

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Campus Facilities Planning Committee
Agenda Item Description Form

- 1. ITEM:** Meditation Pond Enhancement
- 2. REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:** College of Architecture
- 3. CONTACT NAMES & PHONE NUMBERS:** Theron Mathis, x3-9609
- 4. PRESENTER:** Theron Mathis (FP&C)
- 5. RECOMMENDATION/
ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval

6. SUMMARY:

In early 2008, the CFPC committee considered and improved a site architectural project, the “Grotto”, adjacent to a man-made pond in the Arts and Architecture precinct.

The Grotto and its signature steel sculpture based on a design by noted theoretician, artist, and architect Frederick Kiesler was reinterpreted and constructed in an Advanced Architectural Studio. The spot has been a very popular nature space but certain operational deficiencies and aesthetic opportunities have been identified that will change the current appearance.

The pond was constructed to rely on a mechanical filtering system. Its sponsors would now like to establish the Koi Pond as an environmentally self-sufficient body of water using bogs as a “natural” means of filtration and beauty. This is a short-term project.

The long-term goal is to enhance the Grotto/Pond site into a more park-like setting and a shining example of the best of “enhanced” natural design. Features of the redeveloped site would include:

- Creation of a berm between the pond and the parking lot to help frame and buffer the park area.
- Enhancements to the existing sculpture.
- Adding butterfly garden, plant materials, and trees that will create a peaceful oasis.
- Providing seating areas, including handicapped accessible seating areas, that encourage reflection and contemplation.

- Integration of water run-off from the Keeland Building's green roof into the pond
- All plant materials, irrigation methods, and pest control will be designed in accordance with sustainable principles.

Funding has not been arranged but is anticipated to be a combination of Plant Operations Ground funds and donor funds.

7. PROPOSED START DATE: Upon approval and Funding

8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Design drawings and Renderings

- ACCESSIBILITY
- SUSTAINABILITY
- LIGHTING









