A CAMPUS DEFINED BY ITS

VEGETATION STRUCTURE
THE REGIONAL LANDSCAPE OF CANBERRA COMMUNICATED AS AN URBAN COMPOSITION

The regional Canberra landscape is to be articulated and abstracted as a forest of black trunked trees in the wider campus, a grid of white trunked trees on the ridges of the Concours, green threads indicating where water flows, grasslands, and patches of colourful flowering ground plants.
VEGETATION TYPOLOGIES

WHITE GRID
Location: Concourse ridge areas and other selected open spaces within the broader campus
Association: Central University/Central Academic
Geometry: Grid tied to column grid of existing blond brick buildings.
Indicative species:
- Eucalyptus pauci/f_lora [Ghost Gum/White Sally]
- Eucalyptus rossii [Scribbly Gum]
- Eucalyptus mannifera [Brittle Gum]
- Eucalyptus blakelyi [Blakely’s Red Gum]
- Eucalyptus viminalis [White Gum, Ribbon Gum]

BLACK GRID
Location: All areas of wider campus ridges and slopes
Association: Cohesion of the wider campus
Geometry: Elongated parallelogram grid based on Fibonacci sequence
Indicative species:
- Eucalyptus cebra [Narrow Leaved Ironbark]
- Eucalyptus sideroxylon [Mugga]
- Eucalyptus stellulata [Black Sally]

GREEN THREAD
Location: Woven throughout the campus where water flows and pools
Association: Water movement, low lying ground, valley floors
Geometry: Mass sedge planting and wet footed tree species in irregular copses
Indicative species:
- Casuarina cunninghamiana [River Oak]
- Casuarina glauca [Swamp Oak]
- Melaleuca sp.
- Carex appressa
- Carex fascicularis
- Elaeocarpus reticulatus
- Gahnia sieberiana

COLOUR PATCHES
Location: Building courtyards, building forecourts, selected sitting areas around wider campus.
Association: Exceptions / variations within the larger structure of the campus. Scented plants, bird attracting plants.
Geometry: Varied
Indicative species:
- Correa reflexa
- Dianella sp.
- Dichondra repens
- Acacia sp.
- Grevillea sp.
- Hardenbergia violacea
- Poa sp./Temeda australis

GRASSLAND
Location: University Hill, University Green, Surrounding Playing Fields
Association: Ecosystem support, Passive Recreation
Indicative species:
- Austrostipa bigeniculata [Tall Speargrass]
- Temeda triandra [Kangaroo Grass]
- Austrodanthonia sp. [Wallaby Grass]
- Bothriochoa macra [Red-legged Grass]

PLAN KEY:
1. White Grid
2. Black Grid
3. Green Thread
4. Colour Patches
5. Grassland
6. Productive Layer
THE USE OF DIFFERENT GRIDS TO STRUCTURE VEGETATION

The existing dry vegetation on the campus includes a major colour contrast – white trunked and black trunked trees. This colour contrast is a key aspect of the campus landscape character. Through further planting the two groups of trees – white trunked and black trunked – will become a fundamental organisational and legibility device. The colour contrast will distinguish the university heart from the wider campus and provide a dramatic way-finding layer.

The existing white trunked trees are principally located on the ridge of the Concourse within the academic heart. This planting is expanded with white trunked trees planted in a grid extending the blonde brick column grid of the surrounding buildings into the Concourse, thereby creating a sense of cohesion in the central area of campus. The white trunked tree grid extends into the broader campus delineating avenues and axis.

The wider campus has some existing stands of black trunked eucalypts. These are developed through a large-scale, black tree grid structure, introduced throughout the broader campus. This black grid, while containing diversity and variety through the use of different species and the effect of differing landform, exposure and ground condition, provides a sense of overall cohesion in the campus.

The extent of white and black trunked tree planting proposed...

...the grid has historically proven to be a particularly effective field operation, extending a framework across a workface for flexible and changing development over time, such as the real estate grid of Manhattan, or the land survey grid of the Midwestern United States. In these instances, an abstract formal operation characterizes the surface, imbuing it with specificity and operational potential. This organization lends legibility and order to the surface while allowing for the autonomy and individuality of each part, and reorganizing open to alternative permutations over time. This stages the surface with orders and infrastructures permitting a vast range of accommodations and is indicative of an urbanism that eschews formal object making for the tactical work of choreography, a choreography of elements and materials in time that extends to new networks, new linkages, and new opportunities.

THE WHITE GRID AND ITS GEOMETRIC STRUCTURE

The white trunk grids of the Concourse are to be an extension of the building column grid, and thereby unify the Academic Core.
The black trunk tree grid is generated from an elongated parallelogram. Its dimensions are generated from a Fibonacci spiral extrapolated from the dimensions of the structural grid of the Concourse buildings. The resulting grid will change appearance when viewed from different directions, however it will also retain a sense of proportion and relationship with the white trunk tree grid.

The black trunk tree grid layout

THE BLACK GRID AND ITS GEOMETRIC STRUCTURE

The grid for the black trunked trees is laid over the entire campus and this unifying grid locates all new trees. Whilst the black tree grid, recognisable throughout the wider campus, brings a sense of structure to the whole, the following ensures that there is also variation and complexity:

1. The black trunk tree grid layout
2. The grid is varied through its relationship with existing mature trees on campus
3. Edges of the grid can be staggered to offer further variation

The topography brings variation in tree growth in response to the differing soil and microclimate. Over time, trees in a grid develop different growth habits, some growing larger or with a denser habit than others, bringing variation to the grid.

Existing stands of trees remain within the gridded plantations in contrast to the grid.

Trees are planted in selected compositions of the grid based upon particular circumstances with, for example, staggered edges to planting groups or open areas where not every grid point is planted with a tree.
A CAMPUS ENRICHED BY A VISIBLE PRODUCTIVE LAYER

The campus has scope for a meaningful, campus-wide system of sustainable production. This productive layer can have many component parts for development over time with urban agriculture elements sited throughout the campus of locations appropriate to their use.

The productive layer includes sites for communal crops as well as smaller productive gardens and a tree and plant nursery and campus seed bank.

TREE AND PLANT NURSERY AND CAMPUS SEED BANK

This nursery grows plants for use on the campus thereby:
- Being a resource for developing and sustaining the campus landscape
- Creating a record of the species used on campus
- Developing seed banks for cultivars that work on campus
- Being a research facility for both University faculties and other groups

LARGER CROP PRODUCTION

The larger crop production terraces grow large scale crops that could be managed as either an externally managed commercial crop, a biomass crop, or even a research crop managed by an institution such as CSIRO.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community garden, through the shared activity of food production enhances the experience of the University by introducing sustainable living practices and enriching the social and recreational facilities of the campus.

The garden will be a mixed productive garden for:
- Growing a range of perennial and annual crops
- Developing sustainability and recycling practices
- Educational, recreational and social activities related to food production

A CAMPUS ENRICHED THROUGH BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity describes the range of different species of plants and animals that live within a given ecosystem.

The greater proportion of the University landscape is not remnant, but a designed landscape that represents an ongoing cultural relationship with the environment. Within this designed landscape, a system of constructed ecosystems produce an interconnected network supporting and sustaining plant and animal life with minimal human intervention.

The proposed campus landscape character is multi-dimensional, providing a cultural setting appropriate to the University and particularly to its unique sense of place. The setting is enriched by the legibility of landscape systems that underpin the living landscape. Careful selection of appropriate native plant species and the creation of a surface water treatment system provide a diversity of microclimates and habitats. Connections between these microclimates and habitats ensure that the resilient campus is a living constructed ecosystem that combines intense human use, with healthy landscape systems - a true urban ecology.

Right: Patches of native vegetation are connected by planted corridors and watercourses.

Above: The campus design will encourage the sustained development of a diversity of living systems, coexisting alongside the human uses of the site.

Plan Key:

1. Tree and plant nursery / campus seed bank
2. Larger crop production
3. Community garden

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A productive layer to the campus