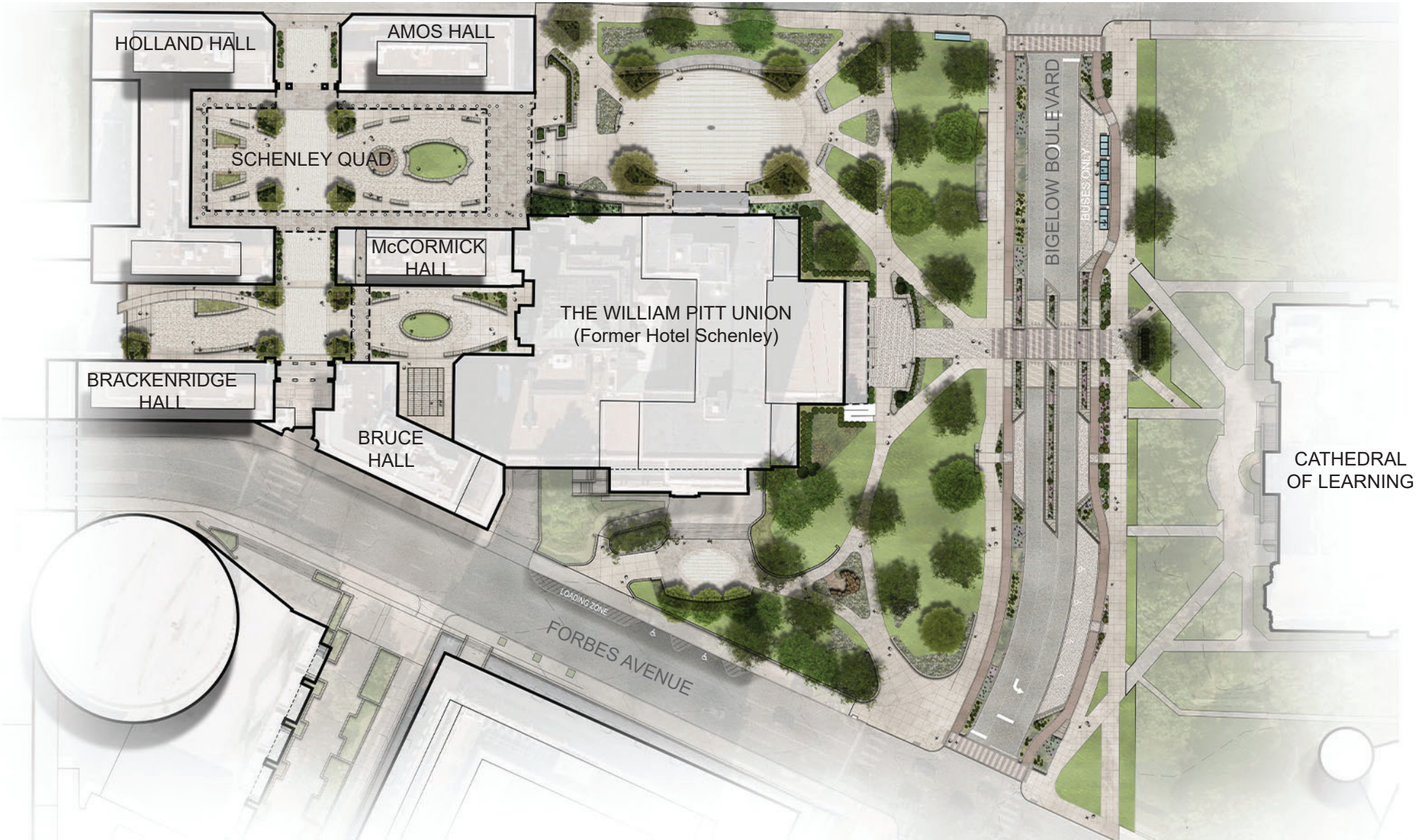




VISIBLE AND LITERAL NETWORK

To remain competitive and attractive to top student talent, the University of Pittsburgh took aim at envisioning a unified, transformational public realm in the heart of campus previously known for inaccessibility paths and too many cars.

FIFTH AVENUE



SITE PLAN

The original charge was a conceptual study of the courtyards at Schenley Quad due to below surface waterproofing issues but strengthened into a much-needed reconsideration of overall surface conditions – including the William Pitt Union grounds and Bigelow Boulevard.



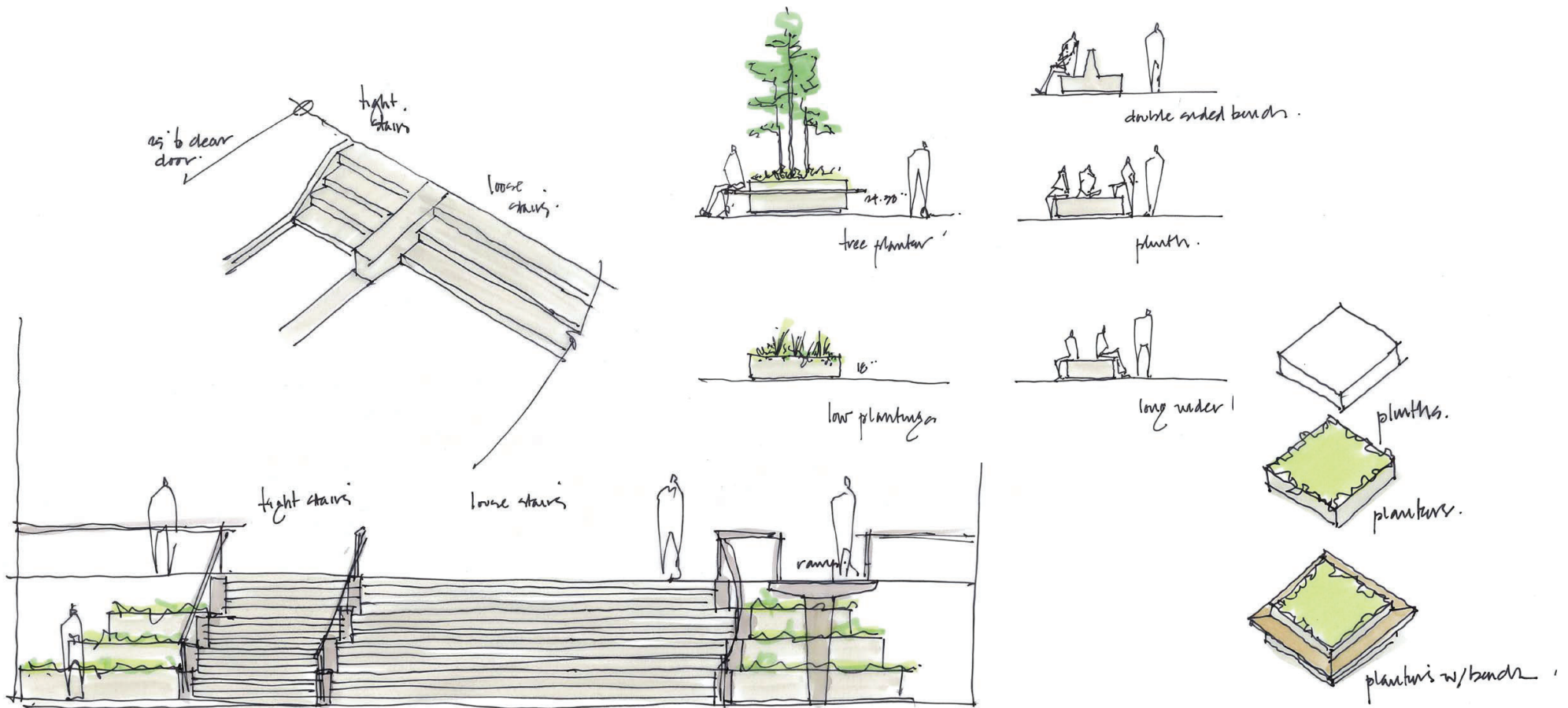
REMOVING THE CAR

When planning began, the idea of removing any parking in this urban setting was deemed too controversial. In 2015, with new University leadership, a new direction for campus emerged. One that valued the person over the automobile.



MORE OPEN SPACE

Although the idea of losing parking and rideshare pickup and drop-off points made some students nervous, a campus-wide survey in 2018 made it clear that the student body wanted more open space on campus.



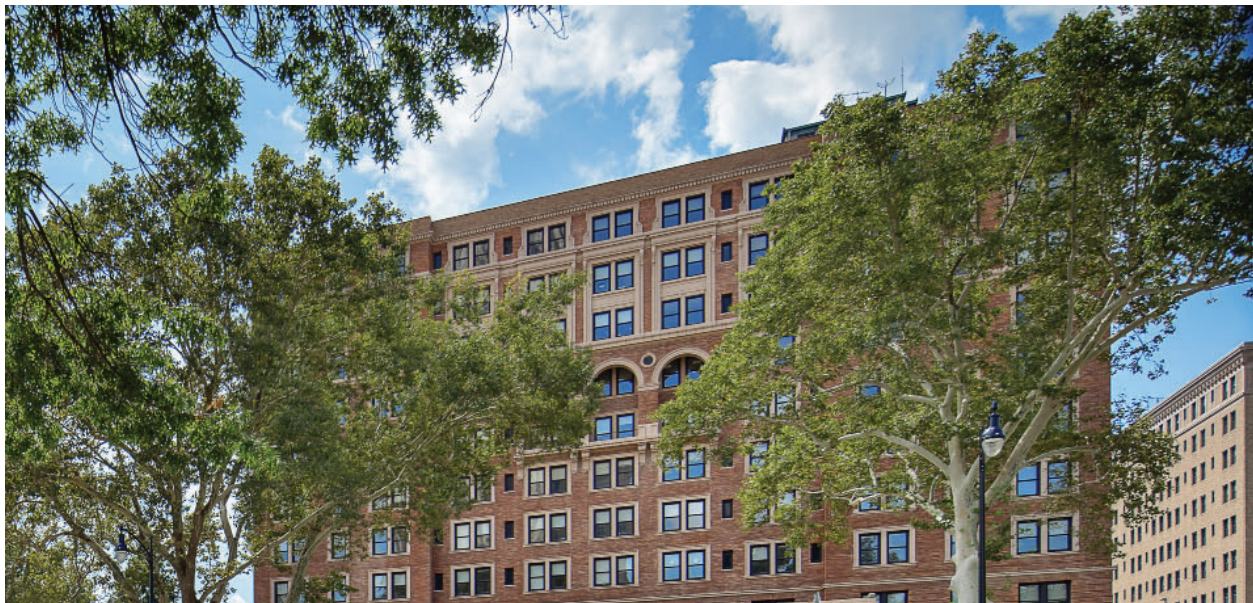
CONCEPTUAL PLACEMAKING AND LANDSCAPE VOCABULARY

Along with permanent solutions to the temporary and non-ADA compliant ramps, flexibility for campus life programming, and functionality for facilities management and emergency services, there was an intrinsic need for placemaking for the student body.



FLEXIBLE SPACES

The new open spaces needed to function at all hours with clear lines of sight for safety, ample and pleasant lighting, an assortment of seating options, and abundant power sources for the digital age.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The University knew that it was incumbent upon them to make a safe place for students and so requested a more comprehensive plan for connections within the historic core, including this mid-block crossing on Bigelow Boulevard.



COMPLETE STREET

A final objective of the University included the establishment of Bigelow Boulevard as Pittsburgh's first Complete Street with protected bike lanes, redesigned bus stops, and rain gardens that run nearly the length of the block.



SCHENLEY QUAD

Completed in December 2020, the result is a network of interconnected, people-focused plazas and courtyards that stitch together a formerly disconnected landscape, including Schenley Quad where the process originated.



PARKING SPACES TO PEOPLE PLACES

After a 5 year long design process involving architects, engineers, lighting designers, metal fabricators, student groups, and numerous stakeholders, the campus now has a heightened identity, sense of pride, and enhanced student safety.