

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

## A Proposed Master Plan

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In January 1958, the Board of Governors of The University of Manitoba established a Campus Design and Planning Committee whose terms of reference were: (1) to develop a master plan for the approval of the Board by engaging a design team to do the exploratory and developmental work on same and by working with this team in a consultative and advisory capacity; and (2) to serve as a continuing committee to advise the Board on all matters pertaining to the planned development of the Campus in the future — new buildings and their locations, roads, utilities, landscape, parking, etc.

In view of the fact that the main concern of this Committee was to be the physical development of the University, while that of another committee would be the planning and guidance of academic policy, the personnel of the Campus Design and Planning Committee included the President, the Comptroller, Eric W. Thrift (Director of Metropolitan Planning, as consultant; and the following professors: V. J. Kostka (Community Planning), W. F. Riddell (Civil Engineering), A. C. Ferguson (Plant Science), A. J. Donahue (Architecture), R. D. Gillmor (Architecture), R. Sellors (Architecture), with J. A. Russell as Chairman. Recently, Professor W. L. Morton, Chairman of the Academic Planning Committee has been added.

As the result of an intensive study by the appointed design team, J. C. Stovel and A. J. Mudry, both of the School of Architecture, a first stage or preliminary scheme has been produced in the form of a model and drawings, all of which have been so presented that changes can easily be made therein. It was felt that such a definite statement should be made early in the development of a master plan so that the planners, the committee, and the other members of staff consulted would have concrete proposals to discuss, accept or reject. Recent reviews of the concept to date have now defined further lines of investigation and development for the summer. It is the hope of the Committee that, by fall, a master plan together with a report embodying proposals and recommendations will be ready for submission to the Board of Governors. Meantime, it should be emphasized that what is shown here is merely a developmental stage for a Master Plan for The University of Manitoba.

From the very beginning, it was recognized that the development of such a master plan for Manitoba must be predicated upon certain existing conditions and basic concepts:

1. Its location within the Winnipeg Metropolitan Area, — its expanding residential areas and traffic arteries as well as its inner and outer circumferential routes. At present only about 18% of the student population is accommodated in residences on the campus, and the rest, therefore, must come to the campus by bus or car.
2. Campus development to date, without reconsideration of the plan as a whole since it was first conceived in 1912, has resulted in (a) a somewhat rigid axial pattern; (b) the establishment of long term experiments in the agricul-

tural use of land immediately to the east as well as to the west of the central built-up area of the campus thus preventing expansion into these areas without costly delays through relocation of such areas; (c) a number of well-constructed buildings whose replacement would be economically unsound; (d) an apparent disregard of the developmental possibilities of the river bank and views thereof.

3. The creation of a circulation pattern for the campus which would provide for vehicular and bus traffic, adequate parking for staff and student cars, appropriate service access to each building.
4. The establishment of zoned development of the campus in terms of academic areas (humanities and social sciences, the sciences, technical or professional schools, post graduate studies and research, the library); residential areas; residential colleges; athletic facilities, student union facilities, convocation hall. Zoning regulations would also establish building set backs and alignments, building heights with respect to open space, etc.
5. The development of several five-year stages which in succeeding one another will make it possible to use certain existing buildings until such time as their life expectancy is reached and ultimately to provide a grouping of buildings and open spaces which will result in a well integrated campus which is both efficient in its functioning and aesthetically effective in its visual appearance.

After detailed analysis of existing physical conditions and exploratory discussions with deans and other administrative officers, the design team investigated several possible patterns of skeletal development for the plan before settling upon the present one. Its core or spine is a long, treed pedestrian mall terminating in major open spaces at its east and west extremities, with several cross malls or pedestrian ways leading to smaller open spaces created within building groupings. Although large expanses of open space may be desirable, especially for a university on the open prairie, it was recognized that the major wintertime use of the campus underscores the desirability of more compact grouping to provide greater economy in heating and other services, as well as greater comfort in inter-building circulation.

It is hoped that the immediate result of the work done to date will be to bring about major decisions re policy in the expansion and growth of the University, both in its academic pattern and in its student population. Such decisions will result in more definitive studies of the master plan both in its overall concept and in its detailed stages of development.

From these studies will emerge the master plan which will direct and regulate, but not restrict, the growth of The University of Manitoba Campus into a physical entity which will serve as the educational and cultural centre of both Winnipeg and the Province.

*Below:*

1. Science Buildings complex
2. Plan showing proposed buildings (white) presently in drawing stage by architects
3. Engineering building addition
4. St John's College
5. Liberal Arts College &
6. Arts Building addition
7. Library addition
8. Agriculture addition
8. Animal Barns complex (major move)
9. Federal Department of Agriculture

*Right, top:*

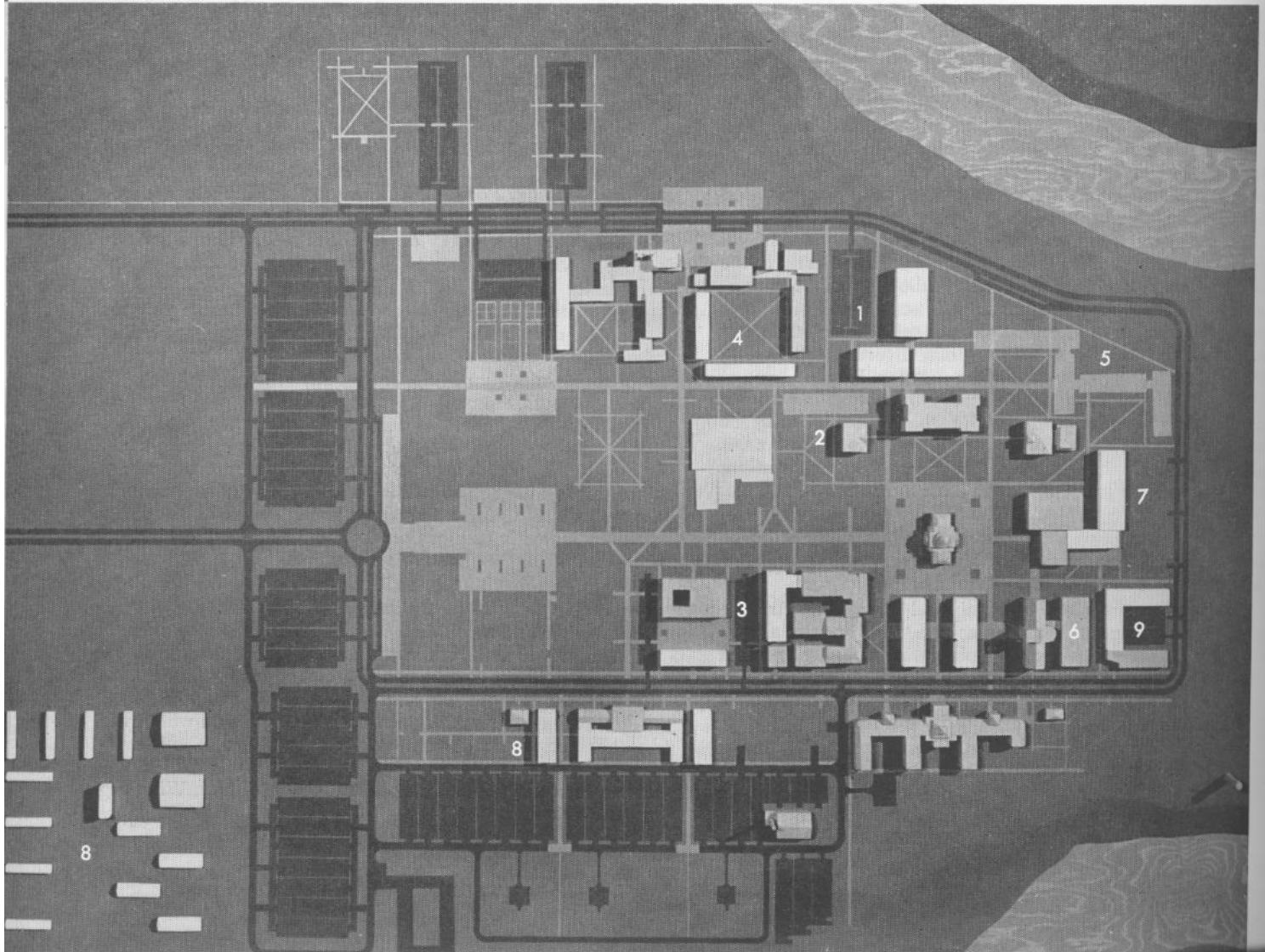
Master plan shows diagrammatic indication of future siting. Exact building dispositions must obviously be determined by future policy and architects, but the essence of the master plan is the pedestrian spine connecting two major plazas. The east plaza is the zone of humanities and social sciences, while the west plaza is the zone of technical and professional courses as well as a social centre. (Convocation Hall, etc.)

Academic activities are inside the ring road, introverted to the main pedestrian mall and squares, as well as a series of courts, cross-walks and quadrangles. Residential colleges are outside the ring road, extroverted to the beautiful natural features of the Red River and an adjoining golf course.

*Right, bottom:*

Close up view of dormitories overlooking the banks of the Red River. The existing Administration Building is seen beyond, in the centre of a main plaza.

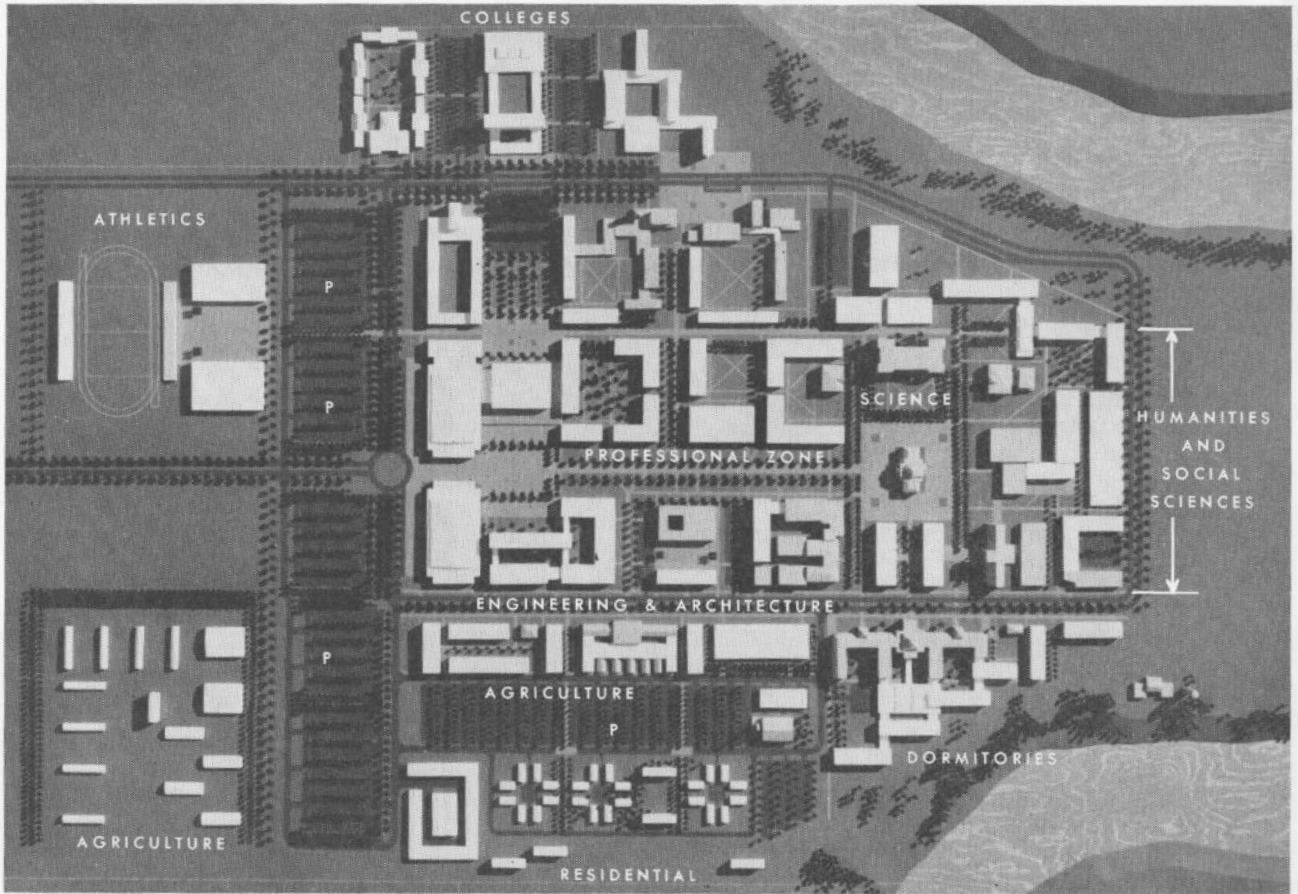
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