current and innovative technologies through design, envelope, glazing and engineering systems.

8. it is respectful to the environment by revitalizing a decaying property, providing day lighting and using energy efficient systems and links itself to the river valley.

Based on research of Christian Missions and determining the diversity of needs, a Christian Ecumenical Centre is successfully integrated into the Edmonton capitol city region providing a unique missionary service to the community at large.

by brett clayton woodrow