

THE PROJECT

Vassar College has engaged in a comprehensive campus planning process. The objective of this initiative has been to develop a plan for the future that addresses programmatic, facility, and campus needs for the next 15 years. The resulting campus plan describes the physical resources that exist, the various needs and issues that the College faces or will face in the future, options for addressing them, and recommendations to consider.

CHALLENGE

It had been more than a decade, actually more like two decades when the previous campus plan was developed. There were a number of smaller studies and plans since then, but campus planning was mostly *ad hoc*. There was little contemporary data available, the facility inventory was incomplete and out of date. No information was available about classroom utilization, nor about how much space the College actually had, how it was being used, and how it compared to its peers.

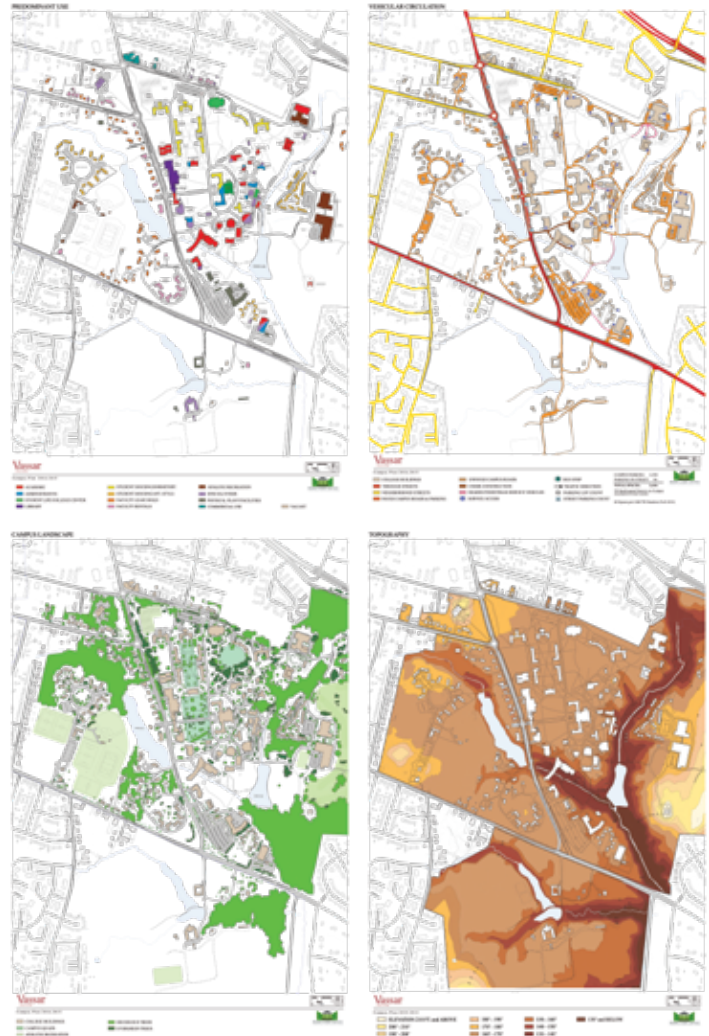
SOLUTION

We rectified the lack of information and completed a detailed analysis. Vassar College has sufficient space to support its mission and does not need to add additional space to its inventory. Unless there is a need for very specialized space, no net increase in space is warranted. The campus plan recommended a number of building renovations, reallocations, and reuse projects.

The key to the plan was deciding how to vacate 95,000 net square feet, renovate, and reuse Main Building—the original, historic, and iconic campus building. To do so will require temporarily relocating 300 students, and 36 administrative departments. Main will be redesigned for academic, administrative, student life departments and resources, and fewer residential students.

Once the plan for Main was finalized, the plans for several other academic, administration, and student life building renovations could be settled.

The Campus plan also recommended relocating Admissions from the present inadequate building and location to a converted residential building at the front door to the campus.



ANALYSIS DRAWINGS: PREDOMINANT USE, VEHICULAR CIRCULATION, CAMPUS LANDSCAPE, TOPOGRAPHY

Another recommendation is to take advantage of the beautiful landscape and move most parking from the center of the campus to the periphery—creating a pedestrian zone in the core of the campus.

RESULTS

Vassar is in the process of planning their development campaign and deciding the sequence for the various projects.

REFERENCE

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