

Statement on Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters Campus

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South of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Weyerhaeuser World Headquarters sits on a 260-acre site. Sasaki, Walker and Associates, together with the architect Edward C. Bassett of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, helped the corporation assemble the 460-acre site, which was designed to hold some 1,000 employees. With commanding views of a lake on one side and a wet meadow on the other, the design of the landscape has been instrumental in the perception of the Weyerhaeuser Headquarters as an iconic building in a landscape, recognized with a Twenty-Five Year Award by the American Institute of Architects and the Classic Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1998. It has captured the imagination in the manner in which the building is integrated with the landscape. Viewed from inside the building, the expansive terraced office space appears to flow seamlessly through walls of glass to the larger landscape beyond. On the north, the building forms the lake by damming a shallow creek and diverting its limited outflow to a channel running underneath the building. On the south, the wet meadow of wildflowers and native grasses provides seasonal variety in an otherwise evergreen setting of second-growth Douglass fir and red alder. These existing stands were selectively cut back to give the structure visibility from two distant freeways, leaving a naturalistic edge to the site. The design contrasts the formalism of the ivy-covered terraces and the perpendicular sycamore allées with the open water and meadow views with the enhanced woods beyond.