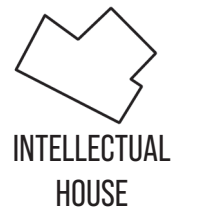


UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON INTELLECTUAL HOUSE



Location: Seattle, Washington
Architect: Jones & Jones
Completed: 2015
Size: 8,400 square feet
Client: University of Washington



For More Information:

<http://www.jonesandjones.com/portfolio/cultures/>
<http://www.washington.edu/omad/2012/02/13/design-and-construction-for-uw-intellectual-house-begins/>

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Impacting the Future

For Native American students, particularly those who grew up on reservations, arriving on a college campus can be alienating. Statistically, the retention and graduation rates for AI/AN students is significantly lower than of those of other student groups. Intellectual House is here to address the needs of the whole person. To accomplish this, Intellectual House facilitates a multi-service learning and gathering opportunity for American Indian and Alaska Native students, faculty and staff coming from various cultures and communities. Here, all can come together into a welcoming environment to share knowledge and prepare students to take leadership roles in their tribal communities and the region.

Central to the design is a large, flexible gathering space in which activities can be planned organically and accommodated effectively. Here, Tribal Elders and community members can gather together, be served traditional foods from a large kitchen, suitable also for teaching about Native foods and medicine. The facility also provides smaller meeting rooms, for more intimate gatherings, and an outdoor area with a fire pit where salmon can be cooked in the traditional way.

“I don’t want people to walk by and think, ‘That’s where the Indians go, I want it to be, ‘That’s our longhouse.’ That’s what I want to hear.”
- Ross Braine, Intellectual House Director



Design & Program Goals

- Support students' ability to **remain involved in their home tribes and communities** through social and academic programs
- **Visibility among tribal communities**; be recognized as a place committed to Native students
- Create a **sense of place** by incorporating building methods and traditional forms of the Northwest
- **Facilitate cultural practice** such as giving medicine and traditional cooking.



Planning groups included: The Intellectual House Advisory Committee, the Intellectual House Elders Committee, and Intellectual House Working Committee consisting of faculty, tribal officials, and numerous other representatives from departments related to Native American studies and health.



The committee members identified the main services and needs including academic support, tribal relations, indigenous foods and medicines, ceremonial spaces, local Indigenous art.



The project was estimated to be 6 million dollars for the first phase. State funds of \$3 million were matched with \$2.8 million from UM, \$100,000 from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, \$91,000 from the Yakima nation and donations from 12 other tribal nations.



The structure is built using traditional building methods and materials of the Northwest. The building is LEED Sliver. Outdoor spaces contain native vegetation and gardens for traditional plants and foods.



Location + Context

The Intellectual house is located in the heart of the UW campus. It is accessed from the main roadways that extend throughout the campus. The facility is visible, accessible and easy to commute to, having its own dedicated parking lot, a drop off zone for Elders, and other parking options nearby. The main exterior gathering area for the UW students, aligns with the Quad, UM's central space comparable to the UArizona's mall. The UW student union is located almost south and this proximity helps to expose the facility to all students. The orientation of the building is to the northwest, following the rhythm and orientation of the rest of the campus buildings that surround it.



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Cultural Connection

The materials of a place have the power to trigger inspiration, comfort, productivity and much more. Since this space is for cultural affiliation, sustainability, and social interaction, it is important that the materials are parallel to these concepts. The interior finish of the building is constructed of Glu-lam (Glue Laminated wooden beams), particle board ceilings, natural wood ornaments, round wooden posts, and a wooden floor board. The structure incorporates historical building methods of the Northwest, which to the visitor feels familiar, recognizable, imparts identity and place. The longhouse form also has traditional roots, and applied in this context, the layout can accommodate a variety of activities and functions.

The Outdoor Connection

Outdoor connection is critical to the design of cultural space to honor the phenomena of natural life. The gardens represent the different areas of the Northwestern forests. There are two traditional gardens at the main entrance of the property, next to the gathering circle. This landscape shelters the Longhouse from the busy university life, while still providing proximity to the campus. Near the meadow areas, the second phase or addition to the Longhouse is to take place. This will create an interesting opportunity for an expanded outdoor central gathering space, another common theme in Indigenous culture. The longhouse itself has large doors that can be opened up allowing for seamless flow of people and activity between the indoor and outdoor space. The interior is primarily wood, connecting it to the forest and bringing warmth to the interior.

