

1

Before, roadways bisected the Lower Rainier Vista's axis, isolating a major portion from the rest of the campus. The project lowered the roadway and added a land bridge, strengthening the axis, improving pedestrian connections, and enhancing the regional bicycle trail.



2

Rainier Vista, named for its dramatic view of Mt. Rainier, was first conceived by the Olmsted Brothers for the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in the early 1900s. It has become a landmark for the university and the broader community.



3

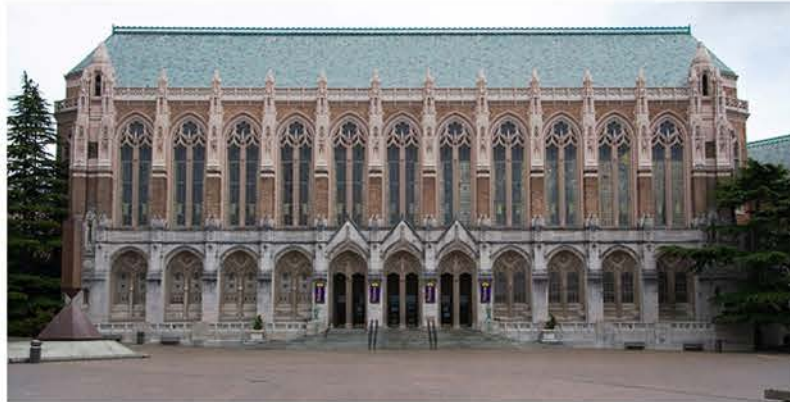
The project set up a campus-scaled, legacy bone structure for a place serving as the intersection of many transportation modes.



4

The land bridge connects the upper and lower axis as a single land mass with a 'carved' road. It allows for a seamless pedestrian experience between the campus and new light rail hub.

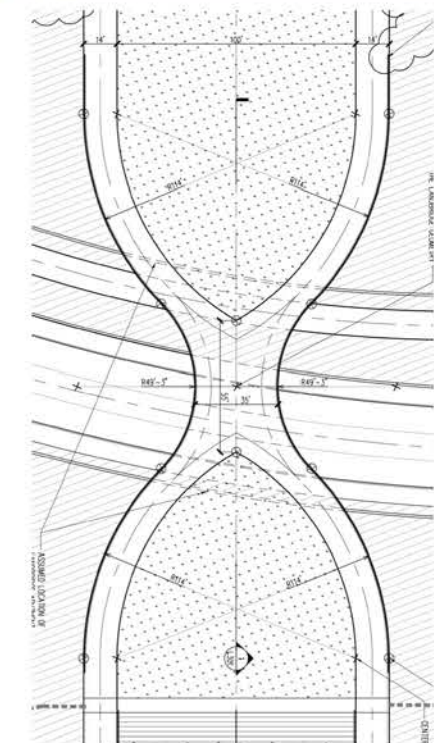
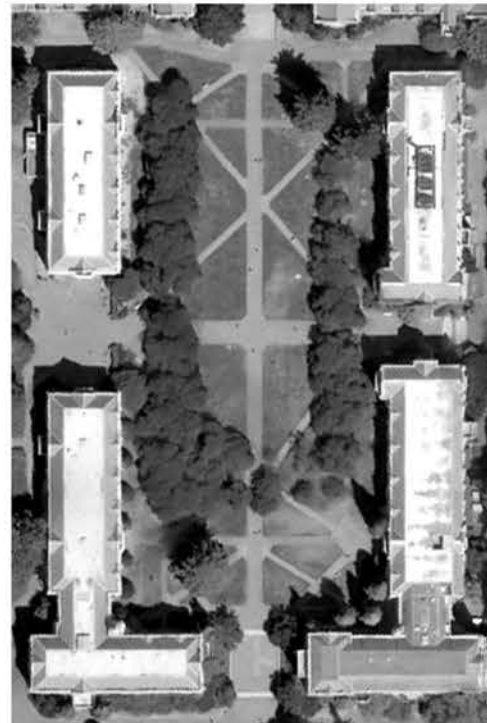
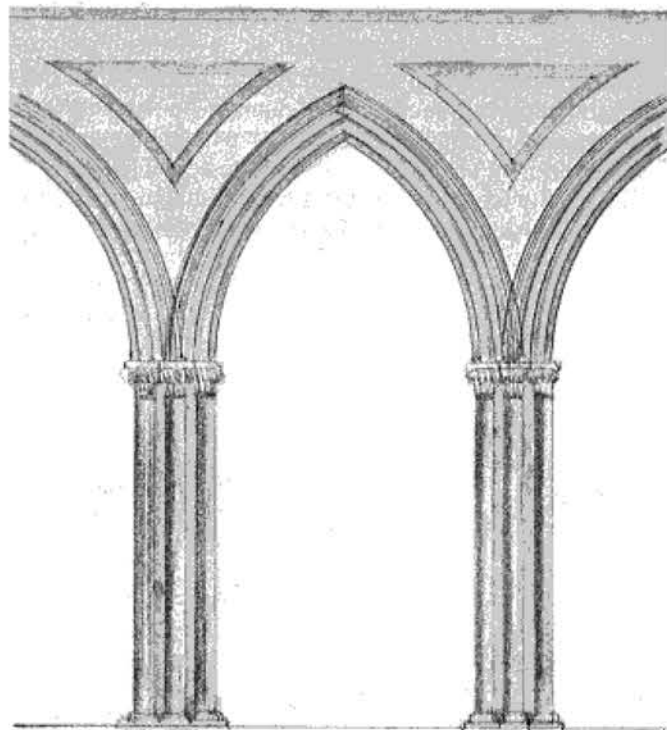
UW Arch



UW Quad



Collegiate Crossing





6

A disused service road running through the axis center drew visitors' gaze downward rather than towards the mountain beyond. The existing pedestrian circulation connected to campus, but the connections and safety were compromised by the road.



AFTER

7

A simple, subtly-sculpted continuous groundplane draws visitors' attention to the mountain beyond. Mixing plazas along the axis allow for crossings, rest, and opportunities to capture the memorable view.

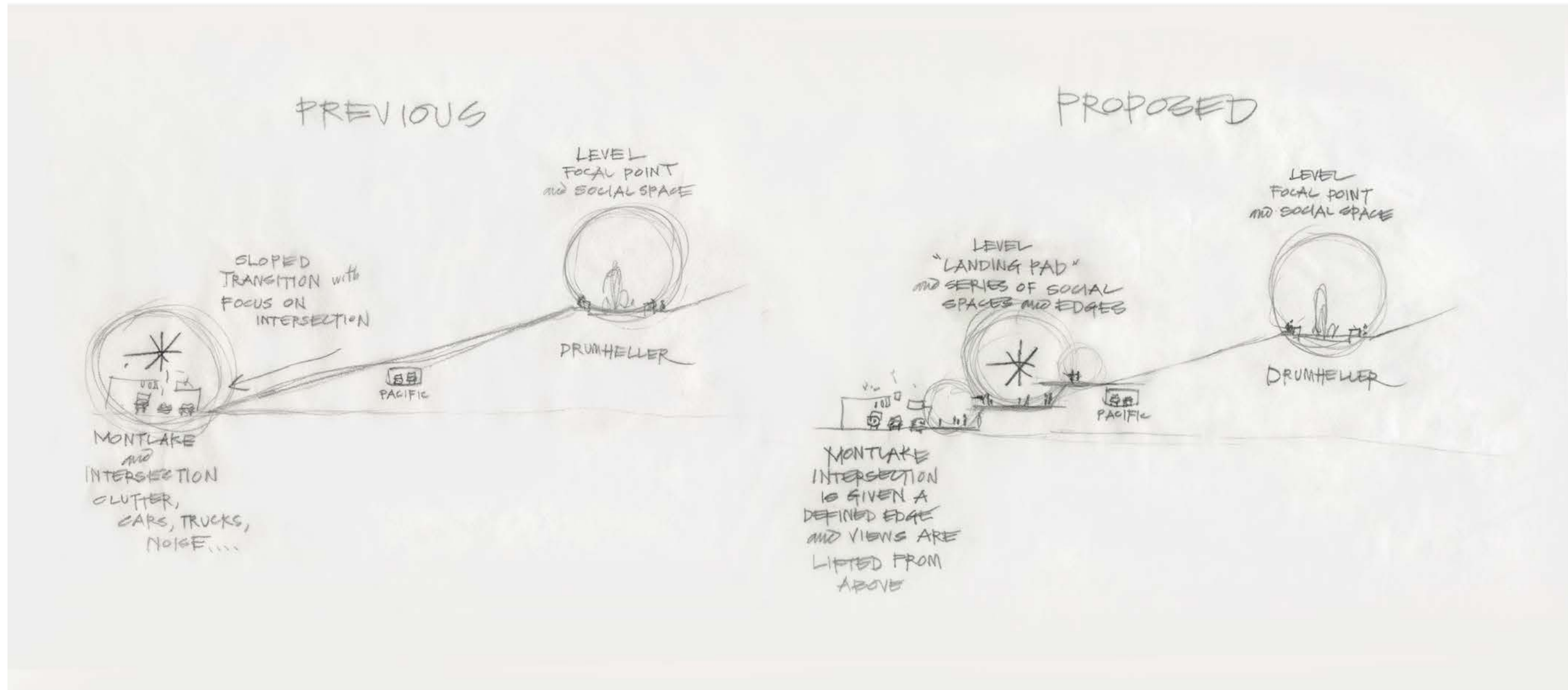


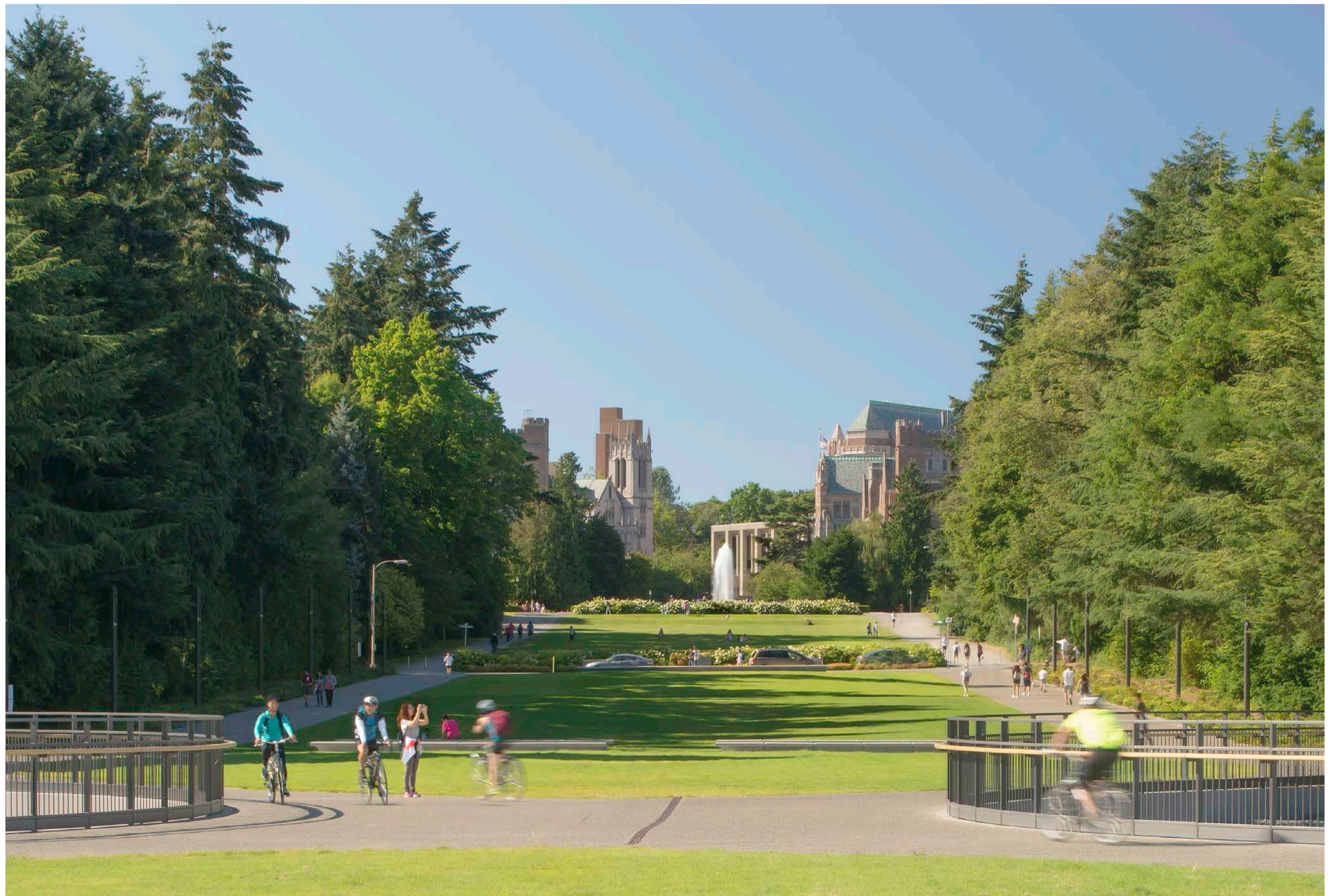
8

The previous grading and circulation of Rainier Vista was designed to accommodate vehicles and utilities rather than pedestrians.



AFTER





11

From the outside of campus looking toward the fountain, the new grading creates the illusion of a foreshortened distance making the fountain appear closer than it really is.



12

The land bridge's design resolves a number of technical challenges by reducing costs, lessening approach slopes on the road and the Burke Gilman Trail, maintaining clearance for the Metro trolley cables, and minimizing shadows on the street below.





Trees and planting help define the Vista as a welcoming campus entry that will evolve into a continuation of the Vista's signature forest. The strong southern exposure at Montlake Triangle calls for plants that will hold up to direct sunlight.