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### **The Wheaton College Campus as Redesigned by Thomas Jefferson**

If Thomas Jefferson had to remodel the Wheaton College Campus, this is what it would look like... It is well known that Jefferson was the father of The University of Virginia, and that he had a running project to build his dream house – Monticello. These two works are the primary sources for the redesign of the Wheaton Campus. The Major renovations include a new façade for the Meadows Residence Hall, a brick serpentine walk connecting upper and lower campuses, the creation of a new building, and two Jeffersonian gardens.

The existing Meadows dorm complex will receive a facelift. Meadows North, West and Center will receive new facades which are all derived from the various pavilions at the University of Virginia. Jefferson designed each of his ten pavilions to use different architectural features and styles, so they could be used as examples for architecture lectures. He didn't think many of his students would be able to study the real thing in Europe. The new plan also calls for a covered walkway to connect the entrances of these three buildings. This walkway will have a roman colonnade, much like the one at UVA.

In the current dead space between Meadows North and Chase Dining Hall, the Loading dock and drive way would be moved underground to make room for a patio and Garden area. Jefferson was always interested in finding new ways of doing things, and inventions, and an underground loading dock would have been right up his alley. In this recovered space, the grand, new serpentine walk meets the brick patio. In the center, there is an ovular, raised planting bed held up by a rock retaining wall. The bricks for both the walk and the patio are to be laid in a criss cross diagonal fashion, like on the entrance walk at Monticello. In the raised planting bed, primarily covered with grass, there are three ovular planting beds and several varieties of trees. These planting beds are surrounded by some small, leafy shrub type plants, with some European mums in the center. Jefferson would have thoroughly detailed every single plant in his drawings, but I'm not the botanist he was. The red tree in the center is a red Maple and the large one on the left is a White Oak. There are also two black benches, a special kind that Jefferson kept at Monticello, influenced by Chinese handrails. The entrance to Chase has also been renovated with four columns and a gabled overhanging roof. There is also a grove of Weeping Willow trees on the edge of Peacock Pond, as Jefferson was known to be very fond of these beautiful trees.

The next major portion of the renovation calls for the leveling of the existing power plant, the adjacent student, and teacher parking, and all of the Buildings and Grounds dept. structures. A new 3 story underground parking lot will be created in its place. The garage will then be covered over with dirt, and a new building, a field, and a garden will be put on top. The new building on top will be integrated with the parking garage below to include all of the Buildings and Grounds Department offices and shops, in addition to some new student meeting places, a few classrooms, and other offices. This surface portion of this new building will be modeled after Monticello itself, with the walkways and all. Jefferson would have planted all kinds of shrubs, trees, and flowers around the walkways, and on top of the terrace. In the plan, there are two contour lines, each marking a 10' increase in height. Monticello was on top of a mountain, and this building, entitled the Jefferson Pavilion sits atop a little hill. There is a large grass field

which serves a replica of Monticello lawn, and has a row of trees as a back drop. This doesn't quite give the view of a Virginia Mountaintop, but it works well, and hides the road. This road might even qualify as one of Jefferson's favored roundabouts. In Charlottesville, the under story of the walk ways house various workshops and storage facilities. In the Wheaton version, the west wing is simply windows for the underground rooms, and a pedestrian entrance to the garage. The east wing has more windows and a colonnaded walkway that overlooks the new garden on a terrace.

This new garden sits on a terrace between the Jefferson Pavilion's majestic lawn, and the existing field with loosely planted trees. This garden is similar to one you would find on the UVA campus. It certainly uses many of the same features. When you enter the garden, through the brick wall and white trellis, you see a large variety of plants, as was Jefferson's style. He loved to bring in plants from all over the world, and study and raise them, in his intricate garden settings. After entering, you walk around the serpentine walkway, and eventually enter into the section with rectangle planting beds. There is small greenery and shrubs that border the walk. The first bed is planted with Black Eyed Susans and some small trees. The second bed is also bordered and has a larger, exotic tree in the middle. These rectangular beds were leftover from the days when they were needed to raise food. There is also some garden benches scattered around this garden, as Jefferson would have wanted to have students study there.

There are a few other features of the new design, The new walkway of course, is twice as wide as the existing one, and has no stairs, it is completely ramped. The beginning of this walk, which lies between the admission building and the entrance to Balfour Hood, is widened, to give it a grander appearance. There is also an octagonal eating deck outside chase, overhanging the water. Jefferson thought that octagons gave your more space for you money, and he would have definitely gone for an innovation like an outdoor eating deck.

Thomas Jefferson would have definitely brought in many different species of plants from all over the world to be a part of our campus, in addition to the architectural improvements. He loved to take other peoples ideas, mix them together, and come out with new, original architectural masterpieces.

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