2022 Winner
Place Research

The Campus Landscape As Laboratory: Experiential Learning, Research, Outreach, and Stewardship
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This project documents the transformation of an outdoor courtyard at Hunt Hall on the University of California, Davis campus through the systematic, repeated involvement of landscape architecture students and faculty, along with staff at UC Davis’ Campus Planning and Grounds, as well as local contractors, irrigation specialists, and horticulturalists. Photographs documenting phased landscape improvements, starting in 2013 to the present, clearly convey the scope of the project and its detailed progress each year. While constructing a project of their own design, students use the campus itself as an educational tool, gaining hands-on experience in assembly, installation, project management, and, perhaps more important, in sustainability, community engagement, research processes, and stewardship.

Findings reaffirmed previously explored pedagogical benefits and introduced novel ones, including experiencing design as an iterative process, understanding real-world applicability, developing an understanding and respect for construction and maintenance factors, and building a sense of pride and ownership. The project is extremely well presented and serves as a model showing how collaborative research, design, and implementation bridge strong connections between academia and the “real-world.”
Welcome to the Landscape Lab
GATEway Garden

This courtyard serves as a living laboratory for UC Davis students, connecting classroom learning, practical application, and community outreach.

Student Leadership and Innovation

Undergraduate students and faculty in sustainability leadership and environmental science courses utilize the Landscape Lab as a hands-on, real-world classroom. Student-led research, design, and implementation of projects in the student-run garden advance the use of sustainable practices on campus.

An Opportunity for UC Davis Students
A gateway to UC Davis, the campus, and the world beyond, the garden is a site for intellectual and social development. It provides an opportunity for students to engage with the local community and the environment, fostering a sense of place and responsibility.