BUILDING D.U.

UNIVERSITY of DENVER
1980’s:

The University of Denver is selling land and many of its facilities need tending – such as the former Alumni Gym.

1992:

A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW ATHLETIC CENTER

“Beautiful, but it could be in Winnipeg or Miami”
Our University has ridden the boom & bust cycles of our WILD WEST frontier city.

Each boom brings a new vision for a “FORWARD” looking Architectural expression

and the intention to overwhelm the prior Architectural statements.
Romanesque ... Richardsonian ... Rauschlaubian?

Look west ... and to the Roman Republic

1890 (36 acres)
1909 (36 ACRES)

Spanish Baroque-d... pioneer-ing colonial?
1920’s
Chancellor BUCHTEL & the City Beautiful
“OLD MAIN” IS A VICTORIAN PILE OF RUBBLE?

1930 (~90 ACRES +/-)
“Denver University and Yale University have the same number of students. The fundamental difference between the two institutions, however, is that Yale University has its buildings – Denver University does not.

…

Denver University, despite its 83 years of existence, is still living in a prairie schooner on the open plains. The covered wagon days are not yet over for it.”

Carl Feiss, Director of Planning, February 1947
post WWII expedient
1950's form follows function
therefore as long as the function is the same, then the form can be used anywhere?
1960s “INTERNATIONAL” by Perkins & Will
early 70's: HOK'ed
A moat of parking
so many grand re-visions …

LEARNING FROM LAS VEGAS

Each new architectural vision is intended to overwhelm the previous.
Or…
DU STARTED WITH 36 ACRES ... MINUS 9 IN THE 1903

RICE STARTED WITH OVER 250, STANFORD STARTED WITH MANY THOUSANDS
Our choice was based on the premise that too much was already built to expect success in overwhelming it with a new style. Our work focused on making what was already here — better.
Set the standard - Olin
Place a large building - The Ritchie Center
Insert a building between historic icons - Daniels College of Business

♦

patience ... enduring ... longevity

Chair of Building & Grounds Committee
Chancellors
“Program Owners”
Vice Chancellor Business & Financial Affairs
University Architect
Director of Facilities Management
Romance, it will add longevity to the buildings.
A FEW STONE BUILDINGS...
SCALE, TEXTURE, COMPLIMENT, CONNECT
We have built 21 New buildings & 5 Parking structures, Demolished 11 buildings, renovated & Crafted additions to another 9.
Lesson #1

• PICK A COLOR
Lesson #2

• Use the **COLOR**

... a lot!
Lesson #3

• Tend the GREENS
Over 350 light poles & acres of brick walks
Lesson #4

• Make sure it is CLEAR when you are on the campus

Brick walks ... & fire-lanes
Some of the smallest projects have the most profound impact.
Lesson # 5
• Mindful of the TIMES
Lesson # 6

• Have fun

40,000 PANSIES
Con-texting
NEXT

FIELD EXPANSION
DFR SECS + KC
SIE COMPLEX

Considering
Driscoll Renovation
DANIEL FELIX RITCHIE SCHOOL of ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE + KNOEBEL CENTER
Robert Coombe
Daniel Ritchie
Joy Burns
Pat Livingston
Craig Woody
Jeff Bemelen
William C. Campbell
Keith M. Conner
Jane M. Loefgren
Margie Soo Hoo Lee
Anderson Mason Dale
Andrews & Anderson
Atkin, Olshin, Schade
Azur Ground
Bennett Wagner & Grody
Centerbrook
Civitas
David Owen Tryba Architects
Davis Partnership
5 Design
Gensler
H+L Architecture
OdeLL Architects
RNL
Root Rosenman
Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbot
SlatterPaull

G. Cabell Childress, IV, FAIA
1932 - 2006