Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College


Location: Hanover, NH

Client: Dartmouth College

Area: 50,000 gsf (renovation); 50,000 gsf (addition)

Construction Cost: $8,733,000

Completion: 1990

Dartmouth’s Thayer School of Engineering is located in a part of the campus dominated by distinguished Georgian Revival brick buildings of the 1920s and 1930s. VSBA faced the task of renovating the existing building while doubling its size with 50,000 sf of new additions that maintained visual harmony and enhanced their setting through analogous architectural vocabulary.

An addition on the front contains a new entry and a monumental meeting room, conforming quite literally to the existing Georgian-style buildings; the new laboratory wing at the back continues the tradition of the generic and generous New England mill building with its even rhythmic bay system evident on its unadorned exterior.

Inside, the rear extension accommodates the classic laboratory system, flexible both spatially and mechanically. This new wing also creates a central meeting place, with walls made from the exterior facade of the old building. This allows a kind of civic space that encourages community interaction as students pass through the building. The new courtyard creates a place of communication that contrasts with the spaces for concentration in the labs, new and old.
The new addition, on the right

Conference room

Study lounge