

WVU DESIGN GUIDELINES & CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

DIVISION 32 – EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

SECTION 321000 – Design Philosophy

WVU would like to achieve a certain level of visual unity and consistency throughout the campus as new development and renovations occur. In this document the architect will find many things to consider while designing the assigned project.

One of the main concerns focuses on the overall visual appearance of the campus. Unity may be achieved by relating the materials used in exterior improvements with those used in the surrounding buildings and spaces. For example, a more classic style of architecture is prevalent on the downtown campus with many historic buildings, while most buildings on the Evansdale campus are more contemporary in style. WVU encourages the architect to consider these patterns in new development to attain visual unity between new buildings, existing buildings, and surrounding campus spaces.

This same principle applies to the selection of types of materials for pavement, signage, site furnishings, lighting, etc. For example, repeating the same paving materials and paving patterns creates a uniform cohesive visual appearance. This is not only visually appealing but helps to provide a sense of place and a feeling of continuity for campus visitors.

Plant materials can also play a role in achieving visual unity throughout the WVU campus. Selecting certain types of plant materials that meet WVU standards and using those in repetitive patterns can be extremely effective in unifying otherwise unrelated elements. Factors to be considered when selecting plants include size, form, texture, and color as well as growth requirements. Maintenance requirements are also a primary consideration because of limitations to the maintenance budget.

“Way finding”, the ability of visitors, students, and staff to easily find their way around, is another goal for WVU. Clear easily understood circulation patterns are important. Safety is an issue as well, with vehicular and pedestrian movement separated as much as possible.

The design of exterior improvements should also consider maintenance issues and potential for vandalism. WVU prefers durable, maintenance-friendly features due to the high usage and expansive nature of the campus grounds that require maintenance.

These guidelines are intended to assist the architect to succeed in integrating new elements into the existing campus structure. As part of the design process, it is important to consider the existing character of materials and elements to achieve a unified visual appearance.

END OF SECTION 321000