

Huron's nice, right? Here's how it could be spectacular

by Fraser Page

I'm not sure if you've seen any of Huron's recruitment brochures recently. They're a bit of a trip. All these shots of students in our nicest halls chatting with profs, books in hand, or sitting on the grass, chatting, in front of the nicest parts of our buildings.

Like most things that look idyllic it's a fairy-tale. You don't see many people hanging out in our halls — they're usually on the way somewhere. And you especially don't see people hanging out in the halls they show. There are more people in this picture than I have ever seen in that hall at once — and not for lack of being in that hall to witness such a happening.

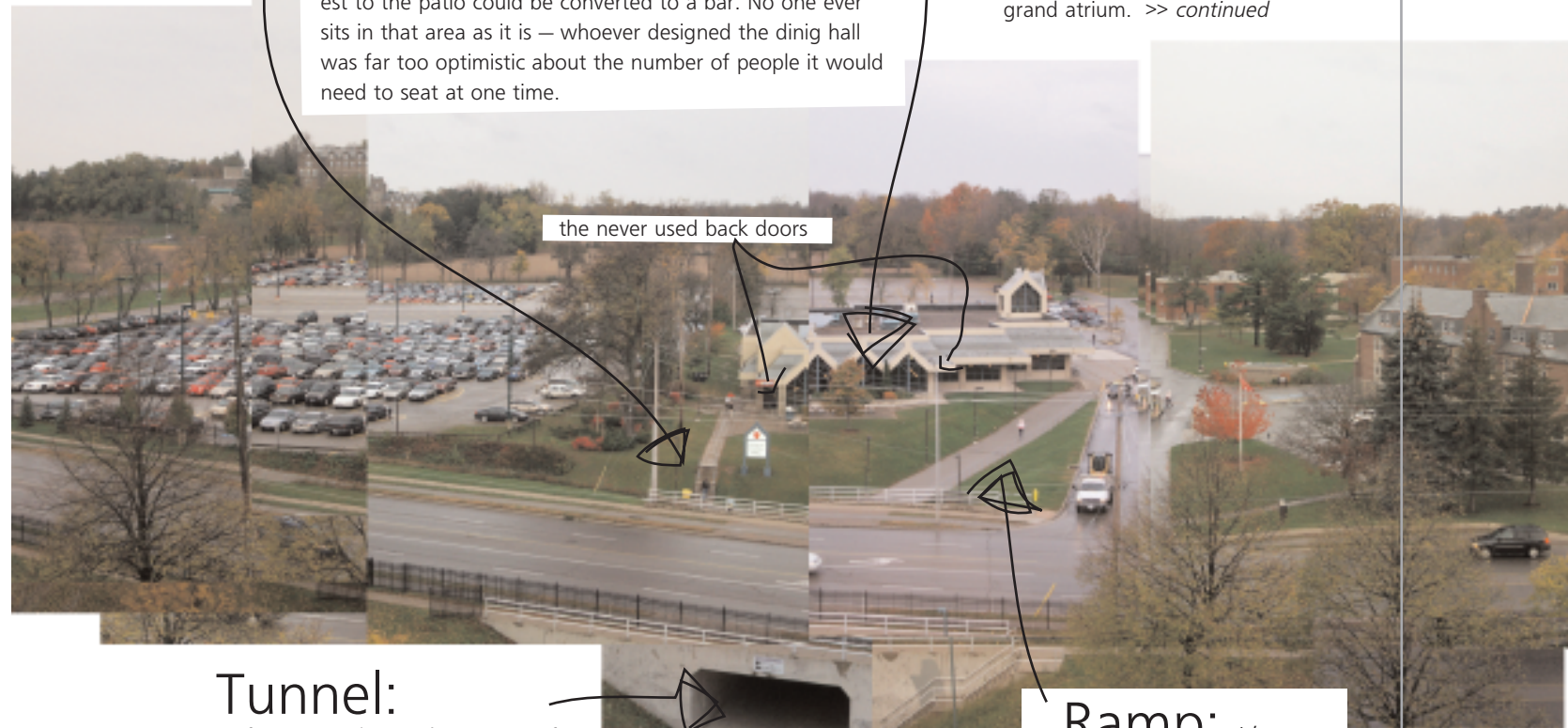
But the shots of people hanging around on the grass are what got me thinking. It looks really, really nice. They're all taken at the front of the school — the old part of Huron that faces Western road. No one actually hangs around there because,

although it looks like the front of the school, it's effectively a back door, and a pretty inaccessible one at that. You have to walk around O'Neil-Ridley, through the guest parking lot, to get there — not that you'd ever need to

take such a route. It's faster, and more obvious to walk through one of the main doors if you're planning on going pretty much anywhere other than the chapel.

But the main doors aren't as pretty. They're okay right up near them, and sure, people hang out (and sometimes even sit on the grass!) around the main hub, but on the way there you have to pass through what I'm increasingly beginning to think of as tragically miss-purposed space.

Most of us walk this route all the time. Here it is, here's what's wrong with it, and here's what we should do to fix it.



Dining hall patio:

No one ever sits out here. A big part of the problem is that it's terribly inaccessible. You either have to walk up these stairs here or out one of the back doors to the food-court.

Big glass doors right here would really help make it more inviting. Terracing the hill and adding more inviting steps could help make it more of a focal point.

If Ontario ever wakes up and lowers the drinking age to match that of incoming students, this could be a great competitor to the Spoke. The section of the dining hall closest to the patio could be converted to a bar. No one ever sits in that area as it is — whoever designed the dining hall was far too optimistic about the number of people it would need to seat at one time.

Tunnel:

As far as tunnels go, it's pretty par for the course. Changing it is far from a priority, though it would be nice to see some fresh chalk graffiti every once and a while. It would be awesome if we made it into an ever-changing art piece. We'd give the space to a different artist every month and they could do what they want with it. As Huron's door to main campus, it ought to look pretty.

Ramp:

It's a ramp. A ramp's a ramp, right? We could turn it into big steps but there doesn't seem to be much point in that. We could improve on the area around it, however. Lining it with trees would really warm things up. They'd provide shade and shelter from the wind. In a hundred years they'd grow tall enough to touch at the top and make a tunnel.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (2006-2007)

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| <p>November 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huron's Fall Open House — come out and visit us! <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earliest date that offers of admission, scholarships and residence will be extended to current Ontario high school students who have achieved exceptional academic records. <p>February 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for National Scholarship applications. <p>March 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huron's March Break Open House. <p>March/April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huron begins to make early offers of admission. <p>April - May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers of admission, scholarship, and residence continue to be extended to current Ontario high school students. Applicant Receptions held throughout Ontario. | <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Transition/Registration sessions for first-year course registration begin. <p>May 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest date by which secondary school students shall expect responses from Huron. <p>May 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earliest deadline for responding to an offer of admission from Huron. <p>May 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residence application and deposit are due. <p>June - July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition/Registration sessions continue. <p>September 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move-in day for students living in residence. Orientation work begins. <p>September 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of classes. |
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