CAMPUS MASTER PLAN, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Location: Villanova, PA
Client: Villanova University
Area: 254 acres; 6,335 undergraduate students; 3,200 graduate students
Completion: 2008

“From the day I was selected to serve in this role, people have been asking me to share my vision for the university. It is not complicated. I want Villanova to be Villanova...We know what we do well and we must strive to do it better...” -- from Father Peter Donohue’s inauguration speech

“I have initiated the development of a campus master plan to evaluate many aspects of our campus and assess current and future needs for space. The campus master plan will be a roadmap for future construction, renewal, and maintenance.” -- from Father Peter Donohue’s message to the University, April 2007

VSBA was invited to work with Villanova to plan this roadmap. Through our planning, we strove to:

- nurture a beautiful, amenable, and sustainable campus to support the Augustinian ideal of living and studying amongst friends in an atmosphere of hospitality and scholarship -- honoring heritage while supporting aspirations for the present and future
- provide facilities, landscapes, and physical linkages to support Villanova as a residential, co-educational, and multi-cultural institution with a world-wide perspective
- plan for student residential facilities to support Villanovan ideals of community, meet the University’s commitment to housing underclassmen, and house seniors
- plan for academic and cultural facilities -- including a performing arts center and library -- to support student engagement in curricular and co-curricular activities
- increase opportunities for interdisciplinary activities and scholarship, especially inter-college
- plan facilities and landscapes that help attract and retain students, faculty, and staff of the highest caliber
support a safe and amenable pedestrian campus experience -- with campus entrances that are distinctive, clear, and welcoming -- while meeting needs for access, parking, and service.

In our final report, we made recommendations to re-imagine the heart of campus as a center of activity with a strong sense of place. By renovating and expanding buildings around an existing campus landmark – the “Oreo” -- campus community would be supported and recentered. A more lively mix of uses will be complemented with lawns and shady trees. This will help to establish a pedestrian-centered campus core with rejuvenated historic buildings. In addition, by converting large surface parking areas to pedestrian-friendly townscapes anchored by a new performing arts center, we can help to create a new “hamlet of Villanova.”
Sketch of proposed campus improvements, including new buildings & circulation systems