The Pyramid is one many public spaces that are part of the university. It is situated at the western end of the Quadrangle, the central public space on campus, along the length of the MacLaurin Building. It is one of two elements of a landscape composed of grassy mounds in a U configuration, each mound framed by wood timbers and surrounded by mature trees. Designed as a meeting place, the pyramid is part of the most direct route to walk between nearby buildings.

Historic significance
The space is a good example of the direction of North American campus design in the 1960s, where public spaces played an important role, that of creating places for members of the university community to meet and exchange ideas. Contrary to the way in which most of the other public spaces on campus were conceived - in conjunction with buildings - the Pyramid and its environs were built just before the construction of the MacLaurin Building (formerly the Education and Arts Building).

Certain events have taken place in the space regularly since its construction. In its early years, the Ziggurat formed the base of a temporary stage for convocations. Then, for a period of more than fifteen years, the University held a ceremony there each year as part of the annual convocation.

The space does, however, respond to the building as the place where the social sciences are taught by encouraging students to put into practice what they have learned in meeting people in public spaces.

The Pyramid, University of Victoria campus
of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada (December 6th), instituted in 1991 following the massacre at the École Polytechnique de Montréal. This ceremony was moved in 2009 to the site of the University Fountain, also known as the Petch Fountain.

Architectural and landscape significance

Originally, this space was conceived as the mate to one at the other end of the Quadrangle, then a sunken grassy terrace and now the site of the University Fountain, the work of landscape architect Don Vaughn. Defined by a concrete surface and a band of red brick, the truncated pyramid with its concrete base dominates the western end of the Quadrangle. Its proportions and the area of paving around it are well balanced. The red brick is typical of the materials commonly used in landscape design of the period. This brick is found in other places on the campus, notably surrounding the planting beds in the courtyard of the MacLaurin Building and in the 1963 Centennial Square Fountain in downtown Victoria. Generally in good condition, the materials of the pyramid and its site are original, including the plants. The benches at its base were, however, added in the 1980s in an effort to deter skateboarders. At about the same time, the lamp standards and benches on the periphery of the pyramid were replaced.

The pyramid is a very good example of public spaces of this era where geometric forms in hard surface materials were predominant, attributable perhaps to the emerging implication of landscape architects in the design of large urban spaces. Conceived as a meeting space and as an agora, the pyramid works very well as such because of its elevated platform and its surrounds which have been the site of events since its construction. In addition to providing a meeting space, it offers other ways and means of occupying the space—either sitting on the grass in the shade or sitting on the Pyramid itself and looking at the view of the whole extent of the Quadrangle. It is a good example of the design of public spaces specifically intended for meetings and conversation. Other similar sunken agoras are to be found on other university campuses such as the University of California, Riverside and Foothill College at Los Altos, California.
The Pyramid, University of Victoria campus, British Columbia

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