VSBA

MAIN GROUP MASTER PLAN STUDY, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY


Location: Cambridge, MA

Client: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Area: 1,000,000 sf

Completion: 2003 (Study)

VSBA joined an interdisciplinary team charged with developing a strategic plan to preserve and enhance the neoclassical Main Group Buildings at the heart of MIT’s campus. The complex of 10 interconnected buildings was designed on the inside as flexible loft-like spaces linked by corridors and stairs to promote interaction between academic disciplines. Our study focused on developing concepts for integrating new building systems, enhancing the main public spaces and corridors, and developing design guidelines for departments within the complex. The resulting concepts and strategies form a framework to guide restoration and renovation of the complex over the next 10-15 years.

VSBA was responsible for conceptual design of the primary ground floor corridor as a “main street” widened to accommodate a high volume of traffic and reprogrammed to include more public, interactive uses. VSBA also proposed creation of a “bazaar” of public amenities and activities along the main street beneath the central rotunda, and prepared design guidelines for other building corridors including lighting, signage, and departmental identity.