

III LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE III

University of Missouri Lowry Mall Columbia, Missouri

Lowry Mall

Client: University of Missouri

Landscape Architect:
Austin Tao & Associates, Inc.

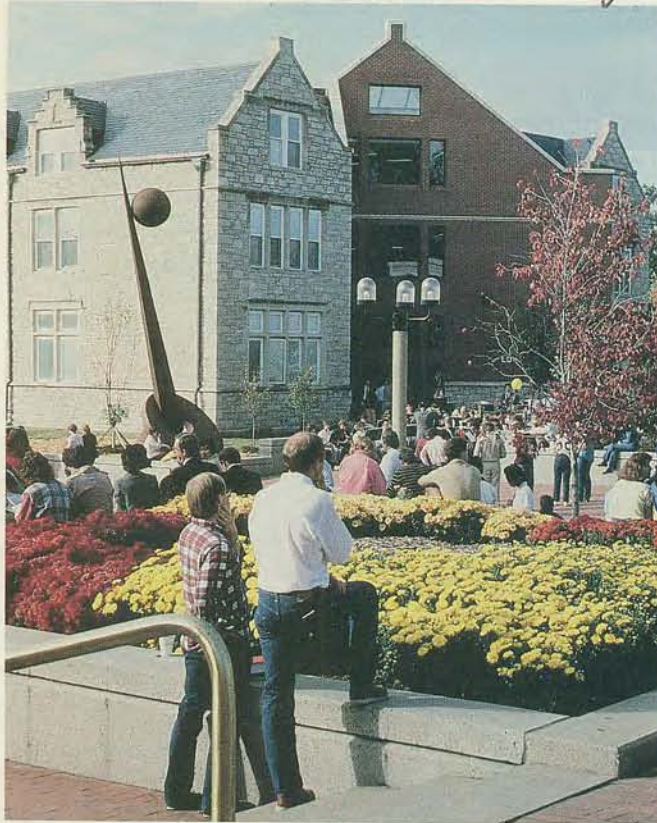
Design Team: Austin Tao, ASLA
Rick Kacenski, ASLA

Planning Consultants:
CHNMB Associates

Area: 53,600 sq ft

Total Cost: \$517,800

Completion Date: October, 1984



Lowry Mall is the central gathering and pedestrian plaza situated at the heart of the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. The mall was built over an existing block-long street. The campus administration sought to change this street into a dynamic pedestrian mall befitting the center of campus.

At the initial planning stage, the landscape architects conducted a series of four workshops on campus. Approximately 45 participants represented faculty and student groups, university officials, city departments and owners of adjacent property. The workshops developed and reviewed concepts addressing the university's needs. The workshops were also a means of involving the interested groups on campus.

Lowry Mall is located between the Student Union and the white limestone Science campus to the east and the Administration Building and the red brick Engineering campus to the west. The materials for the project were chosen to symbolize the mall as a transition and unifying space, tying together the "red" and "white" campuses. The mall is paved in red brick while the walls, curbs, steps and accent elements are sandblasted concrete.

The mall consists of a large central gathering area with more intimate terrace areas adjoining it. The edges are defined by low walls that provide ample informal seating. A combination of ramps and steps are used for grade changes, providing barrier-free access throughout the mall, while delineating the level changes and terraces. The mall contains stage areas for outdoor performances, planting areas, sculpture and a fountain.

The mall was designed to be built in four distinct phases over a four-year period to meet the university's budget program and minimize disruption of the normal use of the area. Most of the construction occurred during summer sessions. Each phase of the mall was designed to function within its partially completed setting, as well as become a unified statement upon full completion. It has become the outdoor hub of the campus.



Red brick paving and sandblasted concrete visually link brick and limestone buildings.

