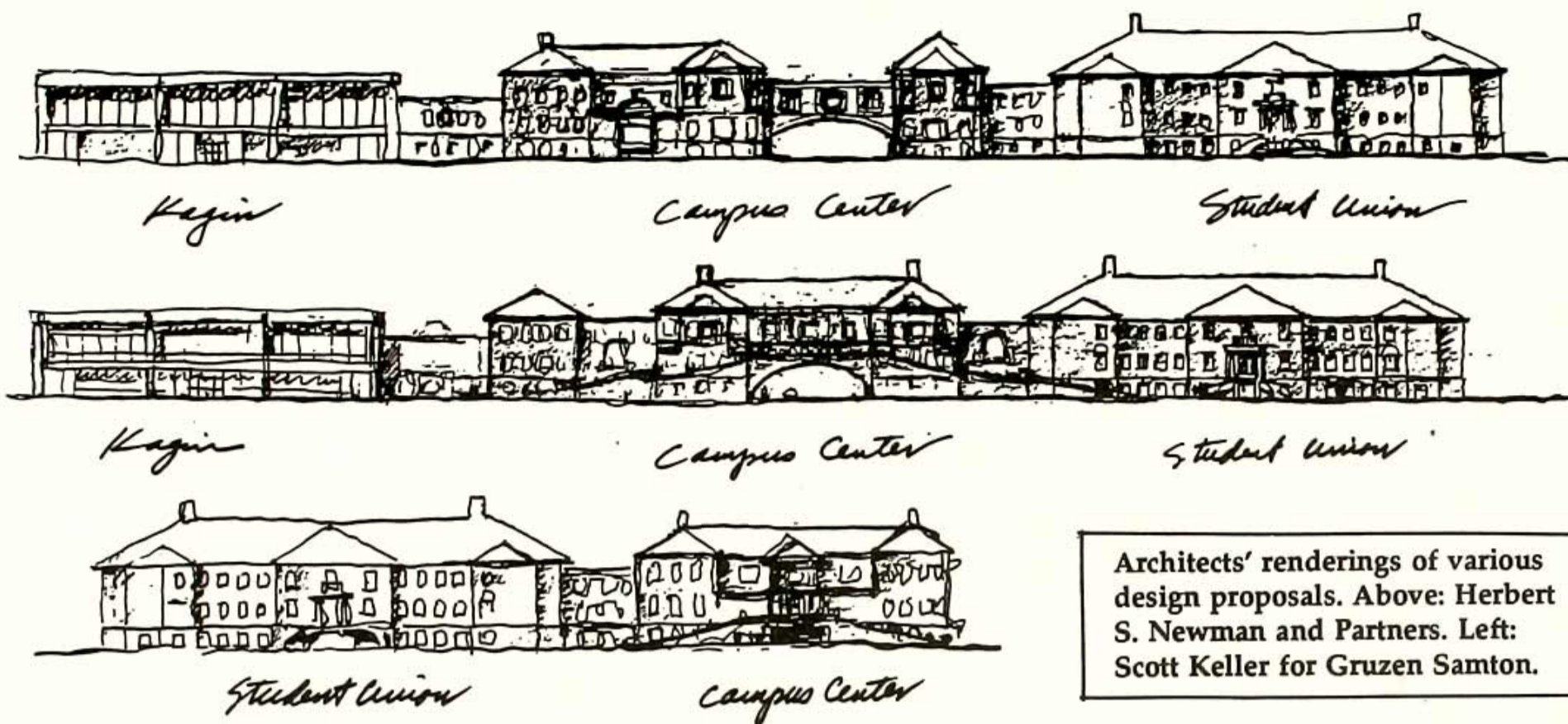


# Preliminary design concepts for Campus Center

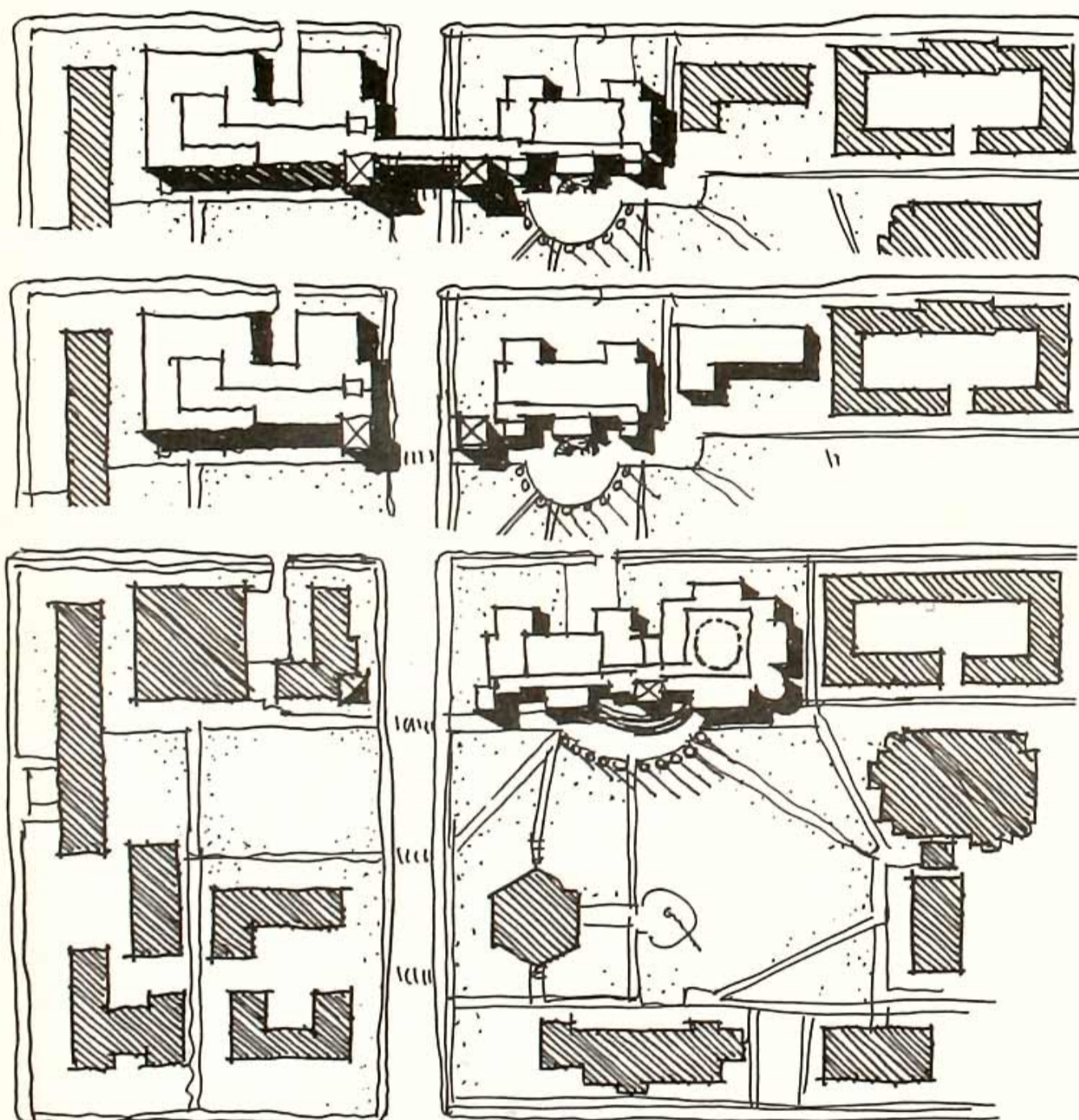
Although no firm could be expected to come in with a finished design, an architect's pitch without at least some preliminary sketches or models is hardly an architect's pitch at all. Well aware of that dictum, both teams presented several preliminary designs, based on their initial contact with Macalester. Some of these designs are reprinted here; however, both architects wished to stress that these are only early, conceptual explorations, and the finished center may not resemble them at all.

Both Dean of Students Ed DeCarbo and Charles Sellers expressed disappointment that both Newman's and Gruzen Samton's ideas were so similar.

"While they both came up with some really good ideas, they could have been more radical in their approach," Sellers said.



Architects' renderings of various design proposals. Above: Herbert S. Newman and Partners. Left: Scott Keller for Gruzen Samton.



## Skyway

Both firms included at least one option that included a skyway over Grand Avenue. One of the Newman designs called for putting the entire building across Grand, with a passageway underneath for traffic to pass through.

"The idea of having a building stretched over Grand is exciting," said student Tom Seltz. "It conserves quite a bit of space, but it also communicates a lot to the community about Macalester. It marks our territory. It depends on the architecture, but if it's done well, it will not be a dominating building which says 'we're taking over this street.'"

However, DeCarbo did not know if the skyway was a possibility.

"I'm told that there are two major difficulties with the skyway," he said. "One of them is access to lower Grand Avenue. The other one is city ordinances and zoning concerns. Not having spoken to either the city or businesses, I don't know what their reaction would be. But if it turns out that [the skyway] is really the best design, then we'll invest the energy it takes to do that."

Both firms noted that as one goes down Grand into the campus, there are no real signs of a campus entrance.

Proposals to better define the campus boundary included the skyway idea and matching structures on either side of Grand Avenue.

## Kagin Connection

All designs that placed the Campus Center on the current site of Winton Health Services called for a link to Kagin. One of Keller's most popular designs included putting a new facade on Kagin. This approach has the twin benefits of making space wasted in the overhang usable, and making Kagin somewhat aesthetically compatible with the new center.

## Demolish Dayton

Another option called for removing Dayton, putting the new Campus Center in its place, and building a new dorm where Winton Health Services currently stands. This puts the Center in the middle of campus, and provides the possibility of incorporating the current Union into the new Center.

Less extreme options could include linking Dayton to the Union, and using the expanded space for additional facilities and offices.

# Campus Center: Architects hope for community involvement in design process

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This project has the potential for embodying those aspirations in the building itself. I think it'll be a wonderful challenge to see how we work with the Macalester community."

Two students who attended the Keller's presentation, Amanda Torres and Rolando Rosas, agreed that Macalester sorely needs an architectural identity.

"It looks like a big boarding school," Rosas said.

Torres concurred: "There should be something to symbolize what we stand for. You can preach diversity all you want, but if you don't have anything showing it...the student body doesn't show it well; the buildings should. We're like a scared little campus; we should be proud of what we are, and our buildings should show it."

Torres also expressed frustration at the level of student attendance at the forum. "I think half the campus — more than half the campus — should be here. Granted, a lot of people didn't know, but I'm totally disappointed. I saw barely any students here.

Maybe the nature of Macalester students doesn't constitute getting involved in administrative ideas. But I think this is so important...there's a huge first year class; they'll be here for this to be completed. Where are they?"

## Design Schedule

DeCarbo hopes to finalize the plans as soon as possible.

"It would be nice if they could come tomorrow," he said. "The sooner the better; we need to work out contractual arrangements, but my guess would be sooner rather than later.

"Depending on what the program is as we really flesh it out, I could see possibly beginning some of the renovation [of existing buildings] this summer," DeCarbo continued. "I think that it would be highly unlikely that we would break ground for a new building this coming summer."

## Design Process

At the presentation, Keller stressed the role that

campus input would have on the design process.

"Our approach is a very interactive approach," he said. "We sit down, we start to camp out, and we invite lots of people in to talk with us. This lets us come up with ideas and consider problems we haven't thought of. It's a very open planning process."

Susan Drew said the approach is two-pronged.

"We ask 'What do we need?' and 'What do we have and how well does it work?' We want to address Macalester's mission both symbolically and practically."

Robert Gottshaw, representing Herbert S. Newman and Partners, also said that their designs would be driven by Macalester's goals, but Sellers reports that the Architect Selection Committee was more convinced of Keller's and Drew's ability to integrate input from Macalester into the design process.

"I think one big reason Scott and Susan were selected came down to the question, 'Who's going to use this student center, and are they going to be comfortable in it?' and these seemed to be issues that they addressed more than Newman did."