

# (Project Ex) Expansion/ Extension

Analysis, studies and speculations to expand the School of Architecture

## Gerard Damiani

### QUESTION

The Carnegie Mellon University campus is an outcome of the 1904 competition which was won by Palmer and Hornbostel. Their proposal emphasized outdoor space making by way of quadrangles and courts. The plan, over its twenty years of development, was periodically revised but one building, the College of Fine Arts, remained as the central feature of the campus plan. Its clear rectangular form, adjacent campus spaces and neighboring buildings have led to limitations to its physical growth and thus the growth of the programs it serves. Some schools within the College have found new homes within the campus such as the School of Design and the School of Drama, however, the School of Architecture and its programs continue to be bifurcated within the campus context with spaces in both CFA building and Margaret Morrison Hall.

This Building Integration Option Studio will make speculations on how to expand the programs of the School of Architecture as well as its relationship to the other College of Fine Arts programs based on its present and future needs.

### PROMPT

As part of this studio you will study the history of the campus, the College of Fine Arts building and Margaret Morrison Hall; how these buildings expanded over time and how spaces within them have transformed, been moved or modified.

An extension to Margaret Morrison Hall (MMX) was proposed in the 1990s as a home for the Schools of Design and Architecture, however the proposal was not implemented. As unmet space needs have continued to limit the growth of the Schools since then, this studio will re-examine this need while also discussing the need for collective spaces for these Schools.

The role of expansion/ addition is a complex undertaking. In practice, building additions are more costly and time consuming for the design professionals who are tasked with the assignment.

### CONTEXT

The specifics of the program will start through a visioning process engaging the School of Architecture students and faculty and other stakeholders as well as the offices of Campus Design and Facility Development and Facilities Management Services.



2022 University Master Plan

“When we look at the architectural works of the past we as architects, without exception I believe, are seeking to penetrate their secrets.”  
Giorgio Grassi, Architecture, Dead Language



Proposed addition to the Allegheny County Courthouse  
Palmer and Hornbostel and R. Maurice Trimble, Associate Architects

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.”  
T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

Studio Consultants:

Brad Prestbo, FAIA: Facade design services, Studio NY  
James Dudd, PE: Environmental Control and Life Safety Systems, Gilbane Building Company, Pittsburgh  
Dr. Juney Lee: Structural, Carnegie Mellon, School of Architecture



Gerard Damiani, AIA  
Associate Professor

Additionally, the owner/ users of the building have a familiarity with the project, how it works and performs, so in other words, everyone has an opinion. This could be considered a negative, however, with the cost of construction, the use of resources and its toll on the environment, this might be the best ecological way for an architect to engage the built environment.

In addition to learning from the College of Fine Arts community and about its history of building expansion/ modification, you will be asked to provide possible scenarios for expansion of various scales and locations and how an addition would integrate with the building it is to be apart as well as how the systems will serve it.

### PROGRAM

The specifics of the program will start through a visioning process engaging the School of Architecture leadership, faculty, students and other stakeholders as well as the offices of Campus Design and Facility Development and Facilities Management Services.

### CONTEXT

Studio teams will look collectively at these issues and propose three to four possible scenarios for both the College’s & School’s expansion. When considering context, each team will consider the campus plan, program-ming needs for the School and how it will interact with the existing built structures and the building services that serve it.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

The studio process will look at expanding the School of Architecture/ CFA, the role of building integration and envelope design. A series of outside consultants will help to provide insights as to how envelope, structure and heating and cooling and life safety systems can be integrated to provide an approach to the design process.

The Building Integration Option Studios have been developed to provide you the opportunity to make design decisions while demonstrating the integration of building envelope systems and assemblies, structural systems, environmental control systems, life safety systems, and the measurable outcomes of building performance as per NAAB Student Criteria, SC.6 Building Integration. To aid you a series of professional consultants will join the studio to provide technical expertise and content throughout the semester.

The studio will be organized similarly to an office with three to four project teams each being responsible for the project and its comprehensive development.