

INTRODUCTION

The campus of Skidmore College is an excellent example of a free-standing campus combining historically well established quadrangular layouts, a diversity of scales, generous open spaces, man-made and natural landscapes and, most important, separation of vehicular and pedestrian circulation. It is a campus well suited to the needs of an independent liberal arts college in the 21st century.

Designed in 1962 and implemented in the mid-1960's, the campus has served the college well for 45 years. The college's campus plan has been updated only twice, in 1972 for the introduction of coeducation, and in 1989 to identify building sites and in order to improve traffic patterns, open space, landscape, lighting and signage. During these decades, the college has grown, sometimes following the campus plan and sometimes ad hoc. New programs were added, old ones phased out. Currently, about 2,400 men and women are enrolled. That the 1962 plan has held up through so much change is a testament to its soundness. We proceed today from a well laid foundation.

But even a sound plan is subject to change, as society itself changes. Through campus master planning, Skidmore is managing that change.

Josephine Young Case's 1961 Charge to the Architects and Planners called for designers "...to provide a feeling of freedom and wide horizon...space for contemplation and for play; privacy for thinking and study, somber and warm, traditional and forward-looking, made up of time past, time present, and time future." * It remains vital today. We add the following statement of purpose which guides this 2007 Campus Plan.

Skidmore should preserve and develop its campus to provide the best possible education, scholarship, workplace and residence for members of its community.

* See Appendix A for full text.



View from South Park

Photo: Andrew Camp