

The Gateway Campus

It seems appropriate to mention one major project that we were unable to launch, the Gateway Campus, that would have been the focal point of undergraduate education at Michigan.

As we have noted elsewhere, the University of Michigan has a major commitment to undergraduate education. In fact, the College of Literature, Science, and Arts enrolls over 18,000 students in liberal arts -based undergraduate education. Yet, despite the rich array of resources on our campus, there is no architectural focal point for undergraduate education. To be sure, there are important undergraduate facilities such as the Shapiro Library and the Michigan Union. But there is no facility that creates a sense of place and commitment for undergraduates, in the way that the Law School does for law students or the College of Engineering does for engineering students, for example.

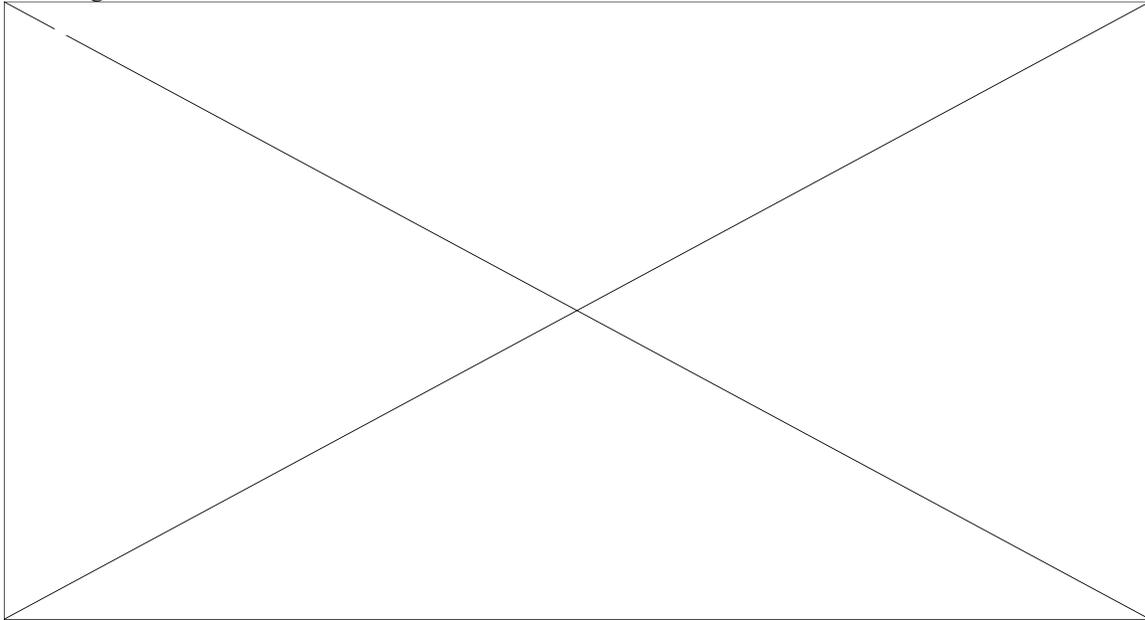
To this end, we developed a plan to build a major cluster of facilities that on the east side of the Central Campus that would accomplish the following objectives:

- It would provide a physical space, a location, that would be clearly identified by students, faculty, and alumni as the University's focal point for undergraduate education.
- It would include major facilities for undergraduate instruction, including lecture halls, classroom clusters, and multimedia spaces.
- It would be the location for key student services, including undergraduate counseling, student organizations, study-abroad programs, and undergraduate deans and administrators.
- It would also house several of our most important museum collections— notably by our Museum of Art, the Kelsey Museum, and perhaps some components of the collections of the Museums of Anthropology and Natural History.
- This complex would also provide an entry point to the University for various external communities attracted by our museum collections and performing arts.

We referred to the complex as the Gateway Center, both because of its role in providing students with the “gateway” to their undergraduate education and its function as a gateway to the campus. The Gateway Center would be sited adjacent to the Hill Group of Residence Halls, connected with a plaza spanning a lowered Washtenaw Boulevard, thereby linking students directly with the rest of the campus. Its location adjacent to the University's principal museums and performing arts facilities (Hill Auditorium, Power Center, and Mendelssohn

Theatre) would allow us to better integrate these cultural activities into undergraduate education.

The complex itself would consist of roughly 500,000 square feet of facilities, plazas, and gathering spaces. A class of architectural students created a rough sketch of the concept—partly in jest—to illustrate the linkage between undergraduate education and the cultural achievements of our civilization:



Further discussions extended the concept of the Gateway Campus to that of a Gateway College, a separate academic unit of the University, focused on providing general education of the highest quality to all first and second year undergraduates enrolled in the University (including those enrolling in professional schools such as Engineering and Nursing). The Gateway College would have an independent dean and administration, on par with the deans of other schools and colleges and reporting directly to the provost. However, unlike other schools, it would have only a very limited number of faculty, drawing most of its faculty from all of the other units of the University. In this sense, it would function very much as an undergraduate analog to the Rackham School of Graduate Studies. All first and second year students would be admitted initially to the Gateway College rather than to LS&A or professional schools. They would shift into specific majors (concentrations) in LS&A or into professional schools in their junior year.

A financing plan was developed for the Gateway College, using a combination of private gifts, state support, and internal University funds. However, we were unable to raise the nucleus private support (estimated at \$75 million) to launch the project.