Temple Terra

the creation of an urban, educational environment in the height of a global pandemic
The driving force behind Temple Terra is to reintroduce nature in the urban educational setting. Additionally, it provides an alternative to the typical indoor classroom setting, allowing students to the opportunity to learn in a safer outdoor environment.
The 6.5 acre project site is located on Temple University’s Main Campus in north Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is situated east of busy North Broad Street, between 12th, 13th street and Norris Street, Polett Walk. The site is adjacent to the newly constructed Charles Library.
Habitat Creation to Increase Biodiversity of Site

The research process of this project included learning about potential species that habitat could be created for, as well as understanding the best way to situate garden spaces in order to maximize the potential species diversity.
Tree Canopy

While Philadelphia as a whole fares poorly in terms of tree canopy, in north Philadelphia there are significantly less street trees than in other parts of the city. This project sought to introduce tree canopy to help with the heat island effect, shading, and the cooling of buildings on campus.
Inventory and analysis of campus showed:

- there is a disjointed circulation network
- campus lacks welcoming dining space for visitors who utilize the food trucks on 12th street
- much of the campus is paved, and there is no sizable green space for outdoor leisure
- campus lacks native vegetation
Legend
- Hydrology Pattern
- Building Entrances
- Focal Point
- Critical Intersection
- Valuable Ex. Tree
- Service Entrance
- Topography Slope
- Viewshed
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Vehicular Circulation

Sun Orientation

Analysis
analyses

Presser Hall
private
use - music
materials - brick

Tyler Art & Architecture
private
use - art
materials - glass

College of Public Health
private
use - health
material - glass, stone

Science Education & Research Center
private
use - research
materials - glass, steel

Charles Library
public/private
modern - community space
stone, wood

Anderson
public/private
use - liberal arts
materials - glass, concrete
Programmatic Design

Goals

Create a comfortable learning environment for outdoor class sessions

Establish circulation routes to connect to surrounding campus

Introduce native vegetation for habitat creation

Create flexible, multifunctional social spaces

Provide safe dining areas for visitors

Capture and manage stormwater onsite

Open Lawn
- Graduation
- Recreation
- Social events

Plaza Space
- Dining areas
- Study spaces

Rain Garden
- Capture and manage rain water on site
- Educate visitors on rain water management

Outdoor Classroom
- Recreation
- Stroll area
- Nature walks

Food Truck Row
- Meeting spaces
- Dining areas
- Study spaces

Circulation Network
- Improves connectivity of campus

schematic design
schematic design
Legend

- **Yellow**: Street Lamp - 30'
- **Light Yellow**: Pedestrian Lamp - 16'
- **Purple**: Benches
- **Brown**: Bistro table and chairs
- **Green**: Trash and recycling receptacles

**Schematic Design**
A fountain welcomes visitors to the northwest entrance plaza which leads to the iconic Oak Allée or Food Truck Row.

Accessible Food Truck Row lets students and visitors dine in a safe, outdoor area. All plaza spaces specified permeable pavement (63,000 square feet).
Oak Allée - the design introduces 214 native trees to the site (a drastic improvement from the 44 tree currently existing onsite)

The Great lawn serves as a flexible and open space, while the outdoor learning environment (under the canopy) provides places to sit and study

schematic design
Woody Plants

Quercus alba  white oak
Acer saccharum  sugar maple
Cercis canadensis  Eastern red bud
Hamamelis virginiana  witch hazel
Betula nigra  river birch
Lindera benzoin  spicebush

Herbaceous Plants

Monarda fistulosa  wild bergamot
Penstemon digitalis  beardtongue
Sambucus canadensis  common elderberry
Bouteloua ‘Blonde Ambition’  blue grama grass
Schizachyrium scoparium  little blue stem

Rain Garden

Amsonia tabernaemontana  willow amsonia
Eutrochium maculatum  spotted Joe-pye-weed
Lobelia siphilitica  great blue lobelia
Physostegia virginiana  obedient plant
Pycnanthemum muticum  mountain mint
Rudbeckia fulgida  black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia lacinata  cutleaf coneflower

Sample of native plant palette used in site design