Bringing the Mountains Home

Introduction

Bringing The Mountain Home, a new vision of the current 54-acre on-campus family housing at Utah State University. This site is located on the northern part of campus, and is home to over 450 families. Designed and constructed during the fall of 2022, the buildings are planned for significant updates in the near future. Site design represents and embraces the life cycle of surrounding natural systems in both its plans, structures, and homes.

Movement

The site encourages movement of people, resources, and water through a connected hydrologic system. The system includes both ecological systems such as bioswales and detention ponds, as well as those of a human impact such as vehicular and pedestrian movement throughout the site. Having these systems overlapped upon one another allows the site to utilize the best sustainable practices instead of each being separately designed apart from one another.

Design Development

Located within the desert region of the great west, we knew our design had to take into account all the factors that come with living in a desert landscape. The project focuses on using storm runoff as a precious resource rather than as a problem to be dealt with.

Site Inventory

When visiting the site in person, we identified significant areas, connections, and viewpoints vital to create a viable community. The title, “Bringing the Mountain Home,” was inspired by the amazing views, and proximity to the nearby mountain range.

Site Plan

Our team worked to mimic natural systems form and function within our site. The design mimics the organic, dendritic forms and replicates the stark contrast between the rugged mountains and diverse Logan River in both form and context.

Final Master Plan

This final design is functional representation of the hydrological cycle of Logan River and the three dams located along it. The design provides for adaptation for the uncertain environmental and economic future. The design establishes a vision of a more resilient future that meets hydrologic, economic, and social needs we foresee in the future.

Key Figures

- **Existing Design vs. Proposed Design**
  - Total Open Space: 62.0 Acres, 54.6 Acres
  - Landscaped: 14.0 Acres, 9.5 Acres
  - Total Hard Surfaces: 51.2 Acres, 60.5 Acres
  - Roads: 11.3 Acres, 16.6 Acres
  - Water Retention: 0.014, 2.28725gph

Site Information

- 5*) Native plants and shrubs, trees, and native grasses.
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