Help Us Design the New Library!

The Stetson/Sawyer Project

The Stetson/Sawyer project is the consolidation of three distinct entities – The Main Library, Special Collections (The Archives and The Chapin Library) and The Center for Media Initiatives - into a single, vibrant building and learning commons.

Currently the project for the new library is in its design development phase, a collaboration between Williams College staff, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson Architects and outside consultants.

One important objective of the design development phase is to make sure that the new building is flexible and equipped to facilitate the changing needs of the Williams community in the future.

Building a Learning Commons

A learning commons is a place for study as well as a social space. It offers flexible furniture that can be arranged and rearranged to meet changing needs. There will be quiet zones for individual study as well as group work areas that invite conversation and exchange. Combined with the support through librarians and other academic support services, a café and wireless internet access, the learning commons in the new library building promises to become a spectacular hub for learning and research.

This new learning space will be located throughout the open areas on the reference floor of the new building. With the intention to open this ongoing planning process to the larger community and all users of the current and future library, we cleared four sites on the first and second floor of the Sawyer Library to model and test a number of concepts in full scale.

Sawyer Test Sites - Phase 1

This is the first of three furniture installations that are designed to kick-start a conversation about the ‘learning commons’ in the new building.

Your experience and feedback using these environments will inform revisions and upgrades to be implemented by the end of October. Based on further discussions and collective learning, one more iteration will be realized by the beginning of the spring semester, in January 2008.

What do you think is the best support for individual and/or group based study and learning?

What are the tools and materials that are best suited to aid and facilitate personal or shared study and research?

Any feedback and suggestions you can give us about your hopes for the new learning commons at Williams College are greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your input!
Feedback: What are your thoughts?

These installations intend to explore concepts for learning spaces supporting individual as well as group work.

We are very interested in hearing your thoughts and feedback.

The materials, detailing and finishes are generic and do not represent the furniture and fixtures that will eventually be installed at the new building. These mockups are meant to elicit discussion about basic functionality which will inform and orient further design decisions.

Here are four ways to respond:

1. **Green Dot. Red Dot.**
   Each site has a map of the space, and a list with all individual components. Using the red and green dots mark your likes and dislikes: Green says GO. Red says NO thanks.

2. **Williams.Facebook.com**
   Check out our profile: Sawyer TestSites
   Write on our wall. Share Photos. We’ll poke you when we’ve posted materials and tell you about upcoming events.

3. **SawyerTestSites@Williams.edu**
   Email us your ideas, photos, comments, and sketches.

4. **Public Walk Throughs & Critiques**
   We will schedule discussions and reviews for each of the installations. Dates to be published once they are confirmed.

Test Site 1 - Community Space and Food Culture.

Try it out!