

**CLCS/Art 120: The Vassar Campus**  
**Yvonne Elet**

**Itinerary: The ALANA Center**

In this class meeting, we will consider for the first time a campus space/function that did not exist originally in Main – a place dedicated to inclusion and belonging for students of color. Your readings will introduce you to some of the socio-cultural issues that led to the establishment of such spaces; their history at Vassar; and the creation of the ALANA Center. This refurbished coal storage facility was designed by architect Jeh Johnson in collaboration with the center's founding director Edward Pittman. Dean Pittman will join our class meeting on this topic—a rare opportunity to hear about the coming-into-being of a place from one of the minds who conceived it.

In preparation for the class, please visit the ALANA Center. **Current hours: M-F 9-5.** (The director asks that you please avoid density – go individually or with a friend, but avoid clumps of people.)

Consider the location that was chosen for the center (several sites were considered), and the approach to the building – ideally in daylight, and after dark, if possible. What strikes you about the site, at both times of day?

The interior of the building was designed with concerted attention to fostering a sense of belonging. Study the communal room and note the administrative office upstairs; and visit the offices for student organizations downstairs. How do these spaces make you feel? What aspects of the design contribute to those feelings?

As always, your thought-provoking images will form part of the discussion.