In 2004, VSBA was asked by Tsinghua University in Beijing to undertake consulting services for campus master planning revisions. We worked with University administrators and the University’s Urban Planning and Design Institute over a five month period to critique current planning thinking embodied in recent studies, and to make suggestions, recommendations, and illustrative concept plans that will enable current master planning concepts to be confirmed or revised.
EXISTING PRECINCTS: MAIN CAMPUS

POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGE: MAIN CAMPUS

SUGGESTED CIRCULATION SYSTEMS HIERARCHY: CAMPUS & LOCAL AREA

LINKAGES
As one of China’s premier institutions of higher education, Tsinghua is in the midst of a program of rapid growth and development with the intention of solidifying its position as a comprehensive, research-oriented, open institution on a world scale. A planning framework for addressing these objectives involved integrating the need for growth with a focus on campus life and activity relationships, and an aim to produce a physical campus of vitality and beauty that will serve the needs and represent the character and culture of Tsinghua’s rich heritage. Of equal importance was the need to develop planning concepts related to the University’s importance in Beijing and the region, and beside neighboring research institutions and a local community in the midst of radical transformations.

We began with analysis, mapping key variables and patterns across campus -- activities, structures, movement systems, and landscapes. Our findings were then carefully synthesized to illuminate problems, opportunities, and issues. We showed broad development options and suggested extension of Tsinghua’s academic, residential, and campus life patterns.

We looked at the area’s transportation systems -- the University’s strategic situation within Beijing, the regional road system, and changing modes of campus transport. We initiated a study of the area south of the Main Building, developing short-term options providing immediate functional and aesthetic benefits but not precluding extensive future development. We also suggested the creation of a major campus life center to help to tie together the four sectors of Tsinghua’s campus.