May 2005

State [Fair] Park: Nebraska Vernacular

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STATE [FAIR] PARK
NEBRASKA VERNACULAR

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University of Nebraska
Master of Architecture

Architecture
Mentored by Patricia Morgado
Graduation | May 2005
Lincoln, NE
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THE PROPOSAL

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION The What

“Come one, come all . . .”
“But what happens when no one comes at all?!”

Truth be told, the Nebraska State Fair is facing uncompromising times. The summer event that once acted as a social gathering and agricultural exhibition for counties across the state is deteriorating. To survive, a statewide interest must be restored to the fairgrounds—a task that can be accomplished by physically and programmatically revivifying the grounds. By renovating the Nebraska State Fairgrounds an updated, statewide identity will be established.

The fair’s recent loss of identity, decline in interest, and increased financial woes are due to many factors; some of these include over-commercialization, lack of agricultural focus, below par entertainment lineups, and physical dilapidation. Yet, when State Fair officials revealed to the public the seriousness of the fair’s financial troubles, the public response was “underwhelming.” Interestingly enough, other State Fairs across the nation are not falling victim to the same fate. For example, the Iowa State Fair was able to attract somewhere in the neighborhood of one million people in 2003. “. . .[O]ne of the major reasons the Iowa fair is doing so well is because it began raising a significant amount of private funds about 10 years ago to refurbish the fairgrounds.”1 Through the years the Nebraska’s fairgrounds, paralleling very closely the state’s economy, have fallen into disrepair. “The bottom line is that there won’t be a Nebraska State Fair next year [2004] unless people step forward to keep it alive.”

This possible extinction endangers a 135-year Nebraska tradition.

As aforementioned, the solution to such a problem lies in reestablishing a statewide identity through planning and design. A new, more streamlined, master plan for the State Fairgrounds must be drawn up. Also, more innovative and contemporary design aesthetics must be incorporated into the Nebraska State Fair’s architecture and urban planning. This will restore the State Fair as a Lincoln stronghold and remedy its “fast-fading physical assets.” As they stand today, the exhibits halls, exposition buildings, livestock stables, concession stands, and public restrooms (just to name a few) hardly function as originally intended. The State Fairgrounds seem to be suffering from small-scale urban sprawl. Several committees acknowledge such issues and have discussed possible resolutions. These strategies include the return of the Lancaster County Fair to the fairgrounds; building a 75,000-square-foot, multipurpose building onsite; incorporating new grandstands with an adjoining mile-long horse-racing track; and/or the construction of a new livestock/horse arena. The proposed funding for such costly projects would come from the Nebraska State Lottery. 3

To reiterate, interest must be restored upon the State Fair by means of a physical, as well as programmatic, transformation. A new master plan must be drawn up and innovative structures must be integrated into the existing grounds.

SITE DESCRIPTION The Where

By removing the State Fair from its historical site in the capital city of Lincoln, the state of Nebraska’s identity begins to erode. Therefore, the State Fairgrounds should remain just north of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln City Campus. The site stretches from 14th Street to 26th Street in an east-to-west direction. Transversely, it is confined by Salt Creek (to the North) and railroad tracks (to the south). Contextually the State Fairgrounds contend with the University (most specifically the Devaney Sports Center), a variety of city parks, and the Antelope Creek.

In order for the State Fair to prosper once again it does not need a more centrally located site within the state; nor should the State Fair Grounds be moved “...closer to Omaha, perhaps to the area of the Platte River and Mahoney State Park.” AkSarBen, a former statewide agricultural exposition that held annually in Omaha, feeds that argument. Instead of glorifying agricultural offerings the state of Nebraska prides itself on, AkSarBen’s present-day grounds leave only the ghosted image of a once-prosperous, cultural get-together. Ironically, the grounds are slowly dissolving into the expanding University of Nebraska—Omaha campus. This same fate might well be suffered by the State Fairgrounds if the University of Nebraska—Lincoln continues to expand north.

There is a definite need to make the State Fair Grounds a more desirable site—a need that the city of Lincoln is very conscious of. Revitalization has already somewhat begun due to the Antelope Valley Project. It is a joint venture between the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, the city of Lincoln, and the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District. The project’s main focus is to “...assist the city of Lincoln in surviving a major flood, provide economic development and neighborhood revitalization opportunities and allow the university to expand its research infrastructure on the east side of City Campus.” As it so happens, parts of the fairgrounds are included within the current redevelopment efforts. In short, the grounds (near the Devaney Sports Center) are affected by the unearthing of an underground water channel and a future Military Road and bridge construction west of the Devaney Sports Center near the start of 14th Street. As it appears, these developments might only affect the existing onsite parking.

With the improvements that the Antelope Valley Project anticipates bringing to the Lincoln area, its location within the capital city of Nebraska, and its long-time history, there is no need to move the State Fairgrounds away from where it sits today.


5 All relevant information can be found at Facilities Management & Planning, Business & Finance, University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Antelope Valley Project. Index. 11 Jan. 2004 <http://fmp.unl.edu/AntelopeValleyProject/index.cfm>
**Process** The Why + How

As a professional and a researcher, my proposed mentor’s (Professor Morgado) areas of interest include Latin American architecture, urban development, and developing/analyzing cultural identities in contemporary times—all areas that correlate to the proposed project. Last semester Professor Morgado opened my eyes to a new level of concern in public architecture. She taught me that modern Latin American architecture “...contributed to a style of national self-definition which required the integration of all past cultures within a single, unifying national ideal...” (Curtis, 493) This is a design ideal that I would like to focus on while redesigning the Nebraska State Fairgrounds—to restore vitality and uniqueness to one of the state’s major social gatherings. I find the work of Juan O’Gorman to be particularly interesting. His work on Mexico’s University Library is a prototype from which I would like to build. I admire his bold attempt to combine architecture, art, history, and culture through the use of “...richly coloured mosaics combining recognizable images, and abstract configurations based partly upon ancient motifs.” (Curtis, 493-4) By using design and planning to express a strong, statewide identity through “the anatomy of...[a new] architecture,” it will increase awareness and interest in a part of Nebraska’s history that is not worth losing.

The following timeline is a projected schedule by which to realize my project. It outlines the process I will pursue and also the initial avenues I plan to explore. (subject to change)

### Summer of 2004

**Thesis-preparatory class – Independent study for 3 credit hours**
- History of the State Fair
- Future plans
- Tourism within Nebraska
  - I. Desirable tourism and resources
  - II. Target demographics
  - III. Contextual relationship (Lincoln)
- Precedent(s) study
  - I. Successful/unsuccesful
  - II. Local/national/worldwide
- Development of Bibliography
  - I. Written publications
  - II. Public officials and human contacts
Enrolled during the 2nd Five-week session; researching throughout the summer.

### Fall of 2004

**Program development**
- Purpose of study
- Current conditions/utilization (8/22–Labor Day)
- Design Intentions
- Thesis Statement
  - I. Scope
  - II. Limitations
Initial research/program outline: Due during the 3rd week

**Master Plan design/development**
- Sense of identity
- Circulation
  - I. Within grounds
  - II. Around grounds (perimeter)
  - III. To/from grounds
• Transportation
   I. Within grounds
   II. Around grounds (perimeter)
   III. To/from grounds

• Landscaping
   I. Intention
   II. Design approach

• Facilities
   I. Need for facilities
   II. Evaluation of existing facilities
   III. Plan for cooperation between old and new

Program/Conceptual Presentation: 10th week

Development of State Fair Design Standards
• City of Lincoln
   I. Zoning
   II. Code(s)
• Analysis of current design
   I. Historical relevance
   II. Historical preservation
• Retrofitting the new design standards
   I. Productions of written standards
   II. Diagrammatic illustrations of the standards

Schematic Design Presentation: 15th week
Report from faculty to student: 16th week
Revisions by student: arrange

SPRING OF 2005
Development of a single-building’s program
• Identification/justification of building
• Purpose/function of building

• Design Intentions
   I. Study models
   II. Design sketches
• Semester schedule
   I. Timeline
   II. Model(s)/Drawing(s) Requirements

Semester schedule and Design Iteration #1: Due during the 3rd week

Building design/development
• Sense of identity
   I. Individual identity
   II. Identity within the Master Plan of the State Fairgrounds
   III. Program/function
• Circulation
   I. Within building
   II. Around building
   III. Egress
• Transportation
   I. To/from building
   II. Parking
• Landscaping
• Construction techniques
   I. Structural system
   II. Mechanical systems

Major Design Review: 10th–12th week

Display work for Cunningham Medal review exhibit: Sunday before Finals Week
Faculty review for Cunningham Medal Jury: Monday of Finals Week
Finalist jury review: Tuesday morning of Finals Week
Individual reviews: Finals Week
PROPOSED MENTOR The Who

Assistant Professor Patricia Morgado has an educational background that deals with sculpture and drawing – both areas of the design field that I find particularly interesting. Her interests seem to fit with mine. My true interest has always been in design —whether it is graphical, physical, or organizational. I tend to preference presentations that somehow retain a hand-drawn quality, rather than the more prevalent computer techniques. This is an attitude towards design that I know I have in common with Professor Morgado. I have a strong art background and prefer to sketch, draw, paint, or render. I like to mix media —a tactic that allows me to incorporate both hand-drawing and computer work within the same composition. I feel that my sketching technique brings individuality to my projects and the computer holds up the conventional end of things.

At times during the course of last semester I called on Professor Morgado for an in-progress evaluation. This gave me an opportunity to test my design strategy and see how well she received it. It was during those discussions (concerning my design work) that I decided to ask her if she would be willing to mentor me during my sixth year. Last semester I also had the exceptional opportunity to act as a teaching assistant for Professor Morgado. I assisted her in teaching entry level students majoring in architecture, interior design, art, and textiles. Assisting with that design studio and working hand-in-hand with Professor Morgado enabled me to get to know her as a teacher, designer, and a person. I was impressed by her ability to convey constructive criticism and also by her obvious passion for Latin American architecture.

NAAB CRITERION
This list is merely the required criteria expected to satisfy throughout the course. It is important to note that it is a working list and will be added and possibly subtracted from as appropriate.

Arch 613 (Required)
1. Verbal and Writing Skills: Ability to speak and write effectively on subject matter contained in the professional curriculum. My ability to verbalize and write about my research and designs will be displayed throughout both semesters — particularly during critiques, interviews, and in the form of documentation booklets.

2. Graphical Skills: Ability to employ appropriate representational media, including computer technology, to convey essential formal elements at each stage of the programming and design process. As written previously, I have a strong art background and prefer to sketch, draw, paint, or render. For presentations, I like to mix media —a tactic that allows me to incorporate both hand-drawing and computer work within the same composition. My sketching technique brings individuality to my projects and the computer holds up the conventional end of things.

3. Research Skills: Ability to apply basic methods of data collection and analysis to inform all aspects of the programming and design process. With the addition of the summer class, my researching skills will be used predominantly as legwork. I will lean on the initial research throughout the year. Therefore, it is important that I incorporate a variety of research techniques — periodicals, journals, interviews, hands-on investigation, etc . . . This criterion will be conveyed through the use of graphical, verbal, and written skills.
4. **Critical Thinking Skills**: Ability to apply basic organizational, spatial, structural and constructional principles to the conception and development of interior and exterior spaces, building elements, and components. Critical thinking skills will be honed during problem-solving portions of the projects such as: program development, master plan development, analysis of new/old design standards, and presentation.

5. **Fundamental Design Skills**: Ability to apply basic organizational, spatial, structural and constructional principles to the conception and development of interior and exterior spaces, building elements, and components. The criterion entitled Fundamental Design Skills is self-explanatory and relates to everything in both semesters. It even applies to the summer class. Most specifically, it will tie into the new Master Plan and single building design.

7. **Human Behavior**: Awareness of the theories and methods of inquiry that seek the relationships between behavior and the physical environment. Human behavior is an especially applicable criterion due to the nature of the project—to revive the site to human interest. This area will be critically observed and analyzed during both semesters to try and maximize user participation and interest first in the fair (Arch 613) and then in a specific building (Arch 614).

9. **Use of Precedents**: Ability to provide a coherent rationale for the programmatic and formal precedents employed in the conceptualization and development of architectural and urban design projects. The precedent study will take place mostly during the summer class and will look into cases on local, national, and worldwide levels. A wide variety of scales will serve as an adequate foundation upon which a design can be related.

15. **Site Conditions**: Ability to respond to natural and built site characteristics in the development of a program and design of a project. Analysis and response to the natural/existing site conditions is crucial to the success of the project. Since a major design idea behind the project is retaining the historical site, evaluation of and implementation within the site conditions are imperative when developing a new master plan.

16. **Formal Ordering System**: Understanding of the fundamentals of visual perception and the principles and systems of order that inform two- and three-dimensional design, architectural composition, and urban design. This criterion will help to distinguish a formal hierarchy among the buildings integrated into the new master plan. However, since they will not all be designed, the degree of its relevance might be further discovered at a later time. It will be most applicable in terms of urban design and placing a fair within the formal order of a city.

30. **Program Preparation**: Ability to assemble a comprehensive program for an architecture project, including an assessment of client and user needs, a critical review of appropriate precedents, an inventory of space and equipment requirements, an analysis of site conditions, a review of the relevant laws and standards and an assessment of the implications for the project, and a definition of site selection and design assessment criteria. The ability to assemble a comprehensive program is mandatory. For this particular semester, program preparation will include framing a purpose of study, exploring the fair’s current conditions, spelling out design intentions, drafting a thesis statement, developing a new master plan, and creating/implementing a set of State Fair design standards.

Arch 613 (Additional)

12. **National and Regional Traditions**: Understanding of the national traditions and the local regional heritage in architecture, landscape, and urban design, including vernacular traditions. Throughout the project it will be imperative to display an understanding of national and regional traditions in terms of fairs. Without such an understanding, it would be impossible to come to terms with an appropriate state identity. This criterion will also be reflective in the precedents research that will take place during the summer.

23. **Legal Responsibilities**: Understanding of architects’ legal responsibilities with respect to public health, safety, welfare; property rights; zoning and subdivision ordinances; building codes; accessibility and other factors affecting building design, construction, and architecture practice. This criterion will be especially applicable during the development of the State Fair Design Standards that involves analyzing and understanding the city of Lincoln’s zoning, code(s), current design, historical relevance, and approach to historical
preservation. It is likely to work in conjunction with Verbal, Writing, Fundamental Design skills and Building Code Compliance.

24. Building Code Compliance: Understanding of the codes, regulations, and standards applicable to a given site and building design, including occupancy classifications, allowable building heights and areas, allowable construction types, separation requirements, occupancy requirements, means of egress, fire protection, and structure. This criterion will be especially applicable during the development of the State Fair Design Standards that involves analyzing and understanding the city of Lincoln's zoning code(s), current design, historical relevance, and approach to historical preservation. It is likely to work in conjunction with Verbal, Writing, Fundamental Design skills and architectural Legal Responsibilities.

29. Comprehensive Design: Ability to produce an architecture project informed by a comprehensive program, from schematic design through the detailed development of programmatic spaces, structural and environmental systems, life-safety provisions, wall sections, and building assemblies, as may be appropriate; and to assess the completed project with respect to the program's design criteria. The ability to assemble a comprehensive design is mandatory. For this particular semester, the comprehensive design will include program preparation, framing a purpose of study, exploring the fair's current conditions, spelling out design intentions, drafting a thesis statement, developing a new master plan, and creating/implementing a set of State Fair design standards.

Arch 614 (Required)
1. Verbal and Writing Skills: Ability to speak and write effectively on subject matter contained in the professional curriculum. My ability to verbalize and write about my research and designs will be displayed throughout both semesters—particularly during critiques, interviews, and in the form of documentation booklets.
2. Graphical Skills: Ability to employ appropriate representational media, including computer technology, to convey essential formal elements at each stage of the programming and design process. As previously written, I have a strong art background and prefer to sketch, draw, paint, or render. For presentations, I like to mix media—a tactic that allows me to incorporate both hand-drawing and computer work within the same composition. My sketching technique brings individuality to my projects and the computer holds up the conventional end of things.

4. Critical Thinking Skills: Ability to apply basic organizational, spatial, structural and constructional principles to the conception and development of interior and exterior spaces, building elements, and components. Critical thinking skills will be honed during problem-solving portions of the projects such as: the single building's program development, semester scheduling, creating/conveying a sense of identify, and construction techniques.

5. Fundamental Design Skills: Ability to apply basic organizational, spatial, structural and constructional principles to the conception and development of interior and exterior spaces, building elements, and components. The criterion entitled Fundamental Design Skills is self-explanatory and relates to everything in both semesters. It even applies to the summer class. Most specifically, it will tie into the new Master Plan and single building design.

14. Accessibility: Ability to design both site and building to accommodate individuals with varying physical abilities. Means of egress and many other issues addressed by the IBC will be considered when designing for accessibility. This criterion will apply most to the single building design, but also to the master plan.

15. Site Conditions: Ability to respond to natural and built site characteristics in the development of a program and design of a project. Fluidity between the newly developed master plan, the single building's site, and existing site conditions is crucial to the success of the project. The placement within and integration into the site of the single building must retain historical, as well as contextual, consideration.

16. Formal Ordering Systems: Understanding of the fundamentals of visual perception and the principles and systems of order that inform two- and three-dimensional design, architectural composition, and urban design. This criterion will help to determine a formal hierarchy between the single building and its neighbors within the new master plan.
It will be most applicable in terms of urban design and placing/sizing-up the building amid a rural master plan in the midst of a city.

22. Building System Integration: Ability to assess, select, and integrate structural systems, environmental systems, life-safety systems, building envelope systems, and building service systems into building design. This criterion will be especially applicable during the building design/development of the single building. It is likely to be most valid when dealing with construction techniques (structural and mechanical systems), egress, and model building. (Works in conjunction with Structural Systems and Building Code Compliance)

28. Detailed Design Development: Ability to assess, select, configure, and detail as an integral part of the design appropriate combinations of building materials, components, and assemblies to satisfy the requirements of building programs. Understanding the basic principles of the desired environmental system relates to the identification/justification of the single building. Its considerations will play into the building’s purpose, function, and design intentions. This criterion correlates closely to the Environmental Systems criterion.

29. Comprehensive Design: Ability to produce an architecture project informed by a comprehensive program, from schematic design through the detailed development of programmatic spaces, structural and environmental systems, life-safety provisions, wall sections, and building assemblies, as may be appropriate; and to assess the completed project with response to the program’s design criteria. The ability to assemble a comprehensive design is mandatory. For this particular semester, a comprehensive design will include program preparation, determining a particular building on which to focus efforts, framing a purpose for that particular building, drawing up design intentions and a thesis statement for the building, and scheduling my efforts in a timely manner.

Arch 614 (Additional)
6. Human Behavior: Awareness of the theories and methods of inquiry that seek the relationships between behavior and the physical environment. Human behavior is an especially applicable criterion due to the nature of the project—to revive the site to human interest. This area will be critically observed and analyzed during both semesters to try and maximize user participation and interest first in the fair (Arch 613) and then in a specific building (Arch 614).

12. National and Regional Traditions: Understanding of the national traditions and the local regional heritage in architecture, landscape, and urban design, including vernacular traditions. Throughout the project it will be imperative to display an understanding of national and regional traditions in terms of agricultural buildings. Without such an understanding, it would be impossible to convey an appropriate identity within the confines of the new master plan. This criterion will also be reflective in the construction techniques portion of the design.

17. Structural Systems: Understanding of the principles of structural behavior in withstanding gravity and lateral forces, and the evolution, range, and appropriate applications of contemporary structural systems. This criterion will be especially applicable during the design/development phase(s) of the single building. It is likely to be most applicable when dealing with construction techniques (structural and mechanical systems), egress, and model building. (Works in conjunction with Building Code Compliance and Building System Integration)

18. Environmental Systems: Understanding of the basic principles that inform the design of environmental systems, including acoustics, lighting and climate modification systems, and energy use. Understanding the basic principles of the desired environmental system relates to the identification/justification of the single building. Its considerations will play into the purpose and function of the building—also the design intentions. This criterion has correlates closely to the Detailed Design Development criterion.
**Thesis Statement**

The Nebraska State Fairgrounds must be programmatically and physically revived. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to develop the grounds as a park—a park that is organized by characteristics and elements that identify a Nebraskan culture.

**Emphasis of the Terminal Project**

This studio's emphasis is to develop and design a comprehensive terminal project that not only displays but also conveys the many skills honed during an educational career. Such a project should stand apart from previous projects and serve as an example of what the future holds.

**Personal Criteria**

To create an all-encompassing project that:

- Displays expansive consideration for many avenues of design.
- Leaves no areas unresolved without justification or reasoning.
- Leaves no room for holes in train of thought.

**Display consistency in design meaning:**

- The programmatic and the physical solutions to the problem reflect each other.
- Concise organizing elements tie the project together—theoretically, visually, programmatically, and physically.
- All aspects of the project mesh well with one another.

**Convey clarity in the project's direction because:**

- The purpose is clearly stated and addressed.
- Confident reasoning reinforces the project's design decisions.
- The focus/scope is streamlined and specific.

**When dealing with real-life issues:**

- The resolution is tangible, yet creative.
- The project maintains approachability throughout all stages—development through finalization.
- The project/solution demonstrates a working knowledge base.

**The mastery of all architectural realms is demonstrated by the fact that:**

- The project is convincingly challenging.
- The appropriate steps were taken to reach the final product.
- A positive impression is exuded by the finished work.

**Required Criteria**

- The project should demonstrate a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of the theoretical and applied study processes learned throughout the course of the student's professional career.

- The project should provide evidence, narrative and visual, of the student's realization of the initial design intentions, as identified in the initial project proposal and the programmatic conclusions produced through the inquiry process.

- The project should provide evidence of the student's ability to address and resolve issues related to architecture. For example issues surrounding space, place, tectonics, and construction at building and/or urban scales.

- The project should provide evidence of the student's ability to bring to bare both creative and critical thinking skills in the development of the design solution.

- The project should demonstrate the student's ability to communicate the design intentions and designed results using clear and legible forms of architectural representation.

**Specific Objectives**

- A programmatic and physical restoration
- Transformation from state fairgrounds to a new State Fair Park
- Completion of an agricultural park with landscaped gardens showcasing Nebraskan products
- Retention of annual fair while introducing organized year-round opportunities into the Park's program
- Allow for easier evolution of the Nebraska State Fair by making the grounds reactionary to a changing society/economy
- Modernization of fair and setting while preserving the historical principles
- Exhibition of Nebraska's various agricultural branches
- Sophisticated education + Organized recreation = The new State Fair PARK
The World
The Fair
The State
**Historical Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>700s &amp; 800s</th>
<th>1100s/1500s</th>
<th>1300s/1500s</th>
<th>1600s &amp; 1700s</th>
</tr>
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</table>

*“It is evident that fairs* are the creation of the society underlying them, and that they are established, shaped and sometimes abolished in response to the processes that change that society.”* (Neely, 16)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1199-1483</th>
<th>During the medieval periods, unorganized markets and European fairs flourished, especially in the countries of England and France.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

With the rise of permanent cities, the importance of fairs shifted from primary to secondary as markets began to establish themselves as the major locations of commerce and trade.

Fairs lost most of their commercial importance due to improvements in the fields of mass communication and production.

---

*Fairs were used as markets along European trade routes. They most commonly offered items of necessity.*
“THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR... represents the adaptation of the fair idea to the agricultural industry.” (Neely, 20-21)

**Historical Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1723</td>
<td>Wealthy landowners in Edinburgh, Scotland organized societies to promote ‘mutual aid’ in terms of farming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1756</td>
<td>The first national ‘exposition’ was held in London by the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>During the period following the American Revolution there were no organized agencies, journals, or societies specializing in American agricultural methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>The first American Agricultural societies were founded in Philadelphia and Charleston. They were modeled after European–British—predecessents and also American intellectual societies of the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Dr. William Thornton recommended the implementation of a fair into the American society that showcased the sale of livestock and domestic products.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1810 - Oct. 1, Elkanah Watson and 26 fellow Massachusetts farmers introduced the first prototype fair. It included juried agricultural, mechanical, and artistic displays; demonstrations; lectures; and parades.

1813 - Ladies Day is established at fairs nationwide to accentuate women’s contribution to the events.

1820 - The Missouri Compromise was adopted and prohibited slavery in the northern plains—including the Nebraska territory.

1821 - Red Cloud was born near present-day Ash Hollow. He was a great warrior/negotiator for the Sioux tribe.

1822 - Nebraska’s oldest town, Bellevue, was founded by the Missouri Fur Company workers.

1831-1834 - Manning, Hussey, and McCormick began developing mowing machines and reapers.

1837 - John Deere patented the first steel plow. It was made from an old saw blade.

1839 - The first Federal contribution was made to promote the agricultural industry.

1840 - 41 agricultural societies existed in the States.

1840-1870 - The Golden Age: American Agriculture

1843 - The Oregon Trail began to see heavy usage.

1848 - The ground was broke on Fort Kearny—a protective fort used to supervise traffic on the Oregon Trail.

The salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen.—Inscribed on the walls of the state capitol.
“Before there was a state, there was a fair.” (Stevens, 9)

### Historical Timeline

**1850**

- The first international ‘exposition’ was held in London, England.
- The Nebraska-Kansas Act formally opened the two territories to settlement and slavery.
- Omaha was the acting territorial capital.

**1860**

- April 3: the Pony Express established.
- Congress passed the Homestead Act.
- The United States Department of Agriculture was established. During this year the federal government also passed the Morrill Act—enabling the founding of colleges based on land-grants.
- 242 agricultural societies existed in the States.
- On May 10 the Union Pacific Railroad (out of Omaha) and the Central Pacific Railroad (out of Sacramento) met in Promontory, Utah.

**1840-1870** The Golden Age: American Agriculture

**1864**

- The community of Lancaster (present-day Lincoln) was founded.

**1867**

- On March 1 Andrew Johnson declared Nebraska the 37th state.

**1867**

- The capital city Lancaster was renamed Lincoln on August 14.

**1868**

- The second fair attempt was on October 7-9. Again it was held in Nebraska City, profitted $73, and was an annual event from that point on. It was held Nebraska City yet again in 1869.

**1869**

- The first state capitol was completed, but it was done so poorly that a new one had to be built merely ten years later.
- The first legislature met in the capital city.

**1870**

- State Fair was held in Brownville.
- State Fair was again held in Brownville.
- The State Fair took place in Lincoln. (Principal Hall 1872–left)
- The State Agriculture Board banned intoxicating beverages and ‘indecent shows and dances [from the State Fairgrounds].’

**1871**

- The American method of Standardbred fast-driving horse racing was formally recognized.

**1873**

- The barbed wire fence was invented.

**1874**

- The summer of the great grasshopper plague.

**1870-1890** The Period of Readjustment
**Timeline of the Known Fair**

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"The fair has always been heavily affected by transportation—or lack thereof—weather, war and depression." (Stevens, 11)

### Historical Timeline

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Nebraska corn prices peaked at $1.56 per bushel or about $11.00 per bushel today. The term ‘Golden Age’ was termed again during the 1920s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Bonham Goodhue’s submittal was selected to be the state of Nebraska’s third state capital building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>$250,000 Grandstand completed which would ultimately lead to indebtedness. (1934)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931-1940</td>
<td>The Depression; Dust Bowls, Drought, and ultimately WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Sipton tubes were invented and used as an irrigation tool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Nebraska’s first meeting of its unicameral legislature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Paul Hohnstein—of the Hastings Irrigation Pipe Company in Nebraska—invented gated irrigation pipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Attendance was way down due to the war and heavy rains. The Iowa State Fair was discontinued until the war ended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>The federal government cancelled all state fairs. However, there were still 4-H and livestock shows in Nebraska.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>During the post-war boom, the 17th Street entrance was widened from 36 to 51’—among other changes. That year the fair took in over $1 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>The fair manager’s office was moved from the State Capitol to an on-site administration building.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Entertainment is an integral part of the modern fair. Education is still a major objective of the annual fair, but to captivate...education must be entertaining.” (Avery, 91)
**Historical Lincoln**  The strongest fairs are most commonly found in regions of the country where there is an adequate mix of urban to rural population. -Avery

**Contextual Urban Growth**  Most county fairs established permanency before the state fairs. -Neely
The Fair’s Lifeline
The Fair

Truth be told, the Nebraska State Fair faces uncompromising times. The summer event that once acted as a social gathering and agricultural exhibition for counties across the state continues to deteriorate. Once grand, the event is being replaced by commercialization and un-educational pleasure. To survive, the state must restore interest to the fairgrounds—a task that can be accomplished by both a programmatic and physical restoration/ transformation. Such a change should be rooted in the state’s identity.

The fair’s recent loss of identity, decline in interest, and increased financial woes are due to many factors: these include over-commercialization, lack of agricultural direction, below par entertainment lineups, and physical dilapidation. Yet, when State Fair officials revealed to the public the seriousness of the financial troubles, the response was “underwhelming.” Interestingly enough, other State Fairs across the nation are not falling victim to the same fate. For example, the Iowa State Fair attracts in the neighborhood of one million people in 2003. “[O]ne of the major reasons the Iowa fair is doing so well is because it began raising a significant amount of private funds about 10 years ago to refurbish the fairgrounds.” Through the years the Nebraska State Fairgrounds, paralleling very closely the state’s agricultural economy and water woes, have fallen into disrepair. The situation is so dire that the future of the fair is in eminent danger and faces a possible extinction—one that endangers a 135-year Nebraska tradition.

The solution to this problem lies in reestablishing a statewide identity and revamping the function of the grounds through planning and design. A new, practical, better organized and more streamlined master plan for the State Fair Park must be drawn up. Also, more innovative and contemporary design aesthetics must be incorporated into it’s urban planning and architecture. This will restore the State Fair as a site-specific, Lincoln stronghold and remedy it “fast-fading physical assets.” As they stand today, the exhibit halls, exposition buildings, livestock stables, concession stands, and public restrooms (just to name a few) hardly function as originally intended. The State Fairgrounds seem to be suffering from small-scale urban sprawl. Is this section even necessary? Several committees acknowledge such issues and have discussed possible resolutions. These strategies include the return of the Lancaster County Fair to the fairgrounds; building a 75,000-square-foot, multipurpose building onsite; incorporating a new grandstand with an adjoining mile-long horse racing track; and/or the construction of a new livestock/ horse arena. The proposed funding for such costly projects would come from the Nebraska State Lottery.

To reiterate, year-round interest must be restored upon the State Fair Park by means of a programmatic, as well as a physical, transformation. A new master plan must be drawn up and innovative structures must be integrated into the existing State Fair Park.

The Site

By removing the State Fair from its historical site in the capital city of Lincoln, what little is left of the Nebraska State Fair’s identity further erodes. Therefore, the State Fair Park should remain in its current position—just north of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln City Campus. The site stretches from 14th Street to 27th Street in an east-west direction. Transversely, it is confined by the Salt Creek (to the north) and railroad tracks (to the south). Contextually the State Fair Park contends with the University (most specifically the Devaney Sports Center), a variety of city parks, and the Antelope Creek.

In order for the State Fair Park to prosper once again it does not need a more centrally located site within the state; nor should the fairgrounds be moved “closer to Omaha, perhaps to the area of the Platte River and Mahoney State Park.” Historically speaking, “[m]ost Nebraskan’s objected to Omaha as the capital because it was too close to the Iowa border and not representative enough of the whole state.” (McKinnon, 53) For that same reason the fair should not be moved. Yet more fuel for the fire is AkSarBen—a former statewide agricultural exposition that was held annually in Omaha. Instead of glorifying agricultural offerings that the state of Nebraska prides itself on, AkSarBen’s present-day grounds leave only the ghosted image of a once prosperous, cultural get-together. Ironically, the grounds are slowly dissolving into the expanding University of Nebraska–Omaha campus. The same fate that the State Fair Park might suffer from if the University of Nebraska–Lincoln continues to expand north.
Phase 1 of the Antelope Valley Redevelopment Project - Lincoln, Nebraska 1999-present
The City of Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

In an article taken from the Lincoln Journal-Star, former Mayor Wesley stated that “Lincoln can reinvest in the core of the city and grow at the edges. The continuation of Lincoln’s quality of life directly depends upon all its parts, including a center core area, remaining healthy, safe and vibrant.” He was referring to the joint project between the City of Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) termed the Antelope Valley Redevelopment Project. The team has engaged consultants, economists, planners, engineers and facilitators in a conscious effort to revive the community. At the present time this bold 15 to 20 year vision is in the early stages, yet the first set of strategies are set to be built and implemented over the next six to 10 years. These first 10 strategies are referred to as the Phase 1 Projects and range from a new attractive waterway to two new major roadways to new and rehabilitated housing, commercial, recreational and neighborhood revitalization opportunities.
CURRENT CONDITIONS
The Devaney Center
This year-round facility is primarily by the UNL. The fair utilizes the Track and Field building.

State Arsenal
The State Arsenal is sponsored by the Armed Forces and showcases military through the ages.

NE Sheriff’s Assc. Office
The Sheriff’s Office houses law enforcement exhibits and shares a patio with the garden.

Arboretum Pavilion
The pavilion is attached to the gardens. It’s tented roof is seasonal and used for occasions.

The stage is a temporary structure that showcases beer, wine, champagne, and other displays.

Heritage Village
The Village brings historical Nebraska buildings to the State Fair Park. (train, depot, post office)

Not sure what the function of this building is/ was. Most of its windows and doors are boarded up.

This complex houses the fish aquarium, the Nebraskaland Magazine, and Ducks Unlimited.

Heritage Stage

Unidentifiable Building

Game & Parks Complex
Fire Marshal
this building functions as the fire marshal’s office. No exhibits here.

UNL Building
This building functions as a taste-testing arena that only serves Nebraska made products.

Family Fun Farm
This temporary playground has everything from a petting zoo to camel rides to bear/crocodile shows.

Agricultural Hall
Ag Hall is a collective building that has both commercial and agricultural exhibits and a cafeteria.

Industrial Arts Building
Ag Equipment, model trains, antique tractors and equipments can all be found inside here.

The Beef Pit
The Beef Pit serves Nebraska beef and has both indoor or outdoor seating available.

Public Restroom
One of several public restrooms. Men on the north, women on the south.

Expo Building
It has food, fine arts, beer, wine, needlework, horticulture, photography, and ag products.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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| 17  | ![Morton Building](image1) | Morton Building  
This building functioned as a multipurpose building. Driving safety displays were outside. |
| 18  | ![Swine, Sheep, & Goat Barn](image2) | Swine, Sheep, & Goat Barn  
As the title suggests, the FFA swine, sheep, and goats can be found inside. FFA exhibits outside. |
| 19  | ![Horse Barn](image3) | Horse Barn  
One of two horse barns, unfortunately this building was ghostly empty. |
| 20  | ![Food Plaza](image4) | Food Plaza  
This food hall is open for all three meals of the day. It boasts that it is fully air-conditioned. |
| 21  | ![Public Restrooms](image5) | Public Restrooms  
Yet another public restroom facility. It is strategically placed amid the food plazas. |
| 22  | ![Food Plaza](image6) | Food Plaza  
The main food plaza features Amigos, Runza, Valentinos, Papa Johns, and a few other eateries. |
| 23  | ![The Market Place](image7) | The Market Place  
The market place is a huge paved parking lot that includes a stage and multiple booths and stands. |
| 24  | ![Abandoned Eatery](image8) | Abandoned Eatery  
The Oppe is an abandoned eating establishment that hints at the style of yesteryear. |
Farmland Building
The Farmland Building displays educational subject matter from all counties in the state.

Youth Complex
The Youth Complex is the home for small animal displays and also quiz bowl competitions.

Open Air Youth Arena
Cattle shows are the main event in this arena. It has adjoining pens that make it a perfect venue.

4-H Animal Barn
Llamas and cattle are the two main forms of livestock found in the first of two 4-H barns.

Like the name suggests, this building displays 4-H creativity from all over the state.

Sheep and swine can be found within this massive barn. There is also a make-shift arena.

The Dempster Building holds caged pigeons, poultry, and waterfowl.

This kitchen is run by the Kiwanis group and serves food all day long.

4-H Building

4-H Animal Barn

Dempster Building

Kiwanis Country Kitchen
Facilities Catalog

Jake & Eddie’s
This eating establishment has indoor/outdoor capabilities and has a walk-up counter.

Administration & State Patrol
This building houses the central fair office. It also has the souvenir shop and security.

Open Air Auditorium
This outdoor venue has constant activity. Free concerts were held here as well as local talents.

Coliseum
The coliseum is used predominantly for horse competitions during the fair.

Milking Parlor
The name says it all--It is sandwiched between the dairy barn and the beer garden.

Dairy Barn
The dairy barn, like the horse barn, was rather empty. It holds dairy and beef cattle.

Horse Barn
Number two of two, not really sure as to if this barn is used to its capacity.

West Beer Garden
One of two places where alcohol is served, this garden is gated and has live entertainment.
Facilities Catalog

41 Maintenance Complex
Nestled along 14th, the maintenance complex has a garden, capentry, and eclectic shop.

42 Beef Barn
The beef barn houses FFA cattle. It also has an show arena on the south end of the building.

43 Grandstand
With the rise of permanent cities, the importance major locations of commerce and trade.

44 Lancaster Building
The Lancaster Building houses Nebraska’s famous quilt collection.

45 Commercial Buildings
These commercial buildings are used to promote Morton buildings.

46 East Beer Garden
This structure adjoins the year-round sand volleyball courts and is the second site that sells beer.

47 Public Restrooms
This public restroom is located on the northern end of the fairgrounds.

48 Public Restrooms
This public restroom is conveniently located just outside of the west beer garden.
Racehorse Stables
The stables are huge and abandoned. They are an interesting mix of metal and wood.

Campgrounds
The peak and off-season campgrounds have three permanent buildings: office, shower, house.
CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES Representative of a Nebraska Vernacular

The majority of the buildings that exist on the present-day State Fairgrounds are made up of either steel or timber frame construction, aluminum siding, and the appropriate roof materials. The Nebraska farmland vernacular is well represented. In the case of the fairgrounds, such pre-engineered and custom-designed wood/steel frame structures are utilized for a wide variety of needs—food plazas, office buildings, livestock facilities, exhibit halls, and storage buildings—in agricultural and commercial application. Most manufacturers offer different framing options, columns (tapered and straight), a variety of bay sizes, various eave heights, and single or double slope construction types. The pre-fab structural systems are designed to work in tandem with pre-fab roof systems and wall systems. This continuity between systems saves (the always limiting factors in rural design) both time and money. The State Fairgrounds are obviously suffering from under-creative design alternatives when using such materials.
The Iowa State Fair maintains a sense of physical and programmatic permanence. The fair is a prime example of a contemporary event rooted in tradition. **FAIR PRECEDENT**

**Iowa State Fair 2004**  
August 12th - August 22nd

This year 1,051,801 visitors attended the Iowa State Fair—proving that it is ‘Still the One.’ The fairgrounds are 118 years old and most major buildings were built before World War I. In 1865 the state of Iowa and the city of Des Moines purchased the fairgrounds’ permanent home. The first fair was held there in 1886. A barn still exists from the original site and is a classic example of early Iowa agricultural architecture. In the same vein, Pioneer Hall (built for the first fair) boasts renovated high ceilings, decorative millwork, and a distinctive cupola. During the Fair, Pioneer Hall transforms into a museum of Iowa agriculture illustrating important periods in the fair’s history. Built in 1904, the Agriculture Building is a prime example of exposition-style architecture. Designed in three phases (1915, 1923 and 1939), the Sheep Barn is an eclectic facility. From its unique terra cotta trim, east entrance murals, floral arches, and ram’s head column capitals, the barn is a perfect example of the period architecture.
FAIR PRECEDENT  The Colorado State Fair utilizes temporary aspects—such as concerts and attractions—to succeed from year to year.

Colorado State Fair 2004  August 21 - September 5

The Ridin’ Ropin’ Rockin’ Rollin’ Colorado State Fair is the state’s biggest annual celebration of agriculture, art, music, food, and everything else that represents Colorado. The fair features numerous top-name entertainers as part of the State Fair Concert Series and four stages with nightly free entertainment. Other attractions include eight nights of professional rodeo, a variety of rides/games/attractions on the midway, an assortment of foods, family fun, the always popular sand sculpture, a demolition derby, a tough truck competition, art shows, and a Fiesta Weekend. Corporate sponsorships play a huge roll in the success of the Colorado State Fair. The importance of sponsors at the State Fair is quite obvious due to the fluctuating markets of the agriculture, entertainment, and tourism industries. Sponsorships are directly helpful for bringing the ‘extras’ in entertainment and attractions to the fair. The agricultural programs are then support the success of the Colorado State Fair's.
The classic fairgrounds-turned-park atmosphere of the Chicago Parks system serves as an urban/regional prototype for the new State [Fair] Park. **PARK PRECEDENT**

**Chicago Parks - Chicago, Illinois 1871-present**
Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux

In February of 1869 the state of Illinois legislature established their intention to create a connected system of parks and boulevards for the city of Chicago. The result was a system of parks that stretched from Lincoln Park in the north to Jackson Park in the south. The South Park—present day Midway Plaisance Park, Jackson Park, Washington Park—was designed by Olmsted and Vaux. The three parks together amount to 1055 acres and are approximately equal to the size of New York City’s Central Park. Olmsted found the terrain boring but at the same time he felt that “Chicago’s natural landscape [flatness] would provide...just the psychological relief that city dwellers needed.” (Tishler, 47) Jackson Park was the site of the Columbian Exposition. It has undergone three design phases and exists today according to Olmsted’s 1895 design. The Midway Plaisance served as the amusement region of the Columbian exposition—hence the present-day phrase midway. Olmsted had a dream that water would connect the parks but it was never realized.
PARK PRECEDENT  The existing Lincoln Parks System establishes the local precedent for the new State [Fair] Park.

The Lincoln Parks System Lincoln, NE

The Lincoln Parks System (1) is maintained by the Parks Section—a branch of the Parks and Recreation Department. The division is responsible for the upkeep of 80 miles of trails, 106 parks (roughly 6000 acres), 11 outdoor pools, eight recreation centers, two dog run parks, and the ever changing number of 100,000. Planning for the future is a crucial task for the Planning and Construction Section of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Community Forestry/Horticulture Section cares for nearly all of the city’s street and park trees. It also resides over the Lincoln Sunken Gardens (2). All sections work cooperatively with the Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Board to maintain the Veterans Memorial Gardens (3). Holmes Park (4) Pioneer Park (5)
The modern program and architectural aesthetics of Tschumi’s Parc de la Villette combine to create an innovative park in terms of planning and design. **PARK PRECEDENT**

**Le Parc de la Villette - Paris, France began in 1983**
Bernard Tschumi, Jacques Derrida & Peter Eisenman (garden detail)

The fuzzy boundary of the roughly 50 hectare (125 acre) park is bordered by new residential and public buildings. The project was a state-funded effort and a result of an international competition. Tschumi and Derrida’s proposal called for a coordinating architect that monitored the architects, landscape architects, artists, and designers. The coordinator was also responsible for the construction of principal buildings. The collaborative concept emphasized free, open space organized by three entwined and overlapping systems of POINTS (the small red follies); LINES (the undulating canopy); and SURFACES (the greenspaces). Tschumi treated the site like one large “discontinuous building” and exploded its components uniformly across the site—an idea that was meant to accommodate diverse contemporary uses. As a system, the programmatic follies, linear promenades, geometric surfaces, and ribbons of gardens exemplify “a phantasmagorical popular venue where art, science, and leisure combine in a fairground atmosphere.” (Abitare, 123)
**Parc Andre Citroen - Paris, France 1988-1992**

Patrick Berger

The park is located on the site of the former Citroen automobile factory and is the result of the fusion of two equally honored competition entries. The two greenhouses and six theme gardens—red for taste, orange for touch, green for hearing, blue for smell, silver for sight, gold for the sixth sense—are located within the white garden. Collectively they are referred to as hothouses and house plant species that are traditional indigenous types or recent hybrids. The black garden is made up of the central lawn, canal, and rock garden. The 13 hectare (about 32 acre) grounds of Parc Andre Citroen is known as an urban park that relates to the large scaled Parisian layout and is surrounded by new and old residential. “Architecture structures the space in response to urban constraints, providing the frame of the base for gardens and plant sequences that depict movement.” (A + U, 28) The park’s programmatic components include nature, movement, architectural design, and artificiality are achieved by enclosures, ramps, water, fountains, and platforms.

| 1 | Indigenous plant types |
| 2 | Gallery of water with fountain |
| 3 | Greenhouse in the background |
| 4 | Platformed garden |
| 5 | Site Plan |
| 6 | Axial relationship between waterway and Hothouse |
| 7 | Inside Hothouse Theme garden |
| 8 | Circulation around and along Hothouses |
| 9 | Juxtaposition of materials |
| 10 | Aerial drawing of the white garden |
Appearance-wise, fairs of the future have changed dramatically from fairs of the past; however, programmatically they still aim to educate and entertain. **Style Precedent**

Fairs of the Past
The World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 was one of Frederick Law Olmsted’s crowning moments. “[H]is efforts to unify and enliven a great public gathering place through the use of water” were accented by the incorporation of large neoclassical buildings. Each major building had an entrance from both land and water. Native midwestern plants were used on such a scale that “illuminated their design potential in designed landscapes.” (Tishler, 52) Olmsted intended participants to experience a feeling of festivity as well as a sense of worldwide community.

A Fair for the Future
The Swiss Expo.02 was held from May until October. It took place at four sites in Switzerland; Yverdon, Biel, Murten, Neuenburg, plus some floating exhibits. The fair offered technologically complex exhibits placed within almost rustic sites. Previous exhibitions attempted to reinforce the national identity of Switzerland; however, Expo.02 was a playground that tested cultural boundaries. On all sites the park extends out into the water and creates an island park—*arteplage* (from *art* and the French word for "beach").

1. Jackson Park The Site
2. The Lagoon and Wooded Island
3. A bridge over the lagoon
4. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition of 1893 Omaha, NE
5. *Monolith* by Jean Nouvel in Murten
6. Yverdon - Ouf!
7. Neuenburg - Rampe Forum
8. Yverdon - *The Cloud [Blur]* by Group Extasia
Examples of developed aesthetics and vernaculars hint at the types of design considerations needed to give the new State Fair Park a local feel.

**Developed Aesthetics**
Throughout history cultures develop a design aesthetic based on identifying cultural elements and everyday things. Sometimes purposeful and sometimes inadvertent. Several examples include Queen Hetepheres’ lotus-flower/animal-legged chair, the animal horn references of the Cretan cornices at Knossos, and O’Gorman’s juxtaposition of architecture, art, history, and culture through the use of “richly coloured mosaics combining recognizable images, and abstract configurations based partly upon ancient motifs.” (Curtis, 493-4)

**Vernacular Architecture**
The term *vernacular* is of modern usage. It is used to describe buildings that illustrate indigenous styles and are constructed from locally available materials. In today’s world the genre is known globally as architecture without specific architects, but rather as disciplines that follow traditional building practices and patterns. The examples below display designs through the ages (and across continents) conditioned by local aesthetic preferences.

1. Egyptian chair 2500 BC
2. Palace of Minos at Knossos 1500 BC
3. Mexico City’s University Library by Juan O’Gorman
4. Diego Rivera’s 3D murals
5. London Terraced House
6. Berber House in Matmata, Tunisia
7. Norwegian Stave Churches
8. Cliff Dwellings in Mesa Verde, CO
IDENTIFYING THE NEBRASKA VERNACULAR

STATE [FAIR] PARK is designed according to “a single, unifying ideal”—to showcase Nebraska's farmland vernacular. Utilizing this principle during the planning and design phases of both the fair and the park will restore vitality, uniqueness and identity to one of the state's major social gatherings. The project interprets the Nebraska vernacular as a design catalyst which incorporates elements such as the acre, the row, the hill, the bin, Nebraska's agricultural cash crops (materials) and growing season. The intention is to draw up a master plan with constructed architectural elements tied to landscape and creating perceived rural environments.

THE ACRE is a measure of land that is equal to 43,560 ft² (4840 yd²). An acre measures 660 ft (220 yd) by 66 ft (22 yd) and is rectangular in shape. A mile section contains 640 acres. 160 acres is referred to as a quarter of a section. Quarters are then broken down into 80 acres and 40 acres. (As illustrated on the following page.)
31 Acres
1/2 Quarter

160 Acres
1/4 Section (Quarter)

1 Acre
43,560 ft²
66 feet (chain) x 660 ft (furlong)

40 Acres
1/4 Quarter

The Scale
THE NEW STATE [FAIR] PARK

According to the Penguin Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, a park is an enclosed area made up of predominantly “non-agricultural” yet commonly rural land. Most parks have a maintenance plan and are meant to display/protect the natural landscape. On the opposite end of the spectrum, “[t]he agricultural fair…represents the adaptation of the fair idea to the agricultural industry. It is essentially a rural institution, reflecting the interests of rural people, though these interests are often entwined with those emanating from urban centers, and the institution itself is usually dependent upon urban as well as rural support.” (Neely, 20-21) Simply put, a park embodies the rural aspect of the land while the fair personifies the peoples’ rural ties. By marrying the two together, a program is established within city limits and exemplifies the union of the land and the people.

Throughout history, when talking about fairs one question reoccurs: Why are they thought of and portrayed as permanent events? Are not they temporary? Many factors support both the permanent and temporary side of the argument—population dispersion, migration, demographic centers, financial support, agricultural exploration, the agricultural market economy, etc. The opinion has come to be that a “…permanently located state fair was likely to be permanently dominated by one branch of agriculture…[making it hardly] representative of state-wide agriculture…A transient state fair, however, could not attain the stability of a permanently located fair.” (Neely, 105) Early fairs had few permanent buildings and instead utilized tents to house exhibitions while the fairs of today focus more on affordable permanency rather than timeless aesthetics. The answer is to merge the modern day State Fair program onto the current fairgrounds—in essence creating a new State Fair Park. The State Fair Park will be a year round public park used to demonstrate the State of Nebraska’s agricultural output while at the same time functioning as a recreational hub for the city of Lincoln. With the marriage of agricultural education and social recreation the ideals of both a fair and a park are upheld in a manner that is retrofitted for today’s society.

The appropriate scale must be addressed when reorganizing the State Fair Park. The fairgrounds currently retain the same grid system that is applied to the city of Lincoln. In actuality—and in keeping with many contemporary park designs—it appears to be a self-sustaining community; therefore, it deserves its own organizational system and dislocation from the city’s planning. The new State Fair Park will be an entity that reacts to and supports its adjacencies, not dissolve into its surroundings like the current fairgrounds. By disassociating the fair from its context it will become more integrated into the neighborhood.

The development of such a park will be progressive in nature. The coordinating architect is responsible for structuring, designing, and directing the variety of programs that are to be detailed by various architectural teams over the next series of years—teams that consist of architects, artists, designers, researchers, professors, and environmentalists. In turn, Nebraskan architectural firms will be selected to contribute to the park on a building-by-building basis and abide by the newly established up design standards. The process will be set up as a competition that showcases the talents of Nebraskan firms. The result is the beginnings of a Nebraska aesthetic that shapes identity.

The current fairgrounds do not efficiently use the land to express agricultural education and recreation year-round. To reach a resolution, the argument of permanent versus temporary must be addressed, the scale of the park must be reevaluated, and a structured master plan must be put into place.

ESTABLISHING AN IDENTITY

“In years gone by, the fair existed to educate the farmer about farming, about animal breeds and new crop strains; today, with so few people engaged in agriculture, the fair exists in great part to educate the rest of the population about farming.” (Avery, 5) The people of today, including the farmers, go to the fair predominantly for social reasons. The ultimate goal for the new State Fair Park is that it epitomizes a statewide identity that incorporates the agricultural process in a manner that is recreational and educational.

The new State Fair Park would be built “within a single, unifying national [statewide] ideal.” (Curtis, 493) This ideal will be primary while redesigning the Nebraska State Fair Park. The end product will be a restoration of vitality, uniqueness, and identification to one of the state’s major social gatherings. Those characteristics will continue throughout the year. By using design and planning to express a strong statewide identity through the framework of an innovative design it will increase awareness and interest in a part of Nebraska’s history that can not be lost.
CONCEPTUAL [MASTER PLAN] DESIGN

+ Aerial Photograph                  Acre Grid            Existing Site =
EXISTING SITE PLAN

Diagrammatic Acre Model
Acre Model Program Studies

Progressive Study Sketches

Developing the Master Plan
NEW STATE [FAIR] PARK PLAN

1 State [Fair] Park
2 10 Barn Plan
3 7 Stalk Plan
Developing the Master Plan
MODEL PERSPECTIVES

1. 2 Shed, the Creek + 7 Stalk
2. AgHall + the Grass Roof
3. AgHall, the Track + Grandstand
4. Axial View of 7 Stalk
5. 4 Existing, ExHall + Coliseum
6. The Grandstand + 9 Row
7. 8 Bin + EntHall

A. Plan of 5 Base
B. 10 Barn
C. 7 Stalk + the Creek
180 Acres

- .5 acres **WHEAT**
- 1.75 acres **SAND**
- 24 acres **CORN**
- 2 acres **ROCK**
- 2.5 acres **WETLANDS**
- 1.5 acres **WATER**
- 9.5 acres **DIRT**
- 8.75 acres **GRAVEL**
- 10.75 acres **SOYBEANS**
- 13.75 acres **CONCRETE**
- 29 acres **GRASS**
- 3.75 acres **GARDENS**
- 23 acres **PASTURE**
- 43 acres **ALFALFA**

Growing Seasons

**CORN** Seasonal

**SOYBEANS** Seasonal

**ALFALFA** Year-Round
PERCEIVED RURAL ENVIRONMENTS

View of the Sunken Orchard

Approaching 6 Trace with 7 Stalk in the background
Framed View of Barn

View from the top of Trace + Stalk

Perceived Rural Environments
**Perceived Rural Environments**

*Concept sketch of exhibition hall structures*

*The Rows Exposed*
4-H—HEAD, HEART, HANDS AND HEALTH
Cat Show, Dog Show, Poultry Show, Sheep Lead Show, Breeding Sheep Show, Sheep Showmanship Contest, Market Steers & Heifers Judging, Market Lambs Judging, Market Gilts & Barrows Judging, Market Beef-Special Awards Presentation/Champion Selection, Swine Showmanship Contest, Breeding Heifers Judging, Beef Showmanship Contest, Dairy Show, Rabbit Judging

FFA—LEARNING TO DO, DOING TO LEARN, EARNING TO LIVE, LIVING TO SERVE

Exotic Petting Zoo, Camel & Pony Rides, Quarter Horse Show, Pinto Horse Show, Team Penning, Paint Horse Show, AQHA Working, Cow Horse & Reining, Carriage Pleasure Driving/Morgan Horse Shows, Miniature/Pony Show, Morgan Horse Show, Belgian Futurity, Draft Horse Show, Miniature Horse Show, Horse Roping Contest, Nebraska State Fair Hunter/Jumper Show, American Dairy Association of Nebraska Contest, Dairy Goat Judging & Showmanship Shows, Sheep Judging, Sheep Shearing, Sheep—Fleece Weighing, Poultry & Waterfowl Judging, Pigeon Judging, Beef Cattle Judging, Dairy Cattle Judging, Swine Judging, Swine—Breeding Gilt Sale, Llama Show, Mule & Donkey Show, Stock Dog Competition, Mohair Shearing Demonstration and Judging, NCHA Cutting Show, Garden Tour, Nebraska Florist Association Show, Nebraska State Rose Show

AGRICULTURE
Grow Nebraska General Store, Budweiser Clydesdales, Bud World, Coca-Cola Family Fun Fest, Commercial Exhibits, Nebraska Food Manufacturer’s Product Demos, State Fire Marshall Building, Nebraska Sheriff’s Association Building, State Fair Souvenir Store, Simulcast Horse Racing, Pancake Feed, National ‘Best Spam Recipe” Competition, Coca-Cola ABC Tour, NASCAR Busch Michael Waltrip #99 Car, Fleischmann’s Yeast Breadworld. cornbread.competition “Special Occasion” Bread, Hidden Valley The Original Ranch “Family Friendly Food” Contest, Norbest Turkey Any Way, Every Day Contest, Pro-Action Trampoline Team, D.A.R.E. Dance Team, Radio Disney, Marvel Comics Spider-Man at the D.A.R.E Booth, Cabela’s Turkey Calling Contest, 96 KX Presents: Homegrown
**Family Fun Farm**
Make & Take
Cookie Decorating, Water Balloon Toss Contest,
Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest, Crazy Hat Contest,
Watermelon Roll Contest, Making Balloon Animals,
Straw Paper Shoot Contest, Don’t Spill the Beans Contest,
Family Fun Build-A-Raft Contest, Marshmallow Stuffing Contest,
Veggie Car Racing Contest, Family Fun Corn Shucking Contest,
Hog Calling Contest, Pioneer Challenge,
Look-A-Like Contest, Gelatin Eating

**Bands**
Kingdom Come, Mystic Caravan, Las Estrellitas, Noise Next Door, Switch 625,
Plainview Klown Band, Thirty Pieces of Silver, Stuart Olmstead, Awaken, Joyful Sound, Mariachi Zapata,
Sunshine Generation, Consuming Fire, CN Double, Sonora Dinamita, Bossphilly, Tommy Bishop Band,
Countryfied, Westwind, Southern Cross, Chris Cagle in Concert

**Entertainers**
Shrine Clowns, Catishun, Sue’s Stepper-ettes, Doeden Dancers, Marching Bands, Capital City Cloggers,
Steve Trash Illusionist/Eco-Entertainer, Kari Moore, Vision Dance Academy, Jaime Shelton, Omaha South High Step Team,
Les Vida-Medicine Man Show, Kusi Taki, Caution-Southwest High Step Team, Sangre Azteca, Sonido Flash DJ,
Happy Czechs, Shim Sham Senior Tap Dancers, “Mass Band” Performs Patriotic Selections,
Whorwind Belly Dancers, Kramer Sisters, Bobby Lane & His Orchestra, Elaine Peacock,
The Clefs, Dancing Grannies, Scarlet & Cream Show Choir

**Events**
Free Semi truck rides, Rocky Mountain Mechanical Bull, Midnight Thunder Car Club, Midway,
Simulcast Horse Racing, Bingo Tent, Kid’s Pedal Pull, Meet Buffalo Bill, Ceremonial Parades,
Chainsaw Carving Show, Watermelon Eating Contest, Skate FX Show,
Semi-Tractor Pull, Kuchungu and the Alligator Show, Scavenger Hunt, Welde’s Big Brown Bear Show,
Super Ball Saturday Contest, Team Extreme BMX Show, Chomari Ballet Folklórico Mexicano,
Grupo Folklorico Sangre Azteca, Extreme Monster Truck

**Entertainment**

The Programs | New vs. Now
Livestock Birthing Pavilion, Antique/Classic/Custom Car Show, Antique/Nebraska Farm Machinery Display, Quilt Display, Red Hawk Teepee Display, Show-and-Shine Truck Show, No-Zone Safety Display, Rolling 9/11 Memorial, Commercial Exhibits, Game & Parks Display, National Guard Museum, Nebraska State Patrol Demonstrations & Exhibits, Model Railroad, Education Department—Social Studies-Science-Mathematics Competitions, Needlework Best in County, Spin & Weave-In, World War II Mobile Museum, Vintage Nebraska Wine Tasting and Art Invitational, First Congressional District Candidates Debate, Master Gardeners Panel Discussion, Art Auction

4-H—Health
4-H Exhibitions, Discover 4-H: Free Fun Activities for Kids!, 4-H Presentations, 4-H State Public Speaking Contest, 4-H Premiere Presenter Contest Award Ceremony, 4-H Shopping in Style Fashion Show, 4-H All Stars Celebrity Autograph Session,
PARKING

NEW

NOW

The Programs: New vs. Now
CIRCULATION VEHICULAR PEDESTRIAN

Now

NEW

NOW NEW

The Programs | New vs. Now
NEW FAIR CONDITIONS

AGRICULTURE  40 acres
COMMERCIAL  20 acres
ENTERTAINMENT  30 acres
EXHIBITS  50 acres
PARKING  40 acres

POTENTIAL TEMPORARY PROGRAMS

AGRICULTURE
The Farmer’s Market
Thoroughbred racing [mid-May to mid-July]

COMMERCIAL
The Market Place
Rib Fest

ENTERTAINMENT
Heritage Stage
July Jam
Nebraska State Games
[opening + closing ceremonies]
Outdoor concerts + productions
Tailgate parties

EXHIBITS
Antique Shows
Car Shows
FFA Conventions
Husker Harvest Days
**Phase One New Construction**

**ExHall**
- Administration Offices: 4900 sf (0.112 acres)
- Nebraska State Lottery Offices: 3000 sf (0.0689 acres)
- The Beef Pit: 4200 sf (0.0964 acres)
- Exhibition Hall(s): 49600 sf (1.14 acres)
- Game + Parks Displays: 5550 sf (0.127 acres)
- Jake + Eddie’s: 3500 sf (0.0803 acres)
- Public Restrooms: 2000 sf (0.0459 acres)
  - Total: 72750 sf (1.67 acres)

**ComHall**
- Fire Marshall: 1175 sf (0.0269 acres)
- Food Hall: 12000 sf (0.275 acres)
- Nebraska Sheriff’s Office: 3870 sf (0.0888 acres)
- Public Restrooms: 775 sf (0.0178 acres)
- State Patrol Offices: 3000 sf (0.0689 acres)
- West Beer Garden: 4375 sf (0.100 acres)
  - Total: 25195 sf (0.578 acres)

**Ag Hall**
- Dempster Building: 5150 sf (0.118 acres)
- Horse Stables #1: 8300 sf (0.191 acres)
- Horse Stables #2: 17000 sf (0.390 acres)
- Horse Stables #3: 10500 sf (0.241 acres)
- Horse Stables #4: 10500 sf (0.241 acres)
- Horse Stables #5: 10500 sf (0.241 acres)
- Horse Stables #6: 64380 sf (1.48 acres)
  - Total: 25195 sf (0.578 acres)

**Exhibits**
- Ag Hall: 24500 sf (0.563 acres)
- Expo Building: 21700 sf (0.498 acres)
- Game + Parks Complex: 5550 sf (0.127 acres)
- Morton Buildings: 4740 sf (0.109 acres)
- Unidentifiable Building: 830 sf (0.019 acres)
- UNL Building: 3400 sf (0.0781 acres)
  - Total: 25195 sf (0.578 acres)

**Entertainment**
- Open Air Auditorium: 23000 sf (0.528 acres)
- Family Fun Farm [Playground]: 5.25 acres
  - Total: 25195 sf (0.578 acres)

**Commercial**
- Administration Offices + State Patrol: 7900 sf (0.181 acres)
- The Beef Pit: 4200 sf (0.0964 acres)
- Fire Marshall: 1175 sf (0.0269 acres)
- Food Plaza #1: 12000 sf (0.275 acres)
- Jake + Eddie’s: 4600 sf (0.106 acres)
- Nebraska Sheriff’s Office: 3870 sf (0.0888 acres)
- Nebraska Lottery Office: 3000 sf (0.0689 acres)
- Public Restroom #2: 2000 sf (0.0459 acres)
- Public Restroom #4: 775 sf (0.0178 acres)
- West Beer Garden: 4375 sf (0.100 acres)
  - Total: 25195 sf (0.578 acres)
### Phase 2 New Construction

**AgHall**
- Kiwanis Country Kitchen 3700 sf (0.085 acres)
- Maintenance Facilities 8650 sf (0.199 acres)
- Test Plot Storage 10500 sf (0.241 acres)
- Public Restrooms 875 sf (0.0201 acres)
  - **Total** 23725 sf (0.545 acres)

**EntHall**
- Food Hall 4600 sf (0.106 acres)
- Indoor/Outdoor Amphitheatre 7000 sf (0.161 acres)
- Public Restrooms 2000 sf (0.0459 acres)
  - **Total** 13600 sf (0.313 acres)

**Beef Barn** 52000 sf (1.19 acres)
- Dairy Barn 28000 sf (0.643 acres)
- Horse Barn #1 34200 sf (0.785 acres)
- Swine, Sheep + Goat Barn 48900 sf (1.12 acres)

**Arboretum Pavilions + Gardens**

**Heritage Village**

**Pasture + Paved Parking**

**Roads, Pathways + Walkways**

### Agriculture
- Beef Barn 52000 sf (1.19 acres) Demolish existing
- Coliseum 55200 sf (1.26 acres) Renovate existing
- Dairy Barn 28000 sf (0.643 acres) Demolish existing
- Horse Barn #1 34200 sf (0.785 acres) Demolish existing
- Horse Barn #2 10300 sf (0.236 acres) Demolish
- Milking Parlor 1074 sf (0.0247 acres) Demolish
- Swine, Sheep + Goat Barn 48900 sf (1.12 acres) Demolish existing

### Exhibits
- Commercial Buildings 4400 sf (0.101 acres) Demolish

### Entertainment
- No activity

### Commercial
- Food Plaza #2 4600 sf (0.106 acres) Demolish + Replace in EntHall
- Kiwanis Country Kitchen 3700 sf (0.085 acres) Demolish + Replace in AgHall
- Maintenance Complex 8650 sf (0.199 acres) Demolish + Replace in AgHall
- Public Restroom #1 875 sf (0.0201 acres) Demolish + Replace in AgHall
- Public Restroom #3 2000 sf (0.0459 acres) Demolish + Replace in EntHall

### Phase 3 New Construction

**4-H Animal Barn #1** 38235 sf (0.878 acres)
- **4-H Animal Barn #2** 45850 sf (1.05 acres)
- **Open Air Youth Arena** 24600 sf (0.565 acres)
- **Youth Complex** 9500 sf (0.218 acres)
- **Arboretum Pavilions + Gardens**
- **Heritage Village**
- **Natural Wetlands area**
- **Pasture + Paved Parking**
- **Roads, Pathways + Walkways**

### Agriculture
- 4-H Animal Barn #1 38235 sf (0.878 acres) Demolish existing
- 4-H Animal Barn #2 45850 sf (1.05 acres) Demolish existing
- 4-H Building 33740 sf (0.775 acres) Renovate existing
- Open Air Youth Arena 24600 sf (0.565 acres) Demolish existing
PHASE 4 NEW CONSTRUCTION
Arboretum Pavilions + Gardens
Heritage Village
Natural Wetlands Pond
Roads, Pathways + Walkways

AGRICULTURE
No activity

EXHIBITS
No activity

ENTERTAINMENT
Grandstand 57280 sf (1.32 acres)
Track 23.5 acres
Renovate existing

COMMERCIAL
Campgrounds

UNTOUCHED BUILDINGS
Devaney Center 5 acres Existing
State Arsenal .25 acres Existing

EXHIBITS
Farmland Building 6900 sf (0.158 acres) Demolish existing
Industrial Arts Building 47940 sf (1.10 acres) Renovate existing
Lancaster Building 11800 sf (0.270 acres) Demolish
Youth Complex 9500 sf (0.218 acres) Demolish existing

ENTERTAINMENT
Abandoned Eatery 1900 sf (0.0436 acres) Demolish
East Beer Garden 4000 sf (0.0918 acres) Renovate existing
Sand Volleyball Courts 3 acres

PHASING DIAGRAM
Schematic [Shelter System] Design

Shelter Gradient

Icons

Tertiary (Edge) 1 Pod 8 Bin 10 Barn 11 Bridge
Secondary (Perimeter) 2 Shed 3 Structure 4 Existing 7 Soil
Primary (Center) 5 Base 6 Trace 9 Row

Imagery
CONSTRUCTION LINES

1 Pod 7 Stalk
2 Shed 8 Bin
3 Structure 9 Row
4 Existing 10 Barn
5 Base 11 Bridge
6 Trace
BOUNDARY + GATEWAYS
The presence of a site’s boundary is influential upon a neighborhood—or in this case park. Too permeable of an edge equals no identifiable character for State [Fair] Park and too ominous of an enclosure would be a deterrent. State [Fair] Park needs an obvious boundary—sometimes implied, other times constructed—to differentiate itself from its surroundings. Intended breaks in State [Fair] Park’s boundary mark the four main circulatory gateways. If any site is to be identified by potential inhabitants as desirable grounds it is necessary to reinforce the paths which facilitate entering and exiting. Gateways allow the boundary to be crossed and direct circulation within the site.

CIRCULATION + SIGHT LINES
In an effort to connect the activity nodes, address the density rings and orient the visitor within State [Fair] Park, a system of lines had to be constructed. This system was based on like geometries, intended circulation patterns and desired lines of sight. Once the lines were chosen they were then marked at intersections with shelters creating a physical and visual web for visitors to follow.

ACTIVITY NODES
Within the major program pockets there is need for an activity node—an identified area of concentrated activity. In the case of State [Fair] Park, these nodes are desired design conditions implied by the master plan and surrounding context rather than derivative of existing circumstances. The nodes/shelters distribute areas of activity throughout the site and are interconnected by walking, hiking and biking trails.

POCKETS OF PROGRAM
Beyond State [Fair] Park’s gateways, the grounds are organized by pockets of program. These pockets are meant to engage people in agriculture, commercialism, entertainment, exhibitions and parking. Some of the pockets are primary and other secondary depending on the amount of land they occupy and their placement within the site.

DENSITY RINGS
Whether at the fair or enjoying the park visitors will look for excitement, convenience, peacefulness and nature. Attempting to balance these desires begins to suggest an amenity vs. circulation gradient. The resultant is a series of density rings suggesting how such a gradient might exist at State [Fair] Park.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIFIP Master Plan</th>
<th>Vernacular Photograph</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Activity (Pattern-Levels)</th>
<th>Location (Woven Nets)</th>
<th>Orientation (Nest or Grid)</th>
<th>Circulation (Crowd Accessory)</th>
<th>Degree of Openness (Base on Cover)</th>
<th>Land Features</th>
<th>Vegetation (Ecotone, Material)</th>
<th>Views (Most Dominant Form)</th>
<th>Overall (Shatter or Connection)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Pod</td>
<td></td>
<td>Literal: A seed vessel of a plant. Applied: A beginning container of a place.</td>
<td>1 Seasonal</td>
<td>1 Tenable-Edge</td>
<td>2 Vehicular</td>
<td>1 Open</td>
<td>1 Natural</td>
<td>3 Inside</td>
<td>2 Grassy, Green, + Forest</td>
<td>1 Inside</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Shed</td>
<td></td>
<td>[ISO</td>
<td>ATION] Literal: The state of being in a detached. Applied: Positioned in a removed location.</td>
<td>2 Intentional</td>
<td>2 Secondary-Periphery</td>
<td>2 Angle + Grid</td>
<td>2 Pedestrian</td>
<td>2 Open</td>
<td>3 General + Construction</td>
<td>1 Pasture</td>
<td>2 Inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Structure</td>
<td></td>
<td>Literal: The manner an arrangement of parts or elements is built. Applied: How built form is put together.</td>
<td>3 Constant</td>
<td>2 Secondary-Periphery</td>
<td>2 Angle + Grid</td>
<td>2 Pedestrian</td>
<td>2 Enclosed</td>
<td>2 Constructed</td>
<td>3 Grass, Green + Forest</td>
<td>1 Outside</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Existing</td>
<td></td>
<td>[UN</td>
<td>IQUE] Literal: A single kind having no like or equal. Applied: Something different from everything else.</td>
<td>2 Intentional</td>
<td>2 Secondary-Periphery</td>
<td>1 Grid</td>
<td>3 Tendril + Vehicular</td>
<td>3 Natural</td>
<td>1 Inside</td>
<td>2 Grassy, Green + Forest</td>
<td>2 Inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Base</td>
<td></td>
<td>[FO</td>
<td>UNTATION] Literal: The basis or groundwork of an underlying principle. Applied: The basis for a fundamental truth.</td>
<td>3 Constant</td>
<td>3 Primary-Centric</td>
<td>3 Angle, Angle + Grid</td>
<td>3 Pedestrian</td>
<td>3 Enclosed</td>
<td>2 Constructed</td>
<td>3 Grass, Green + Forest</td>
<td>3 Inside + Outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Trace</td>
<td></td>
<td>Literal: A barely perceptible mark following a track. Applied: The remnant of a previous action.</td>
<td>1 Seasonal</td>
<td>3 Primary-Centric</td>
<td>3 Angle, Angle + Grid</td>
<td>3 Pedestrian</td>
<td>3 Enclosed</td>
<td>2 Constructed</td>
<td>3 Grass, Green + Forest</td>
<td>3 Inside + Outside</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Stalk</td>
<td></td>
<td>[PE</td>
<td>AK] Literal: + Applied: The pointed top of anything.</td>
<td>1 Seasonal</td>
<td>2 Secondary-Periphery</td>
<td>2 Angle + Grid</td>
<td>2 Pedestrian</td>
<td>2 Open</td>
<td>2 Constructed</td>
<td>3 Grass, Sorghum + Wheat</td>
<td>3 Inside + Outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Bin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Literal: + Applied: An enclosed place to store things.</td>
<td>2 Intentional</td>
<td>1 Tenable-Edge</td>
<td>2 Grid + Grid</td>
<td>3 Tendril + Vehicular</td>
<td>2 Open</td>
<td>2 Natural + Constructed</td>
<td>3 Wheat, Corn + Sorghum</td>
<td>2 Inside</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Outward Rooms**
Due to varying degrees of enclosure, the shelters take on the feeling of an external room, even though they are partially open to their surroundings. This condition is reached by defining corners, partial/permeable roofs, transparent/temporary materials, and walls created from fences, benches, screens, paneling, vegetation, or nearby buildings.

**Filtered Light**
The shelters utilize filtered light to enhance the process of inhabitation. Light is filtered through vegetation, tracery, materials, frames, openings, structure and so on to increase interest levels. Contrast and silhouette conditions are desirable to break up the light, soften and darken it.

**Seat Spots**
The shelters’ outdoor seating areas take advantage of site specific views and climate. Economy should be exercised when constructing such zones placing the most importance on location and views. State [Fair] Park has both cool and warm climates therefore seats must face the sun while retaining some shade and be protected from the wind while allowing summer breezes. The seat spots should always face activities.

**Built-In Seats**
Several of the shelters utilize built-in seats. They make the shelters feel comfortable and better designed. The permanent seats are located within the shelters based on analysis of comfort-levels, views, circulation, and appropriateness.

**Sitting Walls**
Some of the shelters’ seat spots utilize sitting walls. In places, walls and fences are used to define boundaries between outdoor spaces. The divisions subtly enhance the geometry of the master plan by emphasizing constructed landscapes, surrounding natural regions, and strengthening minor boundaries between outdoor areas.

**Places to Wait**
Essentially the shelters become places for visitors to wait. Since waiting is their main program the shelters must facilitate waiting as positively as possible. Some of the shelters fuse the process of waiting with another activity which draws people in whether they are waiting or not. At the same time, other shelters offer themselves as tranquil, semi-isolated, removals from State [Fair] Park’s activities.

**Sequence of Sitting Spaces**
When viewed as a system, the shelters become a sequence of sitting spaces mapped throughout State [Fair] Park. Each sitting space or shelter has different needs for comfort, enclosure, circulation, and views according to its location within the grounds. The most integral shelters need to be attended to first. While the lesser activated sites do not merit such urgent attention. The remaining shelters must be thought of as transitional structures that bridge the gap between the integral and the less crucial.
SHELTER SITE ANALYSIS

1  Pod  7  Stalk
2  Shed  8  Bin
3  Structure  9  Row
4  Existing  10  Barn
5  Base  11  Bridge
6  Trace

Individual Site Analysis
CONCEPTUAL SKETCHES

1. Pod
2. Shed
3. Structure
4. Existing Base
5. Trace Stalk
6. Bin Row
7. Barn Bridge
8. Conceptual Shelter Sketches
9. Base
10. Barn
11. Bridge
Design Inspiration

A PLACE TO WAIT

GRAIN BIN

ROOT SYSTEM

Progressive Form Studies

1

2

3

NORTH ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION
**Tabletop**
1. Solid, flat, precast, concrete slab
   - 1" Topping with wire fabric
   - 4" Slab thickness
   - 1 ½" Strand depth
2. Bearing strip
3. 6" Precast concrete panel

**Foundation**
1. Corrugated sheet aluminum
2. 3" Deep concrete grid paver
3. Filter mat
4. Sod
5. 2" Sand
6. 4" Gravel

**Balcony**
1. 3" Flat steel handrail
2. 1" Deep grooved aluminum siding
3. 4" x 1" softwood strips, weather treated
4. 6" x 1" softwood strips, weather treated
5. Two layer sheet seal flashing
6. 12" x 1" plywood subfloor
7. 2" x 12" wood joists
8. 2" x 8" wood joists

**Retaining Wall**
1. Level backfill
2. Temp. reinforcement with 1" dia.
3. Base with rebar reinforcement

**Footings**
1. Post tensioned rod
2. Grout
3. Tensioned anchor cast in foundation
STAIRS

1 Outer Balustrade:
   • 1” curved steel plate
   • ½” curved plywood adhesive fixed on both faces

2 Inner Balustrade:
   • Steel tube torch cut to helical form
   • ½” curved plywood adhesive fixed on both faces

3 Floor Shell Construction:
   • ¼” plywood
   • ¼” expanded metal mesh
   • ½” gypsum plaster

4 3” x 1” steel fixing strips for curved plywood sheet
5 ½” welded sheet steel
6 1” stone flooring on ¼” bed of mortar
Design Inspiration

7 Stalk

Progressive Form Studies

CORN HUSK

TASSEL

GRAIN ELEVATOR

NORTH ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION
Progressive Form Studies

3 4

Final Realization

7 Stalk

SOUTH ELEVATION

WEST ELEVATION
10 Barn

Progressive Form Studies
1  2  3  4  Final Realization

SOUTH ELEVATION

WEST ELEVATION
Fall Semester Presentation
Each year the Nebraska State Fair comes and goes; however, the abandoned fairgrounds remain causing a void in Lincoln's urban fabric. This project proposes a remedy to the fairground's wavering between programmatic solidity and impermanence by redeveloping and renaming the site. The new *State [Fair] Park* will function as a park for 51 weeks out of the year and a fair for one. The result is a recreational nucleus for the city of Lincoln showcasing Nebraska's historically agricultural economy and character.

*State [Fair] Park* is designed according to "a single, unifying ideal"—to showcase Nebraska's farmland vernacular.\(^1\) Utilizing this principle during the planning and design phases of both the fair and the park will restore vitality, uniqueness and identity to one of the state's major social gatherings. By marrying agricultural awareness and social recreation, fair and park ideals are upheld in a manner retrofitted for today's society. Through design and planning, and in conjunction with *State [Fair] Park*’s new programmatic framework, the park will evolve in a manner parallel to the state's year-round growing season. In accordance, the fair will act as a single date on such a calendar. A design rooted in Nebraska's farmland vernacular will increase awareness and cultivate interest in a part of Nebraska's history that cannot be lost.

In staying true to the historical standards of fairs and parks—agricultural education and social recreation—*State [Fair] Park* becomes a contemporary site rooted in a traditional history while bringing the farmland vernacular to the capital city.

**Specific Objectives**

- *State [Fair] Park* is programmatically and physically redeveloped as a fair/park organized by identifying elements of a Nebraskan culture (*agriculture*), appropriate recreational park programs (*entertainment*), short-term programs (*exhibits and commercial*) and conditions accommodating the pedestrian (*circulation and parking*).

- The project interprets the Nebraska vernacular as a design catalyst which incorporates elements such as the *acre*, the *row*, the *hill*, the *bin*, Nebraska's agricultural cash crops (*materials*) and *growing season*. The intention is to draw up a master plan with constructed architectural elements tied to landscape and creating perceived rural environments. These perceived conditions are explored through a series of sections and three-dimensional renderings located on the lower third of the presentation boards.

- During the spring semester *State [Fair] Park* structures will be modernized by designing the *shelters* according to the *Nebraska farmland vernacular*. The twelve shelters are labeled in plan with numbers and are schematically addressed through sketches.

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