

THE PROJECT

Over a period of two years, the science faculty at Drew University articulated a vision for the future, consistent with the University's mission. The overarching goal was to improve the curriculum, thereby reestablishing Drew's fine reputation in the sciences. Six disciplines are represented: Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Math and Computer Science, Physics, and Psychology. In addition, there are interdisciplinary majors that include Neuroscience, Biochemistry, and Environmental Studies and Sustainability. DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) worked with the University and science faculty to develop a program that described the facilities needed to support the revitalized pedagogy.

CHALLENGE

Science facilities at Drew do not provide the desired laboratory-rich learning environment nor do they promote interdisciplinary collaboration. The main science building, housing 95 percent of the science space, was constructed in the 1960s and does not support the current focus of hands-on, experiential learning. A constraint in expanding and improving science space was a limited budget, which will require optimal sharing of facilities.

SOLUTION

Through a participatory process, guided by comparisons to peer institutions and normative standards, a facility program was developed. DLM created ten concept plans showing combinations of new and renovated space.

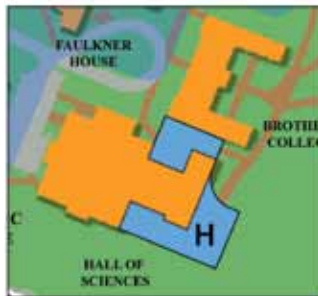
The preferred plan links the existing science building with an existing major academic building and a new facility. The organizing theme is interdisciplinary and flexibility, where teaching and research space is in interdepartmental clusters — not owned by a single department — with the flexibility to allow reconfiguration as teaching and learning methodologies evolve over time.

RESULTS

The University is in the process of raising funds for these improvements.



SITE PHOTOS



CONCEPT PLAN OPTIONS

*Project completed under previous name: Dober, Lidsky, Craig and Associates, Inc.

REFERENCE

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 CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS