

EMU: Students research ways to navigate building

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Interior architecture student Heather Wilson, whose design was chosen as one of the four best, said she was inspired knowing her plans might be implemented.

"The challenge was to come up with designs that incorporated the history and heritage of the building," Wilson said. "It's a thrill [to have been chosen]." Her design includes recovering the original furniture and adding large wood panels that depict 12 mountains in Oregon.

"We wanted it designed so that if you were last here in the 1950s, you'd still know it was the same place," Miller said.

Linda Zimmer, director of the interior architecture program, said her position on the design committee for EMU remodeling, as well as coaxing from EMU director Dusty Miller, led her to use her class.

"It seemed logical to use the project as a basis for student design projects, and I think [the student's work] helped get people excited about the remodeling," she said.

Zimmer is also supervising students who are researching the ways people get through the EMU and designing signs to make it easier to navigate.

"Everybody knows what a confusing

building it is," she said, explaining the projects would save additional money in design fees. "A design firm would not do a sign study — it would be too expensive and they wouldn't have been able to take the time."

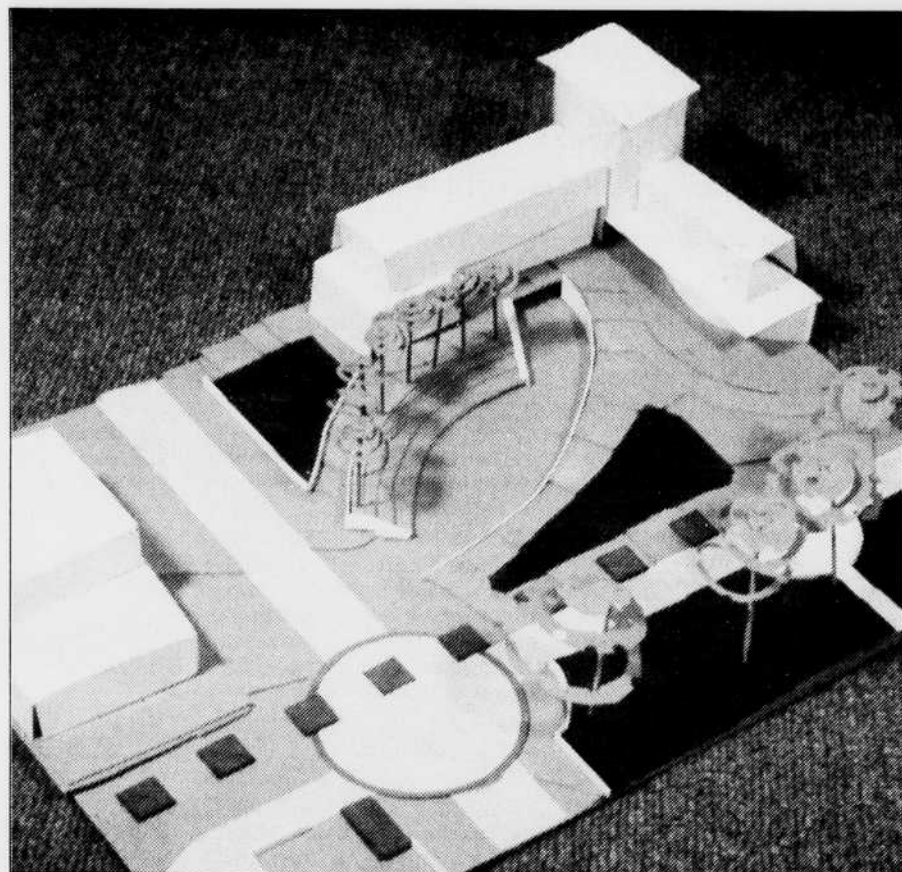
Karen Luks, an architecture student working on the project, called the EMU "a horrible, horrendous building to figure out." She said proposals include directional and identification signs, as well as touch-screen computer terminals and electronic signs. But she calls the electronic proposals "only a pipe dream" for now. Directional and identification signs should be installed by Aug. 1.

"It's such a good opportunity for us to see the process of design and construction," she said.

Next spring, more of Jones' students will get a chance to participate by helping plan the courtyard's plants and irrigation systems and then installing them in May. Students will pick out trees and lay piping along with United Pipe of Eugene.

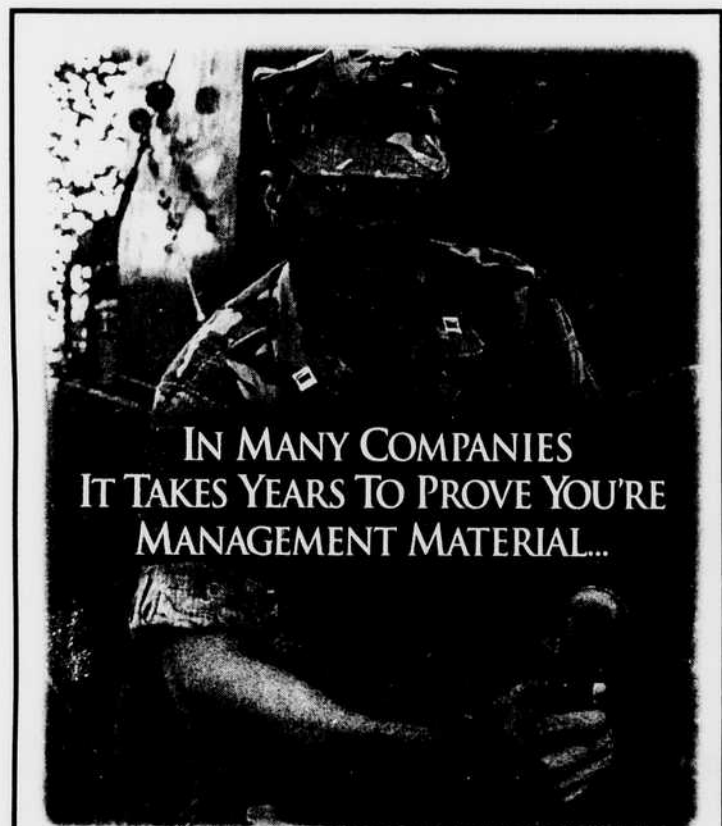
Jones said chances like this are rare at universities.

"What the campus needed — and what it's getting — is a first-class urban space," he said. "The extent to which students get involved in design and construction like this is uncommon."



COURTESY PHOTO

Christine Roe, a landscape architecture major, had elements of her design (shown above) integrated into the EMU's new courtyard and amphitheater.



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