

**THE PROJECT**

Lafayette College intends to construct a Life, Earth, and Environmental Sciences building to consolidate three departments — Biology, Computer Science, and Geology — currently located in three separate buildings. In addition, the building will provide space for interdisciplinary programs such as Environmental Science/Studies, Life Science, and outreach for Computer Science.

Lafayette envisions that the building's space and programs will:

- strengthen and enhance student learning opportunities;
- support the Biology, Computer Science, and Geology and Environmental Geosciences Departments and facilitate the realization of the pedagogical and research visions of these departments;
- serve as a hub for the Life, Earth, and Environmental Science and Studies communities;
- provide facilities to support interdisciplinary initiatives of the departments and programs housed in the building; and,
- highlight the history, collections, and achievements of the departments and programs housed in the building.

DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY was asked to help the College define and program this building.

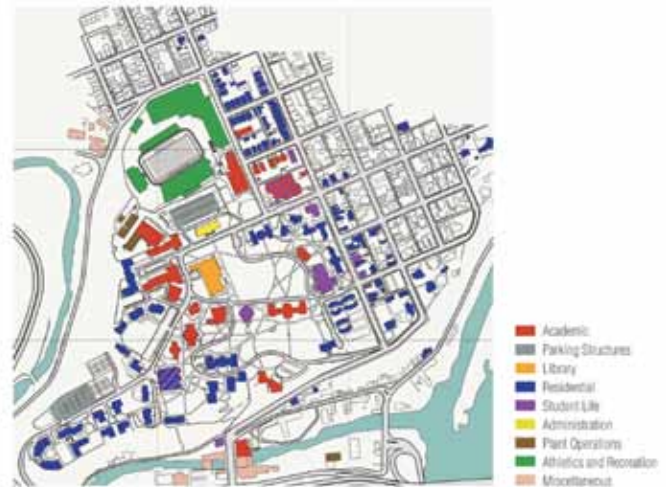
**CHALLENGE**

The Challenge was to help the departments and interdisciplinary programs to think, not as individual disciplines but as a related set of departments with similar goals and needs. The other challenge was defining their programmatic and space needs without having a firm institutional decision about the availability of financial resources.

**SOLUTION**

The site was already established by the recently completed campus plan. The solution was a four month programming process that used the vision statement as a way to structure the definition of need. Four versions of the program were developed as the departments and programs decided how they wanted to teach and do research with their students, the type of shared space that should be included, and compared themselves to peer institutions.

The programmatic need is for 80,600 net square feet, compared to the existing 33,800 nsf. The total space defined in the program brings the departments to slightly more space per faculty than their peer average.



BUILDING USES

**RESULTS**

The project is waiting for a decision to begin the architectural selection process.

**REFERENCE**

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**PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE**

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**DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY**  
CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS