

**UW School of Medicine Phase 2
Seattle, Washington**

Landscape Architect:	Gustafson Guthrie Nichol
Client:	University of Washington School of Medicine/ Vulcan Real Estate
Architect:	Perkins + Will
Engineer:	ARUP
Other consultants:	Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Inc., structural; AEI, MEP; Coughlin Porter Lundeen, civil; Horton Lees Brogden, lighting



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The UW School of Medicine Phase 2 (UWSOM2) is a progressive biomedical research facility, dedicated to understanding and improving the lives of people. The project is located in Seattle’s South Lake Union. The simple cruciform layout is a natural extension of the neighborhood’s urban language of East-West pedestrian passageways and North-South boulevards:

- East-West “Life Layer:” this mid-block alley celebrates our abundant and fertile earth. Filled with lush, verdant plants that practically burst from the ground, it showcases seasonal change throughout the year. Small meeting places are carved into this “Green Band” for intimate conversations or individual respite. Site planting simultaneously allows for looking into research space while providing a buffer for researchers’ privacy.
- The North-South “Light Layer:” this promenade maximizes the properties of air and light to bring energy and warmth to the space. Reflective building material fills the corridor with natural light. The Landscape Architect conceived of and designed custom light figures that ani-

mate the sky with evening light. Evocative of air bubbles, these catenary globes emphasize the three-dimensional volume of the space, provide a comfortable human scale at the ground level, and create a unique edge to the sky. Simple design elements – a wooden boardwalk and bench – provide a bold and inviting entry, as well as a flex space for daily gathering and special events.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury favorably reacted to the design’s very simple yet effective concept: to extend in a north-south axis the feeling of an alley as an expression of urban activity, with an east-west crosscurrent of greenery as an expression of garden tranquility. This concept is reinforced by the choice of materials and their assemblage through fine craftsmanship: unique bulb lanterns hanging from catenary lights in the “alley,” and stone planters containing lush greenery in the “garden.” A simple wood deck extends into both realms, giving the complex as a whole an elegant and unified distinction.



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