Mark Andrews

Private, non-profit, coeducational
Founded 1821, 500 acre campus
1849 Students
8:1 ratio of Students to Faculty
98% on-campus

PAYETTE

Michael Hinchcliffe
Sara Gewurz

Single Office Since 1932
170+ Person Studio
Fusion of Design + Performance
National Leaders in Sustainability
2019 AIA Architecture Firm of the Year
FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING FOR TOMORROW’S STUDENTS
AGENDA

Defining Space and Use

Take a closer look
• Boston College
• Lafayette College
• Bates College

Focus: Amherst College
• College Goals
• 6 months of occupancy

Moderated discussion
• facility impacts on social dynamics
• challenges of furniture selection
• metrics for social spaces
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Challenge existing benchmarks for new STEM and interdisciplinary facilities.

- Evaluate the quantity and range of available student study and research spaces.

- Gauge the effectiveness of your existing space types against emerging student needs.

- Find opportunities in existing facilities for small improvements of student research and study spaces.
DEFINING
SPACE AND
USE
TEACHING LABS

50-60 SF/STUDENT
CLASSROOMS

20-30 SF/STUDENT
INFORMAL LEARNING

4-8% OF BUILDING NET
INFORMAL LEARNING
“This is the biggest transformation of the Amherst campus since its founding. It says that we care deeply about science, and it says the same thing about community, about our commitment to sustainability, about our commitment to beauty.”

President of the College
The Science Center defines a community for the sciences
a destination for the entire campus
THE COMMONS
“[The building] will make for lots of chance encounters. Spontaneous conversations about the science will hopefully spark learning and collaboration and more community.”

Amherst College Chemistry Professor
THE COMMONS

Tiered classroom
Intro Teaching Labs
Lecture Hall

North Commons
Library/Q-Center
Main Stair
Living Room
Cafe
Study Terrace
Inner Courtyard
Living Room Cafe
Support teaching, advanced faculty research, various modes of learning and innovative pedagogies.

Emphasize student participation in faculty research.

Celebrate departmental identities that promote science as a collaborative, engaging enterprise.

Promote interactions within the sciences and within the college (student:student / student:faculty / faculty:faculty).

Provide a flexible and adaptable design to accommodate near-term and long-term growth.

Create safe, active and welcoming public space for the Amherst College community to celebrate science.

Respond to environmental challenges with an efficient, responsible project.

Enhance the Amherst Campus with an inspirational and forward-looking design.

Become a 24-hour dynamic destination for all members of the Amherst College community.

Support a range of programs including student study spaces, club activity space, and student life functions.

Provide fully connected display, interaction and event spaces with comfortable seating and access to food and drink.
It is truly where students are all the time and I love it. I think it’s really changed the culture of the place beyond what my own expectations were.”

Amherst College
Psychology Professor
EXPANDED SUPPORT

Math & Stats Consulting

Science Library

Quantitative Skills Center And Tutoring
“The new building’s student offices will enable them to spread out their books, laptops and other things in a safe environment separate from—but adjacent to!—ongoing experiments.”

Amherst College Chemistry Professor
“I think with a lot of the informal spaces, students will be around the business of doing science a lot more than they are now, and it will become a lot less mysterious.

Amherst College Chemistry Professor
10% of non-science courses are taught in the New Science Center.
CONNECTION TO CAMPUS
New facility impacts on social dynamics

Too much transparency?

Furniture selection challenges
Do departmental boundaries create better interdisciplinary exchanges among students?
Does visual transparency increase collaboration by helping extroverts to thrive, or does it expose introverts to increased stress?
What is the right mix between comfort and function?
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C.N. Lewis noted (early 1900's) chemical inertness of noble gases that have eight valence electrons (ns^2np^6) "octet"