

2/9/2011

Great Places: Moore Square



First-Place Winner - Chris Counts Studio, Charlottesville, VA

Moore Square Design Competition

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 Team: Jenny Mikulski, Mike Smith

This design concept for Moore Square builds upon its most unique and significant characteristics, but expands its spatial, experiential, and programmatic range by introducing a gentle landform. The landform feature energizes and organizes the site into visually and functionally distinct spaces that accommodate a wider range of uses than the Square offers today. The Square becomes multidimensional, offering prospect, large expanses of open lawn, and places for refuge and recreation.

The original entry paths are retained to minimize root disturbance, and planters are removed to deepen views. Existing path materials are recycled in the pavement pattern of an exciting and flexible new plaza that can host both grand and impromptu performances. An adventure playground is embedded in the landform, and the gentle northern slope becomes an amphitheatre, or simply a place to sunbathe and people watch. Sustainable practices such as collecting stormwater in rain gardens, and enriching habitat in the interpreted natural area ensure this design benefits the ecosystem and establishes a contemplative zone for reading and birdwatching.

Second-Place Winner - Larry Zucchini, ASLA, JDavis Architects, Raleigh, NC
 Team: Marty Linn, ASLA; David Brown, ASLA, Sawako Bush, Pongsak Denpattanapitak

This design concept maintains the Square's historic form by enhancing historic pedestrian circulation patterns while maintaining a strong cross-Square flow. Social interaction for all citizens is provided through new activities and functions. The design concept is a classical solution that respects historic pathways and responds to Raleigh as it is today. The sense of entry to the Square is very inviting. The wide promenade makes the Square accessible, walkable, warm, and friendly. The design improves function with wider walkways, a flexible multi-use central area, a permanent small performance venue, and refreshment pavilions with restrooms and kiosks. Environmental sustainability is incorporated through tree conservation, native tree replanting, permeable pavements, local materials, storm water cistern, and LED lighting. Economic vitality is tied directly to creating a successful and attractive Downtown destination for adjacent businesses. Historic neighborhoods are strongly linked through incorporation of desired uses and history plaques.

Third-Place Winner - Stephen Stimson Associates, Falmouth, MA
 Team: Steve Stimson, Eddie Marshall, Tom Lee, Mascha Hranjec, Jen Exner, Cullen Meves, Chris Buccino

This design concept is simple, clean, and flexible. It seeks to reaffirm the Square's historic identity of great oaks and common ground. The design provides a dramatic look towards City Market along a promenade connecting the north and south sides of the Square. The design creates rooms that blur the edges of the Square. Active and passive zones transition nicely to the great lawn.

Honorable Mentions

The honorable mention submissions respect historic use and experience. Each honors the life of open space and creates a wonderful civic destination.

Samuel Reynolds, President/Owner, Reynolds & Jewel

The design relates well to Blount and Person streets. The heritage walk and great lawn work well for all ages.

Vincent Petrarca, Partner

Tonic Design
 Team: Mike Cindric, Design Dimension
 David Swanson, ASLA, Swanson & Associates
 David Hill, AIA, NCSU

The garden rooms, drought resistant vegetation, and seating arrangement works well. Historic integrity is preserved in the walkways.

Eric Davis, Principal, Lappas & Havener

Team: Ed Dwight, Sculptor Studio
 Walt Havener, Lappas & Havener
 Fern & Sterling; Frank Harmon Architect

All four corners of the Square are very inviting, especially the emphasis on the southeast corner. The design highlights history in tile arrangements in the pathways.

Roger Lynn Spears, Senior Design Architect, Szostak Design, Inc.

The design concept illustrates civic elegance. The idea is simple, yet innovative.

Davin Hong, Senior Design Architect, KlingStubbins

The cross access in this design highlights historic pathways with good pedestrian weaving along the promenade. The bioretention area is up front and visible.

View all the other design competition submissions and the Community Open Call site plan results on Flickr. Check out Moore Square videos on YouTube.

Design Competition Overview

The Competition was an opportunity for the design community to engage in the momentum taking place in Raleigh. Design criteria addressed the City's goals to advance diversity, enhance connection between Downtown and surrounding communities, and encourage more environmental/sustainable development solutions.

Design Competition Rationale

Moore Square is a historic, signature destination in Raleigh. It hosts a range of high-profile events with a citywide and regional draw including Downtown Live concerts, Farmers Market, Artslosure, SparkCon, World Beer Festival, area school activities, and summer movies, to mention a few. Moore Square was not designed as a large event venue, and increasingly heavy use has created significant maintenance issues and compromised the attractiveness of the Square for citizens, workers, and visitors. During the upcoming year, many of the current events may move to other new public spaces in Downtown Raleigh (including City Plaza and, later, the Festival site west of the Raleigh Convention Center).

The Departments of City Planning and Parks and Recreation, working with the State and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance sought through the Competition to understand and balance how Moore Square will be developed and programmed within the context of new public event spaces opening across Downtown.

Competition Objectives

The Competition involved an Open Call for Ideas that informed the application criteria. The City, through the Competition, hopes to:

Create a unique public space and urban experience for the 21st century;
 Engage broad public participation throughout the process and in the future; and
 Establish the conditions to develop a sustainable economic development strategy for the Moore Square area.

Community Open Call for Ideas

The Open Call for Ideas June 17 (Marbles Kids Museum) and June 27, 2009 (Chavis Community Center) kicked off the creative process of soliciting site and programming ideas for Moore Square. City-wide public participation was encouraged among all who are vested in the Square: residents, CACs, environmental groups, Downtown Raleigh Alliance membership, Moore Square area property owners and businesses, local schools and universities, and neighborhood and parks advocates. The Open Call for Ideas was an opportunity for the public to contribute their big - and not so big - ideas for the Square. Ideas evolved from resident and visitor memories, current user experiences, and community conversations throughout the city about the Square's significant history and its future as a destination.

NEXT STEPS

- State comments on design concept
- City Council comments on design concept
- Public comments on design concept
- City Council approves design team and master plan process
- Public comments on draft master plan
- Finalize master plan for public review and adoption

Last Modified: December 02, 2010