

1-1-1990

Description and sketches

Pioneer Courthouse Square Design Committee

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PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE

In the summer of 1980, the late Will Martin, then architect with the firm of Martin/Soderstrom/Matteson, won the National Design Competition for Pioneer Courthouse Square. The design for the Square embodied many urban and architectural design features which lead to its selection.

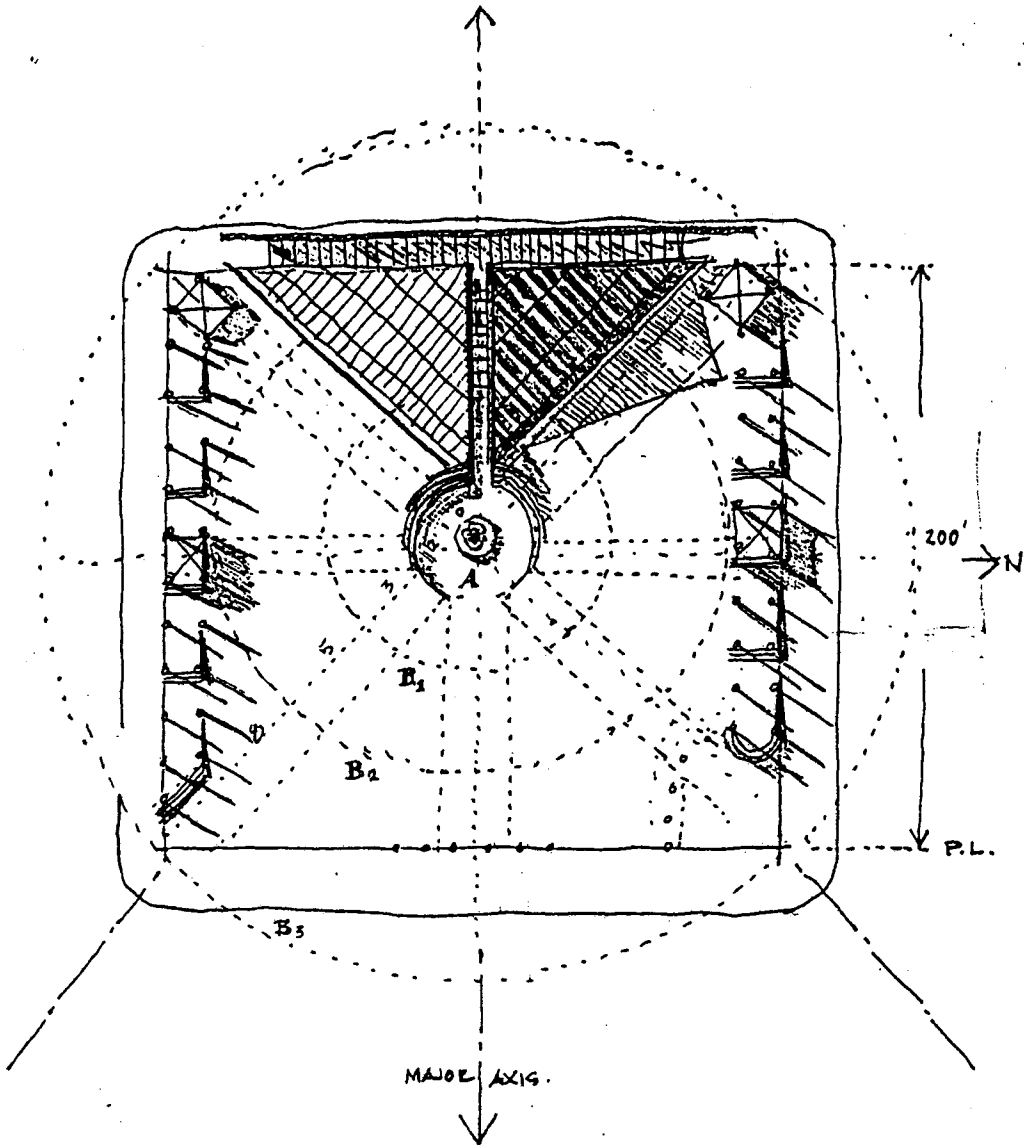
Construction of the Square was completed in the spring of 1984. At the dedication ceremony, Will called Pioneer Courthouse Square "Portland's Downtown Living Room." There are many design features which not only enhance the Square as a place to come, relax, or see an event but, also, which support Portland's streets and transit system.

- . Light rail transit stops are incorporated on Yamhill and Morrison Streets.
- . The Square can be entered from all four surrounding sidewalks.
- . The circular stramp (stair/ramp) provides handicapped access from the upper Square to the lower Square.
- . Seating for events, or just relaxing, is provided with benches along Broadway, seating walls along Fifth Avenue, the small amphitheater, and the circular stair on either side of the stramp.
- . A permanent restaurant is located at Broadway and Morrison.
- . The lower Square is used for large performances and a speaker's podium is located over the water cascade.
- . Trimet ticket office is located on the lower level of the Square, accessed via the arch opening below the water cascade.

In addition to Pioneer Courthouse Square's urban design features, it also contains many interesting architectural elements.

- . Over 50,000 brick pavers with names imprinted on them pave the lower plaza. These bricks were part of a public funding campaign to raise money for construction of the Square.
- . Bronze plaques denote particular architectural elements for which money was donated specifically for their construction.
- . The octagonal tile placed in the floor of the Pavilion Restaurant is the original tile taken from the lobby of the Portland Hotel which once stood on the site now occupied by Pioneer Courthouse Square.
- . One of the original wrought iron entry gates from the Portland Hotel sits atop the seating wall along Fifth Avenue.
- . The Square's building materials, brick, bronze, and terracotta, were selected for their durability and longevity.
- . The water cascade and the pergola water trough bring the sound and delight of water to the Square.
- . Plant and animal reliefs adorn the Square's columns: the yellow rose and the ladybug on the stoa columns, and snail shell and sunflower on the pergola columns.
- . Bronze tile depicting the history of Portland and the region, were designed and constructed by Gail Martin, Will Martin's wife.
- . An inlaid glazed tile map of the Square covers the floor of the speaker's podium.
- . A fallen stoa column along Morrison Street.

Explore, relax, and enjoy "Portland's Living Room"!



A. The point of source: unity - or
(the symbol) The rose - city of
oregon, of the U.S.A. of the world.

B₁ Domain one

B₂ Domain two.

B₃. Domain Three - the space
domain of the city.
The process of departure -
externalizing from the
inner circle.

Pioneer Square Study
WLM. 4/21/80.

The symbol of the minimal
needs of consciousness
(I.E. - knower, known, and act
of knowing)

expanding domains by the
Fibonacci system or logarithm
spiral

THE SQUARE: EARTH/MATERIALITY
THE TRIANGLE: HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS
THE CIRCLE: HEAVEN

