FALL 2024

Park Redevelopment



COURSE

ARCH406: Graduate Architecture Design Studio III

PALS

An initiative of the National Center for Smart Growth
Kathryn Howell, NCSG Executive Director
Kim Fisher, PALS Director

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 18 56

PALS Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability

Parks & Recreation M-N C P P C PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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ABOUT PALS

The Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) is administered by the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD). It is a campus-wide initiative that harnesses the expertise of UMD faculty and the energy and ingenuity of UMD students to help Maryland communities become more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. PALS is designed to provide innovative, low-cost assistance to local governments while creating real-world problem-solving experiences for University of Maryland graduate and undergraduate students.

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EXECUTIVE **SUMMARY**

We worked with the Prince Georges County staff of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) on projects for two local parks, Edmonston Park and Riverdale Park. Our charge was to envision the redevelopment of those parks with buildings that would serve parkgoers from now into the future. Sustainable design was a mandate.

Students worked in four teams, with two teams focusing on Edmonston Park and two teams focusing on Riverdale Park. The teams began by meeting our clients on site to learn about the parks and about M-NCPPC's objectives for the project. Back in the design studio the teams analyzing the two parks, discovering strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. Based on their findings, the teams proposed redevelopment plans for both parks.

Next, the teams located two types of park structures – open pavilions and enclosed park buildings – within the redesigned parks. While our designs for these structures were to be site-specific, they were intended to serve as prototypes for park architecture of the future throughout Prince Georges County. Designing these simple building types gave our studio the opportunity to fulfill our course objectives, diving deep into issues of materials and assembly as we

explored the poetics of the architecture-nature relationship along with the architect's obligations to clients, users, society, and the environment.

The studio was also sponsored by the University of Maryland's Global Classroom Initiative, bringing University of Maryland students together with Al-Nahrain University students in Baghdad, Iraq for a collaborative design studio experience designed to develop cross-cultural understanding and ability to practice globally. Both groups of students created design proposals for the parks, pavilions, and park buildings. We engaged in dialogue throughout the semester to answer questions, share perspectives, challenge assumptions, and critique one another's work.

The following sections offer examples of the students' proposals for the redevelopment of Edmonston Park and Riverdale Community Park, along with their design proposals for open-air pavilions and enclosed park buildings.

PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Student teams were assigned one of our two sites - Riverdale Park or Edmonston Park - for redesign. This work created the context for the design of pavilions and park buildings that will be our focus for the rest of the semester.

Student teams documented the park within its context, including all park activities and structures and landscape elements.

Students analyzed the existing parks, considering and diagramming the following concepts:

- Spatial order
- Sequence/promenade
- Path and place
- Spatial enclosure/spatial definition
- Relationship of natural and human-made
- Hierarchy and scale
- Users, uses, and activities

Students critiqued the existing design - what works well, who benefits? what does not work well, who is missing out? what are the missed opportunities?

Based upon client interviews, precedent study, analysis, and critique, student teams redesigned the park. Deliverables for this phase of the project were:

- Park plan, rendered with texture, tone, color, shade and shadow, labeled to indicate scale and orientation, with labels or key identifying important elements
- Diagrams, as required to express key design concepts and sustainability strategies

Edmonston Park Plans

Student teams working on Edmonston Park researched the town of Edmonston and met with town clerk Averi Grey to learn more about this unusually cohesive community and its green ethos. They discovered the importance of Edmonston Park and its park building as a locus for a wide variety of community events. The location of the park on the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River inspired students to emphasize biodiversity in their redevelopment proposals. The following examples show a proposal by a University of Maryland student team and an Al-Nahrain University student team.

Edmonston Park and Environs Redevelopment Proposal: Louisa Neill, Mya Williams, Percy Sergio Lagos (UMD)

EDMONSTON PARK



Designing for Everyday Life: Lujain Ali Risan, Mais Mazin Ali, Zena Khalid Abdulwahab (Al-Nahrain University)



Riverdale Community Park Plans

The following examples show a proposal by a University of Maryland student team and an Al-Nahrain University student team.

Team: Peymaan Motevalli-Aliabadi, Bennett Rubin, McKaylie Morter (UMD)



PARK PLAN

Team: Ali Mohammed Qasem, Teba Salah Mahdi, Fatima Haidar Hufdhe (Al-Nahrain University)



PAVILION DESIGN PROPOSALS

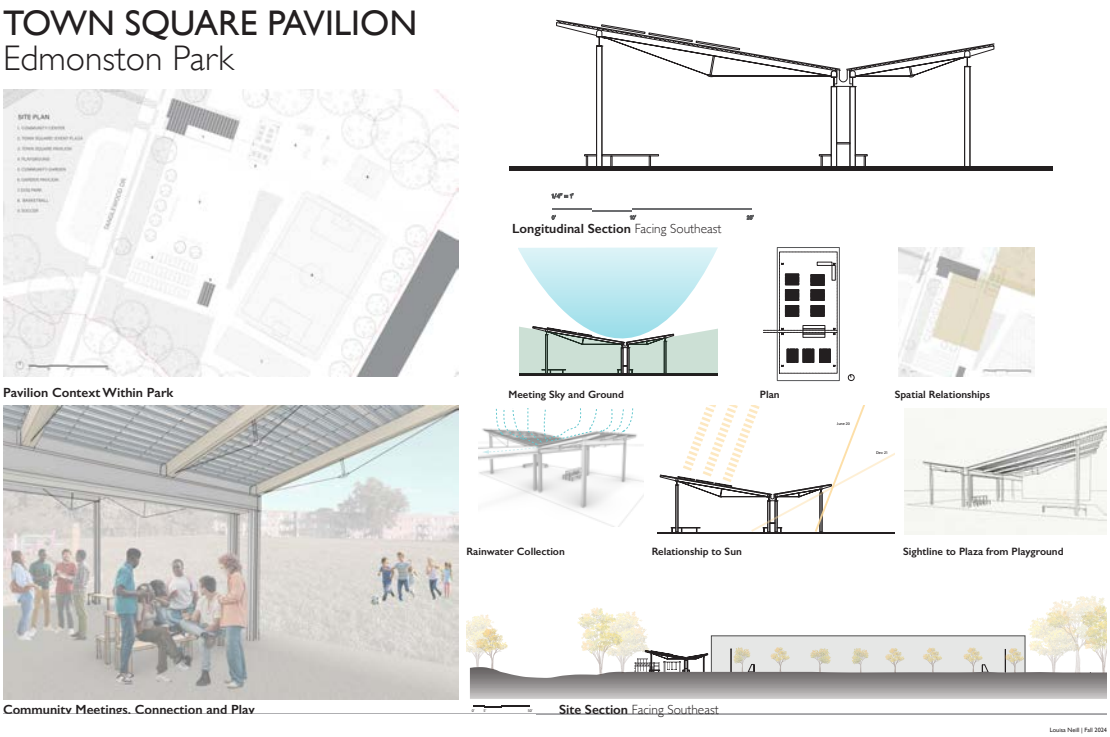
In this project each student worked individually to develop one pavilion that their team sited in the park design project. The pavilion offerd further opportunity to explore the relationship between the human-made and the natural in designed environments. This project built upon the precedent research that students

conducted in the first project, studying the reciprocal relationship of site and building, along with issues of materiality and assembly. Important topics are how buildings meet the ground and sky. We considered how building form, space, and orientation enable daylighting, shading, and natural ventilation, along with the possibility of harvesting energy and rainwater.

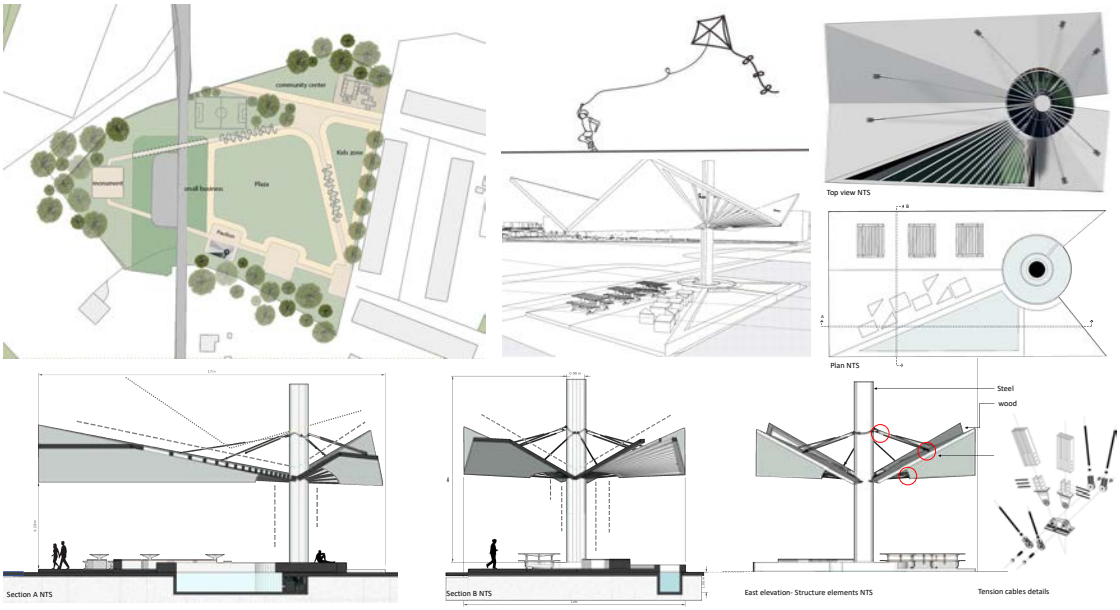
Pavilions for Edmonston Park

The following examples show a proposal by a University of Maryland student team and an Al-Nahrain University student team.

Town Square Pavilion: Louisa Neill (University of Maryland)



Edmonston Park Pavilion: Lujain Risan (Al-Nahrain University)





AL- NAHRAIN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Edmonston park Pavilion

Lujain Ali Risan

Pavilions for Riverdale Park

The following examples show a proposal by a University of Maryland student team and an Al-Nahrain University student team.

Pavilion Design: Ryan Cramer (UMD)



Pavilion Design: Fatima Haidar Hufdhe (Al-Nahrain University)



PARK BUILDING DESIGN PROPOSALS

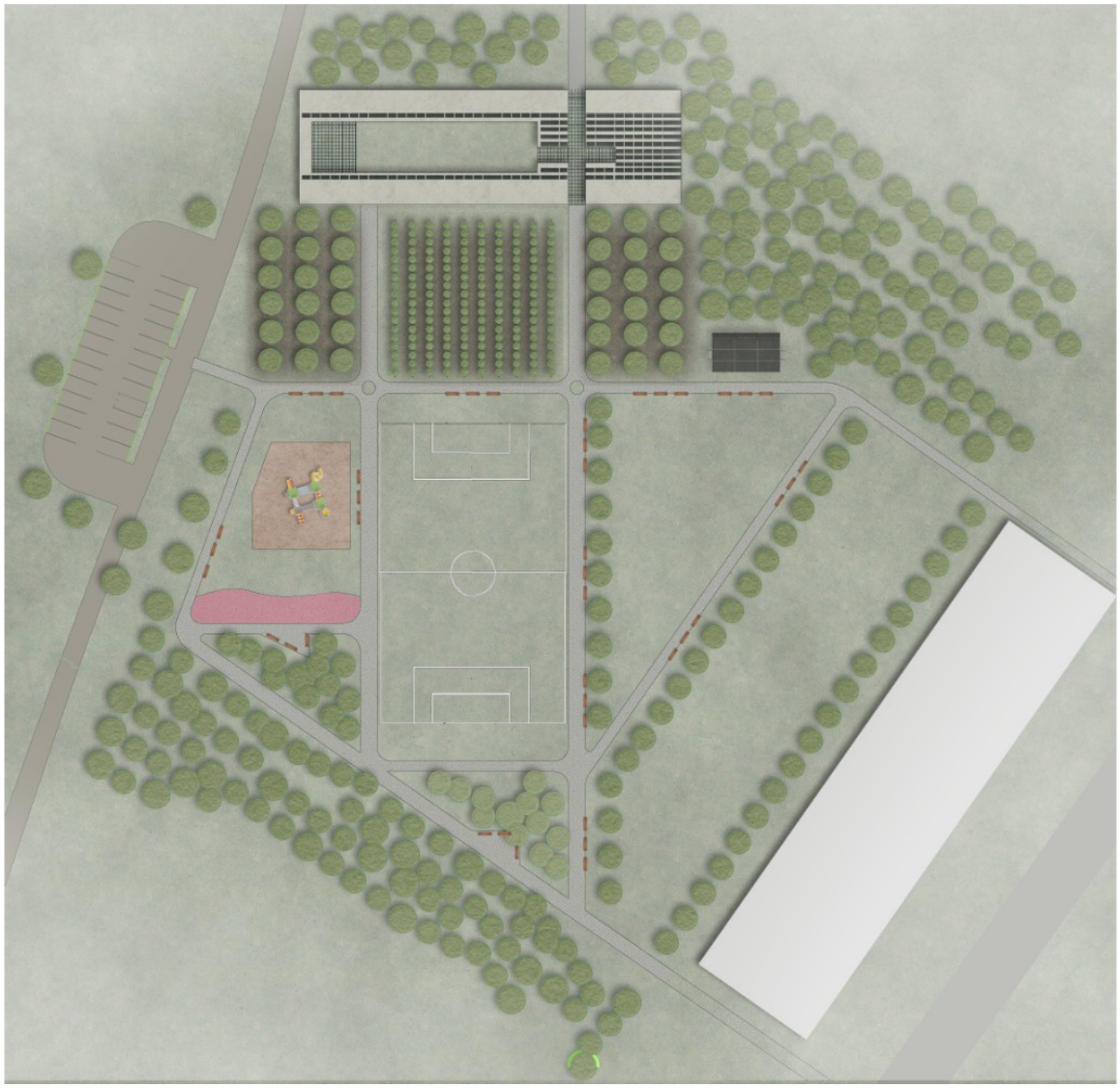
In this project students worked collaboratively to study precedents of buildings in landscape, then individually to develop the community building that the teams sited in the park design project. The community building offered further opportunity to explore the relationship between the human-made and the natural in designed environments. This project built upon the precedent research that students conducted in the first project, studying the reciprocal relationship of site

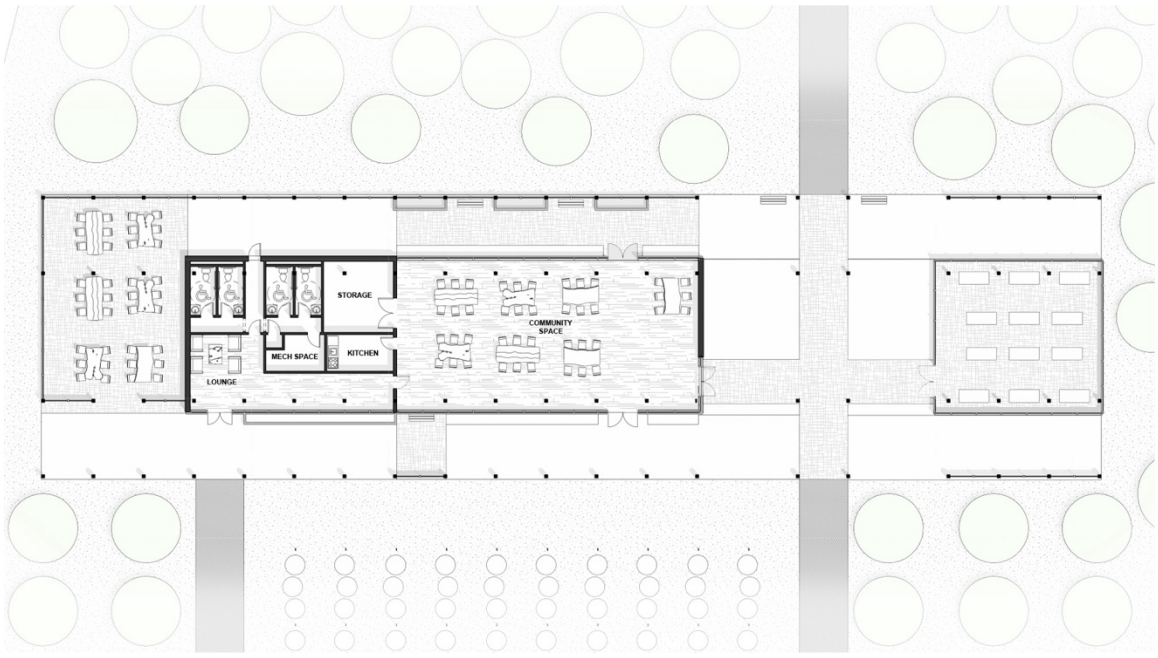
and building, along with issues of materiality and assembly. We continued to explore the relationships of building to ground and sky and added a new focus on interior/exterior relationships, leading us to examine additional architectural elements, including threshold, door, window, and wall. We continued the investigation of sustainable strategies, considering how building form, space, and orientation enable daylighting, shading, and natural ventilation, along with the implications of material selections and the possibility of harvesting solar energy and rainwater. Our aspiration was to achieve net zero.

Park Buildings for Edmonston Park

The following examples show a proposal by a University of Maryland student team and an Al-Nahrain University student team.

Design for Community: Ryan Cramer (UMD)




STORAGE
COMMUNITY SPACE
MECH SPACE
KITCHEN
LOUNGE













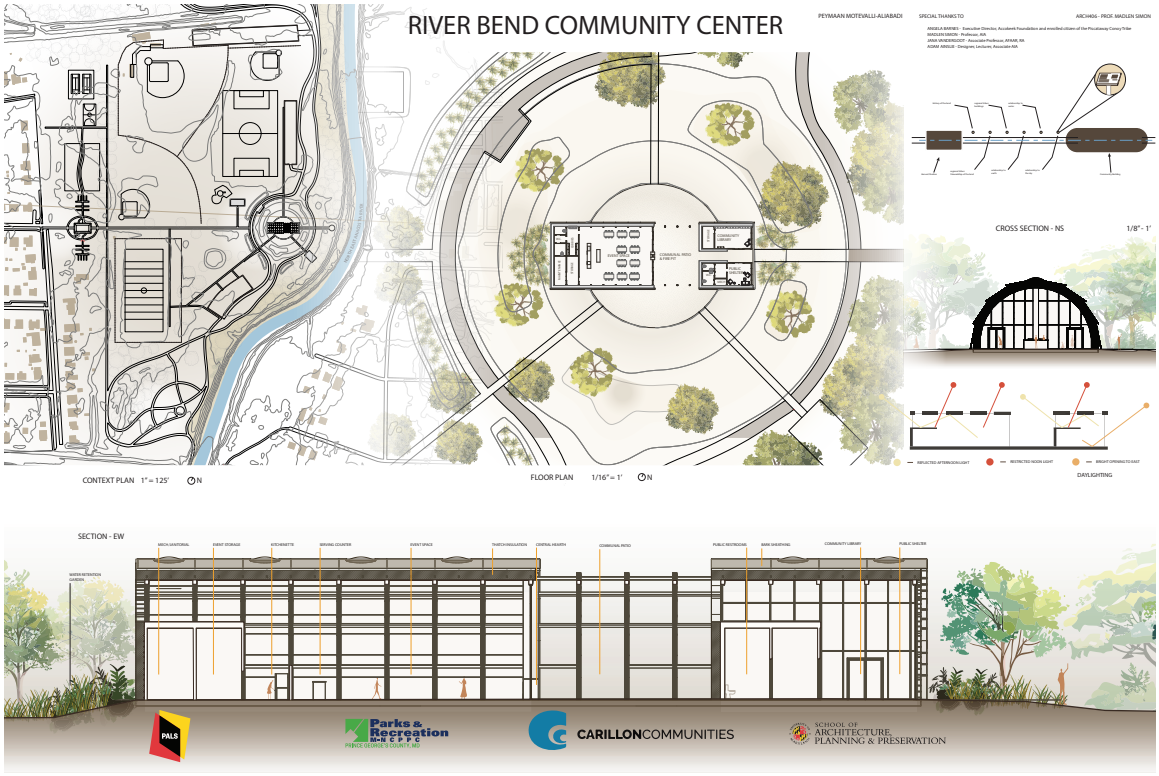
Community Center: Lujain Ali Risan (Al-Nahrain University)



Park Buildings for Riverdale Community Park

The following examples show a proposal by a University of Maryland student team and an Al-Nahrain University student team.

River Bend Community Center: Peymaan Motevalli-Aliabadi



Sensory Pavilion and Community Building: Teba Salah Mahdi (Al-Nahrain University)



DRUM LINK

[to be added by PALS]



