

MERIT AWARD

Towers | Golde LLC New Haven

Fairfield University — Residential Quadrangle Revitalization Fairfield

In a recently completed landscape master plan outlining the long-term vision for Fairfield University's physical environment, the most immediate need was identified as the Residential Quadrangle, a large open space enclosed by a cluster of undergraduate dormitories. The goal was to create a welcoming, accessible space that promotes physical activity and supports living and learning.

The existing quadrangle cried out for a solution that provided a unique sense of place. One of the five dormitories creating the quadrangle was partially hidden from the main space by a low ridge. The design needed to treat this isolated dormitory as a part of the space. Better visual continuity between the quadrangle and the core campus was also a major goal.



- Landscape Architect:** Robert Golde, ASLA
- Project Manager:** Wesley Wazni, Sr. Associate
- Client/Owner:** Fairfield University
- Civil Engineer:** The Huntington Group
- MEP Engineering:** Kohler Ronan LLC
- Landscape Contractor:** Stonehedge
- Site Work Contractor:** Midstate Development
- Precast Supplier:** Coreslab Structures
- Irrigation:** Winterberry Irrigation

The new design created a cohesive gathering space that served to draw students together. The central feature is a circular promenade surrounding a dome-shaped turf mound. This serves as a collecting node, gathering virtually all of the pedestrian walkways in the quadrangle and

then pinwheeling them off in their intended directions. The formal geometry of the mound is broken by the Undergraduate Walk, a new, generously proportioned path that slices through the central space, linking the quad to the core campus. A wide seat wall flanks this walk as it cuts through the mound, providing an attractive gathering

space for students. This simple, elegant solution to a common campus problem has been well-received by students, faculty, administrators and prospective students alike.

The jury complemented the design on the dramatic change from before and after and the vastly improved user experience.

