V. DESIGN CONCEPTS AND SPATIAL DIAGRAMS

The following design concepts and spatial diagrams were developed in collaboration with the UH School of Law Building Committee with input from faculty, staff, and students. The spatial diagrams and renderings in this report illustrate program areas, program distribution, and desired adjacencies on a conceptual level and represent the architectural team’s interpretation of the program, user needs, and functional requirements at this stage. They are intended to serve as a guideline for the building design, are subject to modification, and will change based on continuing discussions with the School of Law, project stakeholders, and design team members.

The Building Excellence Project encompasses both the existing law school classroom/office building (West Wing) and law library (East Wing) in addition to the outdoor space between the two buildings that serves as a major pedestrian corridor connecting the parking structure to the “Legacy Path” and the campus north of Dole Street. One of the major objectives of the project is to create a state-of-the-art School of Law by integrating library and academic functions. The conceptual design attempts to connect the two buildings and integrate teaching, research, administration, community, program, and student functions.

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Preserving Open Space, Pedestrian Corridors, Gateways, and Precious Landscape Resources

During the planning process, Group 70 consulted with the Mānoa Landscape Advisory Committee and Mānoa Facilities Management Office to obtain input. Their valuable input (detailed in Section XI) informed the analysis of this section.

The design should preserve and enhance the “pedestrian spine” that extends from the quarry parking structure, between the School of Law buildings, and connects to the Legacy Pathway across Dole Street. This is one of the most important and major pedestrian entrances to campus, and visual sight lines from the parking deck across the School of Law courtyard to the Legacy Pathway are an important aspect of this gateway’s function. The design should also accommodate heavy pedestrian traffic (present and projected) between the parking structure and Dole Street and preserve the large existing canopy trees in the courtyard between the East and West Wings. The design should try, through program re-distribution or modification if necessary, to maintain the current useful width of the pedestrian pathway. Furthermore, during the design process, the distance between the buildings should be studied to determine the minimum distance allowable between the buildings so as to not negatively impact the pedestrian experience or sense of openness.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) recognizes that the landscape of the Mānoa Campus functions as a “unifying element, as a green matrix in which buildings of various eras coexist congenially.” The project should enhance this feature, particularly along Dole Street and University Avenue, which have impressive monkey pod trees. During design, the building footprints should not extend mauka of their current footprint in order to maintain the existing Dole Street setback and preserve the canopy trees along Dole Street, with the exception of the area at the existing planter where there is a potential for building expansion. The Tree Protection Priority Diagram on page 16 depicts the trees that should be preserved. The proposed conceptual landscape plans also show additional canopy trees planted along Dole Street where possible to enhance the continuity of trees along Dole Street in accord with the LRDP.

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The Library, Legal Studies Commons, and Café

The first floor of the East Wing of the School of Law will include:

- A two-story atrium called the Legal Studies Commons, a flexible space for casual meetings, study, and community events. The atrium will feature a curved staircase and an “eco-wall,” which will be a physical expression of the School of Law’s commitment to sustainable design and Hawaiian sense of place.
- A totally renovated library will extend beyond library walls into the common areas and will include an inviting, flexible reading room, prioritized collections, and collaborative study rooms.
- A café and dining area for the School of Law and university communities.

The library will be modernized, placing less emphasis on traditional book stacks and increased emphasis on library users and modern technology services. The library print collection will be streamlined, located in three separate areas, and accessible but enclosed, providing better environmental control and anticipating 24/7 access.

A Rare Book Room will showcase historic legal documents in secure displays and cabinets and will serve as a formal reception area and meeting room.

The Library circulation area will be redefined and include an “information commons” for reference assistance to faculty, students, the bar, and the public using print or electronic resources.

A variety of seating and table options will be provided, including carrels for quiet study, comfortable seating, and collaborative learning rooms. The collaborative learning rooms, which may be used for study, group projects or meeting spaces, will be transparent, filled with natural light, and have modern technology. A skylight from the second floor will bring natural light down into the center of the reading room. The east end of the library will contain librarian offices, the Hawai‘i and Asia/Pacific collections, a compact shelving area, a mailroom, technical services offices and workspace, and a break room for librarians and staff. The library and reading room will open into the Legal Studies Commons, extending the library into the law school community space.
The library will provide a flexible, inviting reading room containing a variety of seating and table options including carrels for quiet study, comfortable seating, and collaborative learning rooms. The collaborative learning rooms, glimpsed on the right side of the rendering above, may be used for study, group projects, or meeting spaces, and will be transparent, filled with natural light, and have views. A skylight from the second floor will bring natural light down into the center of the reading room through a glass “lightrium” that can be naturally ventilated from above and may also contain plants and casual seating.
A Rare Book Room will house historic documents in secure displays and cabinets and will serve as a formal reception area and meeting room.
Student Areas, Law Technology Center, Writing Center, Moot Court Room, Classrooms, and Program Suites

The second floor of the East Wing will contain student spaces, including a student lounge, offices for student organizations and law journals, lockers, and showers. The Writing Center and the Law Technology Center will be adjacent to the student areas.

The new Moot Court Room/Conference Center will provide dignified space for state and federal courts holding oral arguments at the School of Law. This room will also serve as a moot court room for the students, a large classroom, and a conference center. Two medium classrooms, one small classroom, eight seminar rooms, and offices for the Jurist in Residence Program and visiting scholars will also be located on this floor.

Suites for School of Law Programs  The ‘Ulu Lehua Social Justice Program, the Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, the Environmental Law Program, and the International and Asia/Pacific Programs will be planned in a synergistic cluster of suites that surround a roof garden on the east end of this floor. These program suites will include faculty offices and shared multi-function spaces, conference rooms, file storage, and kitchenette.
The moot court room expresses the dignity of the legal profession with the motif of kukui, symbolizing the Native Hawaiian value of enlightenment.
The renovated West Wing of the School of Law will continue to house faculty offices, classrooms, seminar rooms, and administrative offices.

In extending the 'Ewa entry of the building, a more dignified and welcoming entrance will be created for the School of Law, especially for distinguished guests and visitors to the clinic suites. These clinics provide services to the community and often are visited by clients and private attorneys. A majority of these clinics will likely be located on the new second floor, with the Elder Law and Immigration Clinic on the ground floor, giving their visitors comfortable and direct access from the parking lots.

The 'Ewa entry corridor should be widened, opening directly onto the Courtyard. The Courtyard will be improved to provide better casual study and meeting spaces. The existing Native Hawaiian plants will be re-incorporated into a design that showcases their value and integrates them into a comfortable outdoor setting. Tall concrete planters will be replaced by lower elements, opening up views across the courtyard, increasing security, and providing a more pleasant entry experience.

On the east end of the building, an addition will feature a superior entrance and increase administrative space. A new staircase will link upper and lower administrative offices. The design will emphasize glass walls, allowing maximum natural light and views.

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The area between the West and East Wings of the School of Law will be re-landscaped as a welcoming and inviting place for walking, meeting, contemplation, and dining. The outdoor space will create and enhance synergies between the two buildings and reinforce the School of Law as a destination and gateway for the whole campus. The connector bridge shown in this rendering is currently under consideration.
The new `ewa entry will provide welcoming, dignified, and easy access to the School of Law, especially for visitors to the new clinic suites. It will also serve as the main entry for distinguished guests and dignitaries.