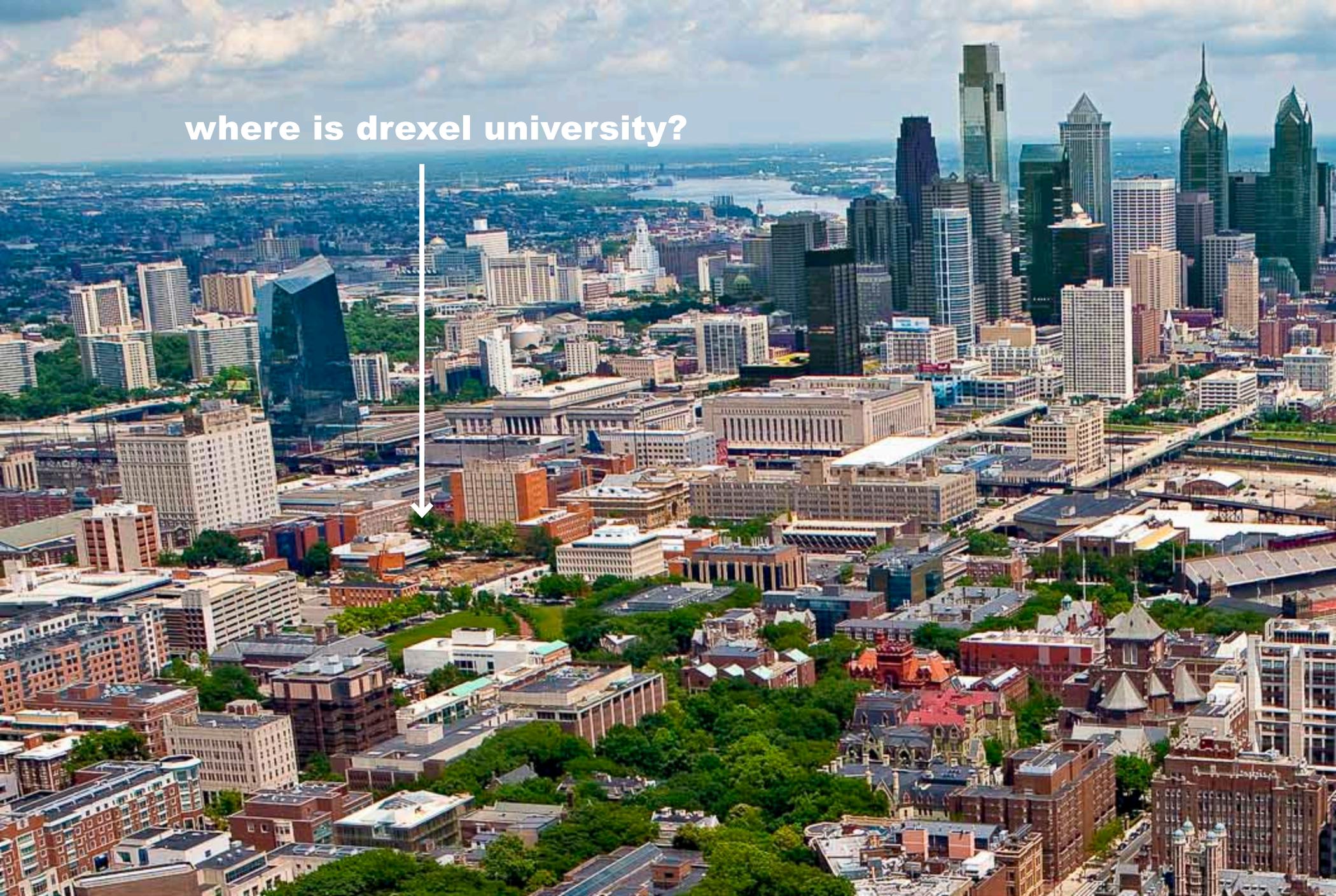


leveraging open space

TO CREATE CAMPUS IDENTITY
AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY



where is drexel university?



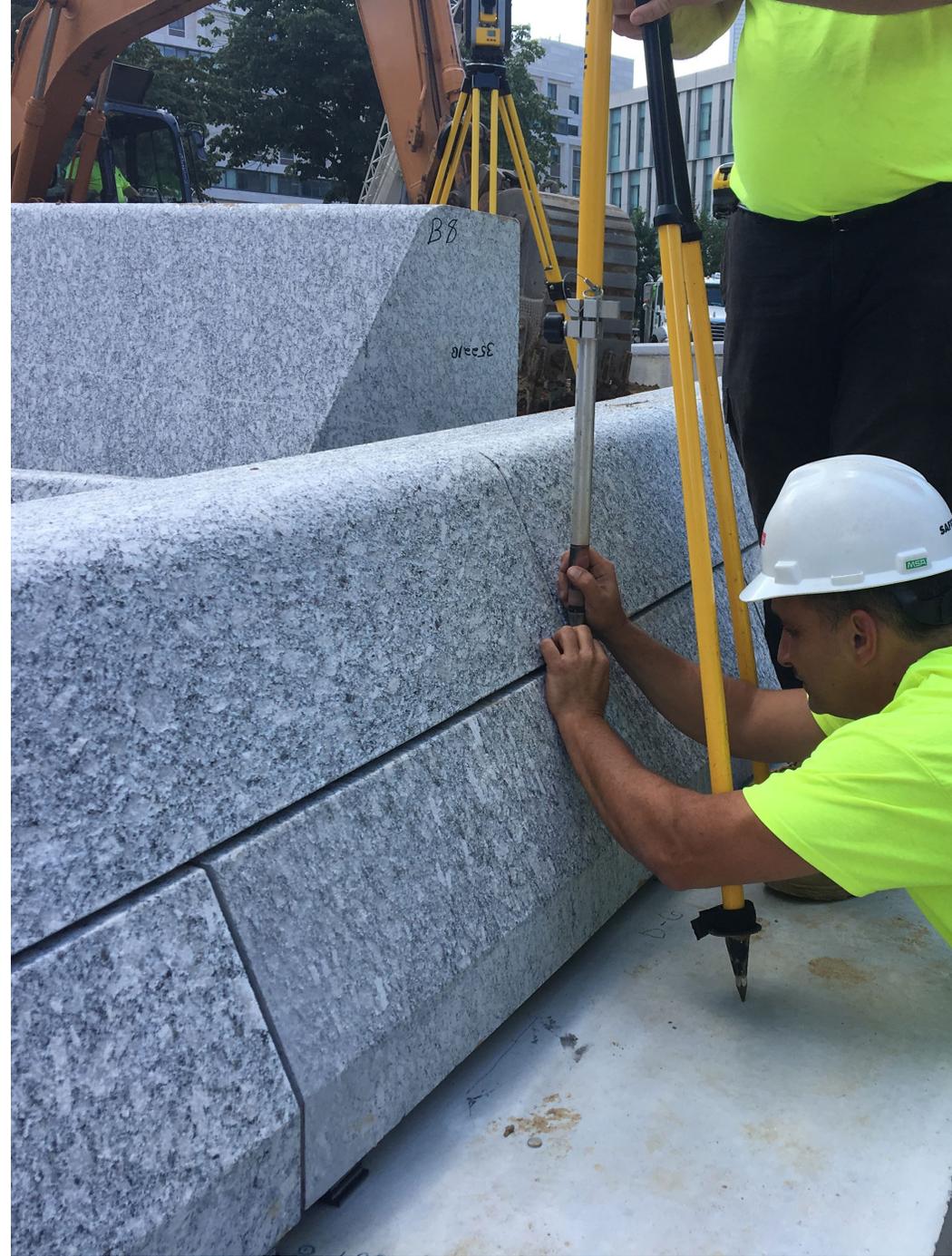
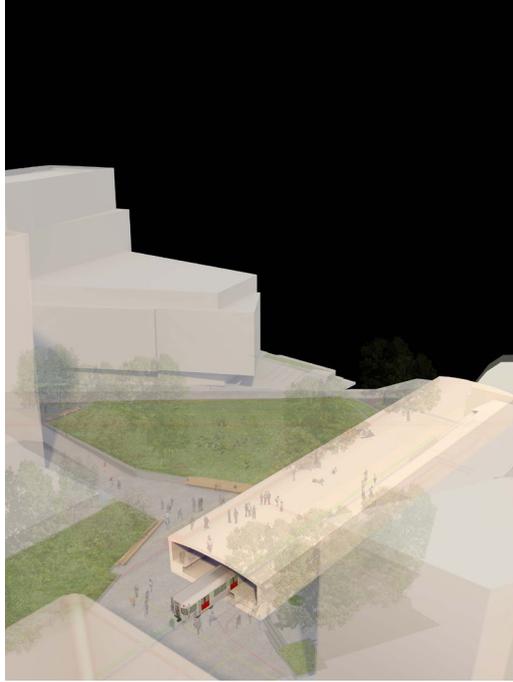
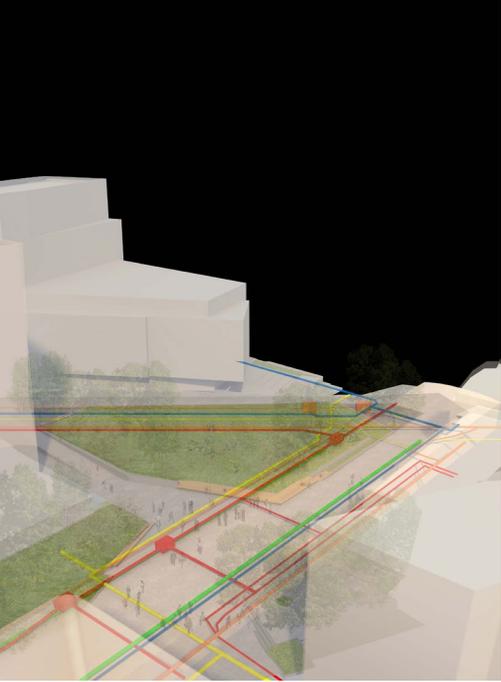
CONTEXT

Located at the heart of Drexel University’s rapidly-expanding campus in Philadelphia, PA, the Perelman Plaza and Korman Quadrangle (the “Quad”) transformed two formerly-lackluster, interstitial spaces into a vibrant destination that defines a new campus identity.



UNIFIED VISION

The previously-existing spaces did not effectively respond to user needs, rainwater pressure, nor educational opportunities, resulting in 4-acres of underutilized and under-performing space within the heart of campus. The landscape did little to unify the surrounding buildings' disparate, architectural styles.



INNOVATIVE

The design/construction team worked together to address three main challenges: 1) Limited depth, including only 18-inches above a subway tunnel; 2) Complex site features requiring 3D shop drawings and total stationing for precision; and 3) Soil temperatures up to 180°F.



“ Within minutes of removing the construction barriers, the space was full of students, in February! ”

Nancy Rogo Trainer, FAIA, AICP, LEED
Associate Vice President & University Architect
Drexel University

ENGAGING

Perelman Plaza and the Quad advance Drexel’s master plan goals by transforming disjointed, interstitial spaces into one of the campus’ greatest asset. The open space provides critical, biophilic benefits for those immersed within the landscape and those viewing it from afar.



DIDACTIC

The open space offers a unique outdoor environment for private study, group collaboration, and field research from various disciplines. This learning landscape contains outdoor classrooms, while Wi-Fi and phone charging stations allow students to use technology comfortably within the landscape.



DISTINCTIVE

Perelman Plaza and the Quad's landscape vernacular—expansive lawn areas dotted with shade trees; native, understory plantings; custom-designed benches; energy-efficient lighting; and sophisticated paving—unites the campus' disparate architectural style while creating a rich experience for students, staff, and visitors.



MAGNETIC

Perelman Plaza and the Quad attract people throughout the seasons, both day and night. “The space, and its reception by students, have exceeded our expectations in every way,” reveals Nancy Rogo Trainer, Drexel’s associate vice president and university architect.



FLEXIBLE

The campus' iconic new space demonstrates how it's possible to re-envision urban campuses as influential places that are flexible, didactic, and performance based. This approach satisfies existing needs while accommodating future needs as well.

CANOPY TREES

Acer rubrum
Betula nigra
Liriodendron tulipifera
Quercus bicolor
Quercus coccinea
Quercus phellos
Quercus rubra
Ulmus americana 'Princeton'

Red Maple
Single-stem Sweet Birch
Tulip Tree
Swamp White Oak
Scarlet Oak
Willow Oak
Red Oak
Princeton American Elm

UNDERSTORY TREES

Amelanchier arborea
Amelanchier laevis
Cercis canadensis
Cornus florida 'Cherokee Chief'
Cornus florida 'Cherokee Princess'
Halesia carolina
Magnolia virginiana

Serviceberry
Alleghney Serviceberry
Redbud
Flowering Dogwood
Flowering Dogwood
Carolina Silverbell
Sweetbay Magnolia

SHRUBS

Clethra alnifolia 'Pink Spire'
Fothergilla gardenii 'Mount Airy'
Hamamelis virginiana
Hydrangea aborescens 'Annabelle'
Hydrangea quercifolia
Ilex verticillata 'Red Sprite'
Itea virginica
Leucothoe fontanesiana
Lindera benzoin

Pink Spire Summersweet
Mount Airy Fothergilla
Common Witch Hazel
Smooth Hydrangea
Oak-leaf Hydrangea
Red Sprite Winterberry Holly
Virginia sweetspire
Drooping Leucothoe
Spicebush

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Aquilegia canadensis
Carex amphibola
Carex flaccosperma
Carex pennsylvanica
Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'
Echinacea purpurea 'Ruby Star'
Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple'
Lobelia cardinalis
Matteuccia struthiopteris
Onoclea sensibilis
Penstemon digitalis
Physostegia virginiana 'Red Beauty'
Polygonatum commutatum
Rudbeckia fulgida var. *fulgida*
Rudbeckia fulgida var. *fulgida*
Sporobolus heterolepis
Tiarella cordifolia var. *collina* 'Oakleaf'

Wild Columbine
Creek sedge
Blue wood sedge
Pennsylvania Sedge
Tickseed
Purple coneflower
Coral Bells
Cardinal Flower
Ostrich Fern
Sensitive Fern
Beardtongue
Obedient plant
Solomon's seal
Brown Eyed Susan
Black-eyed Susan
Prairie Dropseed
Heartleaf foamflower



SUSTAINABLE

The urban, open space supports more than 144 native trees, 40,000 native shrubs and groundcovers, and 0.92-acres of turf grass, from 33 different genera. The landscape system provides ecosystem services, including habitat provision; urban heat-island-effect mitigation; and carbon sequestration.



ABSORBANT

Perelman Plaza and the Quad contain permeable pavement and a robust palette of native plants that, jointly, reduce impervious cover by 72%. This working landscape manages the first inch of rainfall, which is critical since within the campus' combined-sewer watershed.



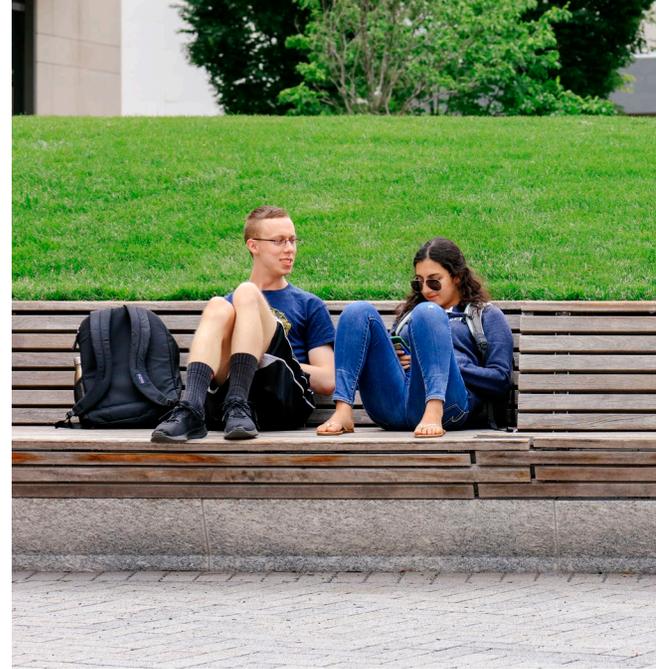
INCLUSIVE

Rather than focusing the campus inward, Drexel's new campus identity welcomes the school's 26,000 students and the surrounding community to enter and linger in an amenity space that connects people with each other and with the natural and academic environment.



MULTI-FUNCTIONAL

The design leverages multi-functional elements to satisfy social and environmental goals simultaneously. This includes tiered, multi-use benches; porous pavement atop engineered soils that store and manage rainwater; plaza areas used for café seating or event tents; and small, outdoor classrooms.



EVER-CHANGING

Part of the open space's draw is its propensity to change. From day to night and throughout the seasons, nothing is static. Integral lighting within the multi-use benches and native plantings with shifting colors contribute to this ephemeral experience.



RESILIENT

Perelman Plaza and the Quad exemplify how sustainably-developed and -managed campuses can improve watershed and ecosystem health within cities. These replicable, open spaces can simultaneously strengthen identity and serve as a community resource for future generations.