Architecture Breadth

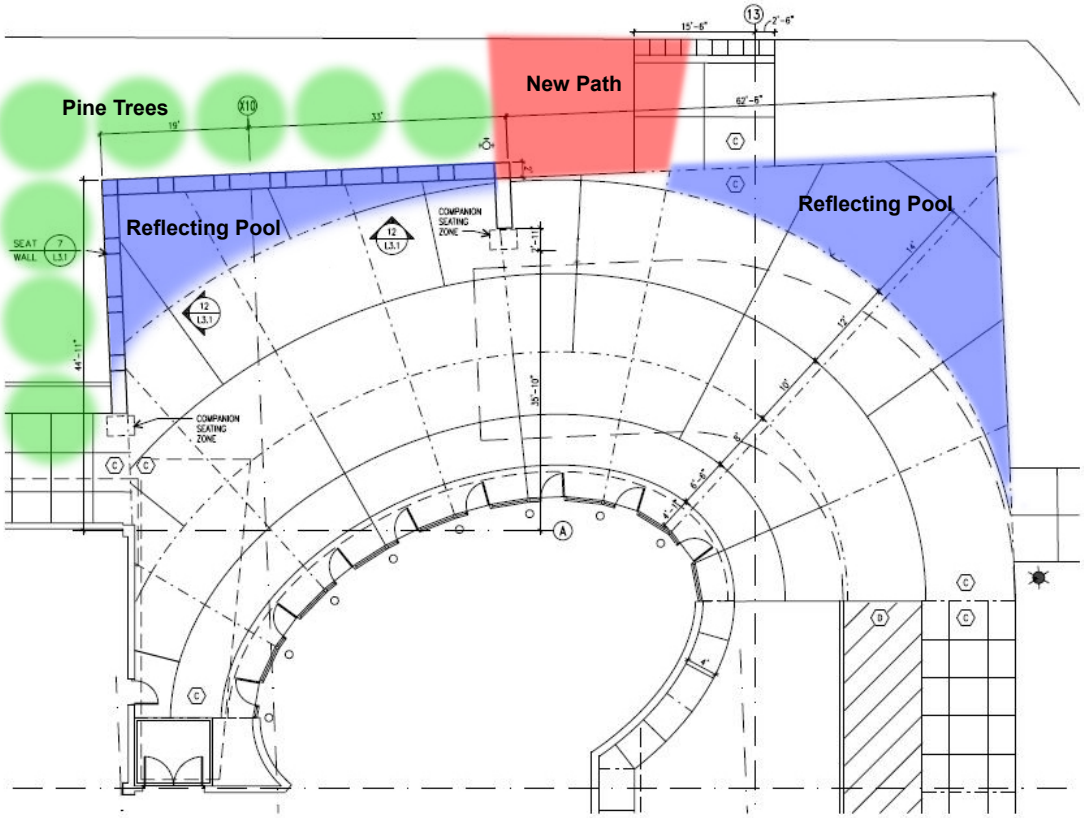
Introduction

Combined with the weather of Santa Barbara, California, the North East Plaza is envisioned as a place for people to socialize. However, the architectural form of this space can lend itself better to this ideal if it was improved. If one considers the piazzas of old, the North East Plaza will lend itself better to the ideals of a gathering space if it was more contained.

Implementation

In addition to providing an aesthetically pleasing environment for people to socialize in, the schematic development of this design will also incorporate the use of water as a means to enhance the spatial dynamics of this space. Water is ephemeral. It is ever changing and can simultaneously calm and animate.

The design proposed shall include the placement of two reflection pools, each of which wraps around the corners of the pre-existing space. Like the lighting schemes proposed for this space and the adjacent Multipurpose Room, the shape of the two pools shall be governed by the elliptical patterns on the ground. The schematic plan of this arrangement is shown below:



Schematic Layout (NTS)

The shape of the pools is governed by the existing elliptical nature of this plaza. Inorder to conform to the overall uniformity of this design, the existing path location on the North side of this plaza shall also be moved to the location shown above. The boundaries of this path shall be a direct extension of the elliptical pattern on the floor

The overall height of the concrete reflecting pools shall be 1'-9" and the reservoir shall be offset approximately 1'-6" into the interior to provide general seating along the perimeter.

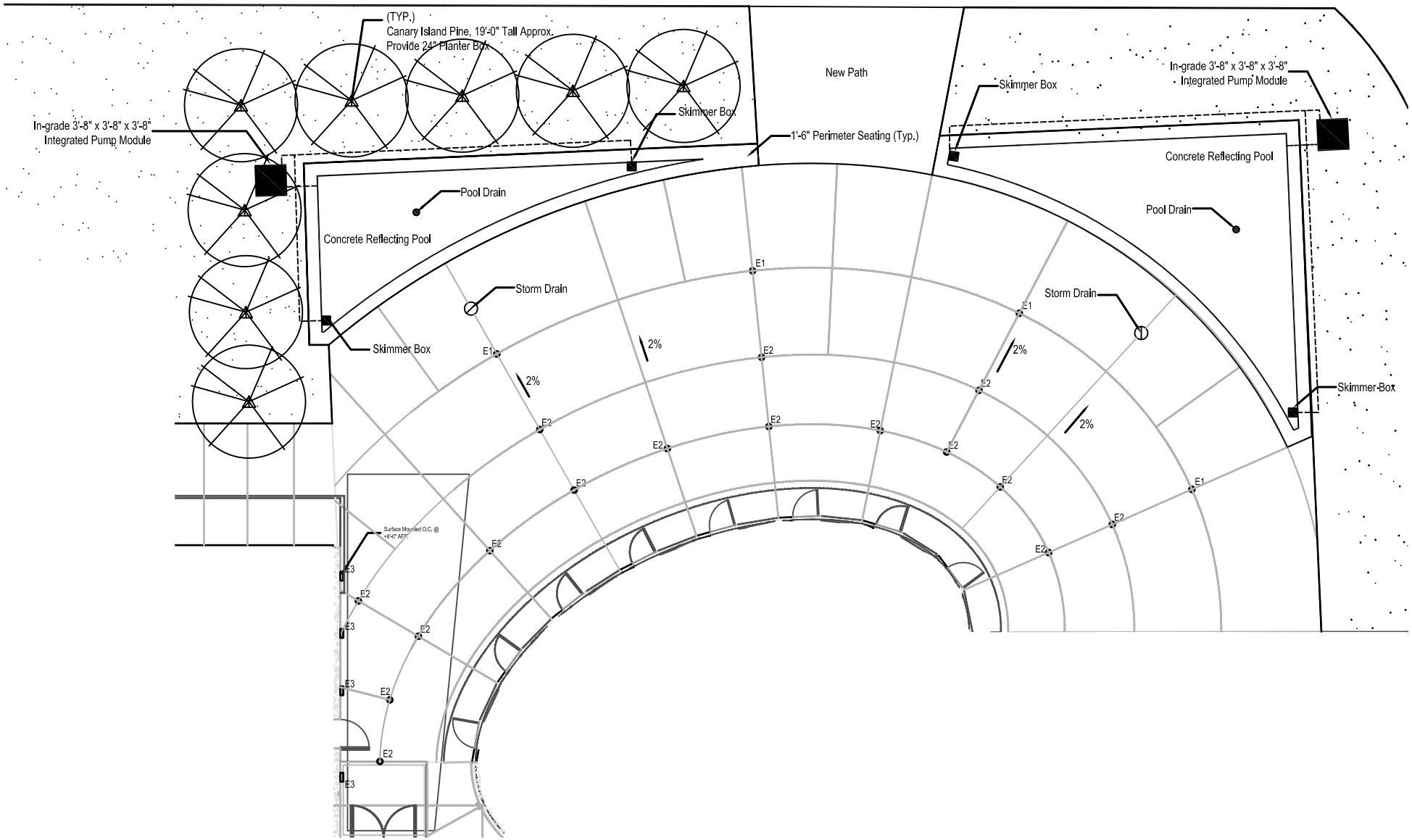
In addition to the water features that have been implemented, a line of pine trees approximately 19'-0" tall will line the outside perimeter of the fountain. The purpose of this is two-fold: to enhance the feeling of enclosure in this space and to block the view of the proposed parking deck structure that will be located to the North of this building on the opposite side of the road.

Reflecting Pool Mechanics

Two separate self-contained modular pump stations by "Hobbs Architectural Fountains" (Appendix F) shall be placed in vaults indicated in the following plan. Housed inside a corrosion-proof, water resistant vault contains all the necessary mechanical and electrical equipment required. In addition to these items, the following are included as well: a non-woven polyester cartridge element, a water level control manifold to regulate the quantity of water in the pool, and an automatic sump pump to remove excess discharge. A landscape hatch also comes with each module to allow for maintenance access.

In consideration of the nature of these two water features as well as the relatively small head height of less than 6ft, a small 1/3 horsepower centrifugal pump shall be used to supply water to the pools. Nominal water capacity for reservoirs in the left and right reflecting pools are 194.25 ft^3 (1453 gal) 222.25 ft^3 (1663 gal) respectively.

Leak resistant penetrations are located in specific locations through the shell wall to allow all the necessary pipes and conduits to run from the vault. These would include: the pipe branched from the main water line that runs in close proximity to this plaza that would supply water to the pools via the vault assembly, discharge piping to remove excess water collected at the bottom of the vault back to the nearby storm drain network, pipe from the skimmer boxes in the pool and conduit to provide power to the required equipment. As this assembly operates on 120 V, the panel shall be fed from panelboard L1Bb which is located in storage room 1113 on the ground floor in the North East corner of this building. The existing breaker on this panelboard is already significantly oversized and therefore will not need to be adjusted to accommodate for the increase in electrical load associated with the implementation of these two reflecting pools. Drains have also been located at the bottom of the pools should there be a need to remove all the water as well as skimmer boxes to collect any debris that may collect there.



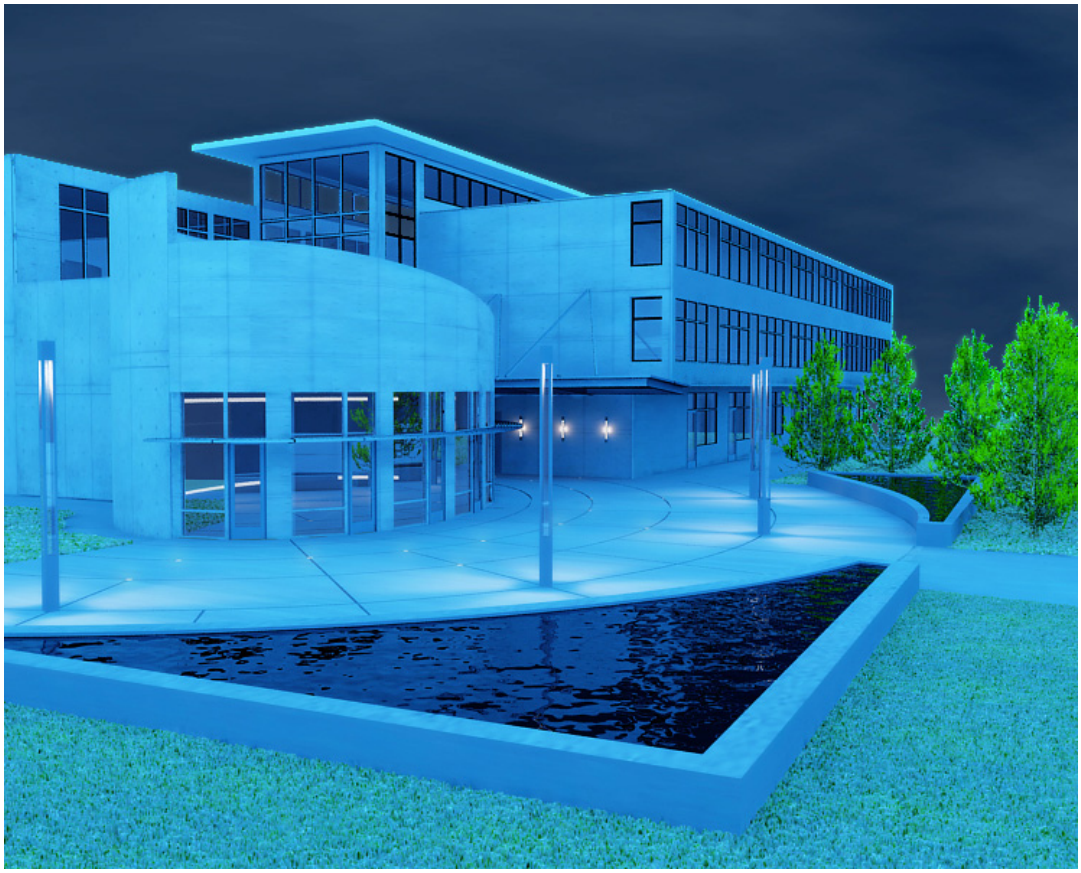
UCSB Student Resource Building

NE Plaza - Schematic Landscape Plan

Scale: $\frac{1}{16}$" - 1'-0"

Render: Before

Render: After



Render: Night

Evaluation

Like the public spaces of old, a plaza is a place that not only allows people to convene and socialize, but to also provide an environment for people to exchange ideas. This is inline with the ideals and principles behind a University and as such, the newly designed NE plaza has achieved these goals by providing a more comfortable environment for such activities to take place.

Combined with the elliptical form of the adjacent Multipurpose Room, the form of the reflecting pools has made the unique shape of this space more defined. In addition, the water element has enhanced the sense of tranquility and calm. Though it is a reflecting pool, a gentle breeze will create ripples on its surface, adding an extra layer of dynamics to this space. The use of Pine trees has added to the sense of vertical enclosure and their arrangement creates a semi-permeable visual boundary to the surrounding areas. Pine trees were only used on one side of this space to maintain a sense of visual prospect from the plaza to the rest of campus.

The form of this newly arranged plaza lends itself well to the proposed lighting scheme for this space as discussed in the lighting depth. As such the two paired together will provide an aesthetically pleasing environment for people to socialize from dawn to dusk.