



CLCS/Art 120

Intensive, first six week course, Fall 2020

M/W 10:30-11:45

The Vassar Campus Schedule of classes, readings, and assignments

Yvonne Elet

Office Hours: Monday 3-4, Tuesday 4-5 or by appointment; signup [here](#) then meet in my [Zoom Meeting Room](#)
yvelet@vassar.edu

M Aug 31 The campus as a work of art

Reading (ideally for the first class meeting, otherwise some time soon):

John Dixon Hunt, "Campuses," in *The Making of Place. Modern and Contemporary Gardens* (London: Reaktion Books, 2015), 133-136.

Paul Venable Turner, *Campus. An American Planning Tradition* (The Architectural History Foundation and the MIT Press, 1984), "The American Campus as an 'Academical Village'," 3-7; "Coeducation and Women's Colleges, 133-40.

Thomas A. Gaines, *The Campus as a Work of Art* (New York: Praeger, 1991), Introduction, ix-x; Chapter One, "What Makes a Successful Campus?," 1-11; and Appendix: The Top Fifty Campuses, 155-6..

M. Perry Chapman, *American Places. In Search of the Twenty-first Century Campus* (Praeger, 2006), Introduction.

W Sept 2 The Vassar campus: pedagogy and place

**With Karen van Lengen (VC '73), FAIA, Kenan Professor of Architecture and former Dean,
University of Virginia School of Architecture**

Reading:

Laurie Olin, "The Campus: An American Landscape," *Sitelines* 2013, 3-10.

Karen van Lengen and Lisa Reilly, *Vassar College: An Architectural Tour (The Campus Guide)* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2004), 1-28.

Karen van Lengen, "Pedagogy and Place. The Legacy of the Landscape at Vassar College," in *Landscape and the Academy*, ed. John Beardsley (Harvard University Press/Dumbarton Oaks: 2019), 147-75.

M Sept 7 **Labor Day – no class**

W Sept 9 **The campus as arboretum**
With Virginia Duncan (VC '16), M.A. candidate, Art History, University of Pennsylvania

Reading:

Yvonne Elet and Virginia Duncan, "Beatrix Farrand and campus landscape at Vassar: pedagogy and practice, 1925-29," *Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes* 39 (2019): 105-36.

[dlandstudio, The Campus Landscapes of Beatrix Farrand](#)

[Vassar Arboretum Tree Map Project](#)

[Vassar Arboretum Tree Map](#)

[Vassar ArborScope](#) (public view of the tree inventory and management system developed by Bartlett Tree Experts and used by the Vassar Grounds Staff to manage our arboretum – just if you are interested)

[Vassar as an Arbnet Accredited Arboretum](#) (Level II)

Site visit: Vassar Lake path; Main Building quadrangles; "Euthenics Quad"

M Sept 14 **Collegiate Gothic**

Reading:

Johanna Seasonwein, *Princeton and the Gothic Revival: 1870-1930* (Princeton University Press, 2012), 15-23.

Peter Fergusson, James F. O'Gorman, and John Rhodes, *The Landscape & Architecture of Wellesley College* (Wellesley, 2000), 149-153, 164.

Christopher Hawthorne, "College campuses are constructing buildings that look like they're straight out of Harry Potter's world," *Los Angeles Times*, December 21, 2017.

Site visit: Taylor Hall

W Sept 16 **Spaces of spirituality**
With Samuel H. Speers, Associate Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices;
Nora Zaki, Advisor to Muslim Student Life; and Rabbi Bryan Mann, Rachlin Director for Jewish
Student Life and Assistant Director, RSLCP

Reading:

Margaret M. Grubiak, *White Elephants on Campus. The Decline of the University Chapel in America, 1920-1960* (Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2014), 1-10.

Lindsay Cook (VC '10), "Religious Freedom and Architectural Ambition at Vassar College, 1945-54," in *Modernism and American mid-20th century Sacred Architecture*, ed. Anat Geva (Routledge, 2019), 31-50.

Map of Religious and Spiritual Life at Vassar; prepared by Tobias Armborst and students, 2019

Site visit: Chapel

M Sept 21 **The library: from cathedral of learning to glass house**

Reading:

Dale Allen Gyure, "The Heart of the University: A History of the Library as an Architectural Symbol of American Higher Education," *Winterthur Portfolio* 42 (summer-autumn 2008): 107-32.

Margaret M. Grubiak, "Reassessing Yale's Cathedral Orgy: The Ecclesiastical Metaphor and the Sterling Memorial Library," *Winterthur Portfolio* 43, 2/3 (summer/autumn 2009): 159-184. (Just skim quickly re: the ecclesiastical metaphor in library design.)

Mardges Bacon, *John McAndrew's Modernist Vision: from the Vassar College Art Library to the museum of Modern Art in New York* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2018), 4-7; 33-39; 63-117.

Site visit: Main Library, Art Library, Passage through Taylor Hall to Loeb Art Center

W Sept 23 Living on campus: the dormitory
With Carla Yanni, Professor of Architectural History, Rutgers University; Second Vice President, Society of Architectural Historians

Reading:

Carla Yanni, *Living on Campus: An Architectural History of the American Dormitory* (University of Minnesota Press, 2019), 1-7, 77; and chapter 2.

"How Dormitories have Evolved": interview with Carla Yanni, *Inside Higher Ed* (March 5, 2019).

Carla Yanni and Holly Taylor, "The Question of Living Spaces," *Inside Higher Ed* (June 12, 2020).

Buildings and Belonging: Kendrick House

Annie Duncan (VC '19), "Close Quarters. Reimagining Campus Living and the Student Module," B.A. thesis in Urban Studies, Advisor Tobias Armbrorst, Vassar College, 2019.

F Sept 25 First assignment due by 5pm via email

M Sept 28 Modern architecture on campus

Reading:

John McAndrew, Elizabeth Mock, and Margaret Miller, *What is Modern Architecture?* Exh. cat. (New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1942).

Walter Gropius, "Not Gothic but Modern for our Colleges," *The New York Times* (October 23, 1949): 90, 233-4.

Vanessa Belyianis (VC '08), "Eero Saarinen's Emma Hartman Noyes House at Vassar College," Exh. brochure, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, 2008. [A project based on her thesis, advised by Nicholas Adams]

Site visit: Noyes

W Sept 30 Spaces of Inclusion

With Edward Pittman (VC '82), Senior Associate Dean of the College; former Associate Dean of the College for Campus Life and Diversity, and founding Director of the ALANA Center

Reading:

Edward Pittman, "Cultural Centers on Predominantly White Campuses: Campus, Cultural and Social Comfort Equals Retention," *Black Issues in Higher Education* 11, 16 (October 6, 1994), p. 104.

Buildings and Belonging: Mapping the African American Experience at Vassar College since 1861; and *The ALANA Center The ALANA Center at Vassar*

Willa Panvini (VC '92), "Campus Notebook: Intercultural Center Opens," and April Thompson (VC '94), "How Do We Measure Our Success?" in *Vassar Quarterly* (Summer, 1993): pp. 2-3.

Riya Sirdeshmukh (VC '20), "The ALANA Center and Belonging on Vassar's Campus," project for CLCS/Art 120, fall 2019.

Biography of Jeh Johnson in *The History Makers: an African-American Oral History Collection*

Mally Anderson, "Jeh Johnson, Retired Lecturer, wins Roosevelt Medal," *Vassar Quarterly* 106 (2010).

Site visit: ALANA Center

M Oct 5 Campus Planning

With Gary R. Hilderbrand, FASLA, FAAR; Principal, Reed Hilderbrand LLC; Peter Louis Hornbeck Professor in Practice, Harvard Graduate School of Design

Reading:

Gary R. Hilderbrand, "Reciprocal Narratives on Campus. Two Olmsted Brothers Cases," in *Landscape and the Academy*, ed. John Beardsley (Harvard University Press/Dumbarton Oaks: 2019), 39-65.

Sasaki Associates, Vassar Landscape Masterplan, 1988, especially pp. 21-28. (Primarily Prof. Hilderbrand's work) (Apologies this copy is partially illegible.)

Michael Van Valkenburgh, Vassar Landscape Masterplan, 2011 (quick flip)

W Oct 7 **No class – Community Care Day**

M Oct 12 **Ecology and campus landscape**
With Margaret Ronsheim, Professor and Chair of Biology

Reading:

Edith A. Roberts, "The Development of an Out-of-Door Botanical Laboratory for Experimental Ecology," *Ecology* 14, 2 (1933): 163-223.

Darrel G. Morrison, Foreward to Edith Roberts and Elsa Rehmann, *American plants for American gardens* (New York: Macmillan, 1929), xi-xxviii.

Site visit: Walkway over the Fonteynkill, behind Skinner Hall and the Bridge building – site of Edith Roberts' Ecological Lab

W Oct 14 **Vassar of the future?**

Reading:

Eero Saarinen, "Campus Planning. The Unique World of the University," *Architectural Record* (November, 1960): 123-30.

Frederick Fisher and Partners, Plans for the Inn and Institute

Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, I&I Planting Palette

Site visit: Rock Lot

F Oct 16 *Second Assignment due by 5pm*