

Duck Pond

Architect	Garrett Eckbo & Guy Robert “Bob” Johns
Date of Construction	1976
Name Origin	Colloquialism for the pond at the center of this landscape.
Primary Materials	Water feature, concrete walks, earthen beams with grass, trees and shrubs.



Figure 16: Duck Pond, 2006

Historical Significance

The Duck Pond is located between Ash Mall on the west, Dane Smith Hall on the north, Zimmerman Library grounds on the east, and Mitchell Hall on the south (Figure 16). It was designed by Garrett Eckbo and completed in 1976. Prior to the creation of this landscape feature, Yale Boulevard extended onto the site and culminated in a parking lot that served the library and an office building, Yatoka Hall—built in 1928 as a dormitory—and a temporary World War II-era wooden building. Ironically, the “Duck” Pond was not originally constructed to accommodate ducks, however, shortly after the pond was constructed people began dropping off unwanted ducks – possibly given as Easter presents. Spatially, the Duck Pond area is a continuation of the western portion of Ash Mall.

Garrett Eckbo and Bob John’s implementation of the Warnecke plan developed a pastoral, modernist landscape characterized by undulating hills, seemingly randomly placed trees, a pond with a small water fall, spraying fountain, and foot bridge at a neck of the pond. Paths are laid out to connect important destinations and the hills serve to entice pedestrians to stay on the paths. Through the years, public art pieces have been added to the setting.

The Duck Pond is the focus of the oasis setting that the University offers to students and the public. Benches in the shade and grassy hills provide places to read, visit with friends, and relax. The island in the pond and some of the areas protected by shrubbery provide nesting spots for ducks (Figure 17).



Figure 17: Landscape Plan of Duck Pond

Source: Will Moses, 2006

Character Defining Features

- Open space extension of the western portion of Ash Mall and Zimmerman Library grounds
- Gently rolling, low hills that surround most of the pond and provide a view of the water and wildlife from a slightly raised position
- Curved, paved paths connecting major circulation paths
- The density and general location of shade trees
- Pond, waterfall, and fountain
- Public art
- Bridge
- Retaining walls that define planting areas and walks
- The alumni-donated clock

Important Views of this Setting

- Approach from mall to the south between Mitchell and Ortega Halls
- Approaches from West Ash Mall and Zimmerman Grounds
- View from Dane Smith Hall and Yale Boulevard