



Next Steps

“The diversity of departments and academic offerings that characterized the American University as it had developed around the turn of the century became much greater, with a multiplication of undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as nontraditional services such as adult education and extension courses. Furthermore, universities began assuming functions that were not strictly educational in nature, such as grant-supported ‘research and development,’ which became increasingly important at major universities and often required special facilities.” —TURNER, P. 250

Harvard University is changing rapidly. As its academic program evolves, its need for space is growing. As a result, an analysis of existing conditions must be a living document. *Harvard Patterns* is meant to be a working tool to understand the campus as it evolves. In some ways, this document will never be complete. Because of many on-going projects and master plans, we felt compelled to produce a draft relatively quickly, believing that even an analysis-in-progress would be useful. Thus, we issued the document as a draft and structured it to be amended.

This analysis of the built form is a first step toward comprehensive planning for the campus as a complex urban system. The next step might be a compilation of the master plans being developed by the different Schools and Faculties to illustrate how they will interact to transform the campus as we experience it today.

Like cities, campuses are becoming more complex urban entities with sophisticated transportation systems, housing needs, high-tech buildings and, changes in scale. These changes generate new needs and higher levels of sophistication. In the past, Schools or Faculties have hired architects and planners to develop and implement specific master plans. The same process is used today as academic entities establish their vision for the future. Never in the history of Harvard, has there been a single master plan adopted for the University as a whole. The next challenge for Harvard is to coordinate the master plans of the precincts and design infrastructure for the University as a whole. This book provides what we hope will be valuable information to the many thinkers who will plan the future of the distinct and varied entities of Harvard.

“The result is that uniquely American place, the campus. As a kind of city in microcosm, it has been shaped by the desire to create an ideal community, and had often been a vehicle for expressing the utopian social visions of the American imagination. Above all, the campus reveals the power that a physical environment can possess as the embodiment of an institution’s character.” —TURNER, P. 305