CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

MASTER'S PROJECT - TOMAS ALVAREZ
Monmouth College is a liberal arts institution seeking to increase interaction among its academic departments in order to encourage collaboration and innovation.

The picturesque campus, located in central Illinois presents great opportunities for architectural expression.

The rapidly growing town of Monmouth, IL is characterized by its farming community, diversified population, and recent interest in sustainable strategies.
CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

ACADEMIC BUILDING - MONMOUTH COLLEGE (IL).

THE PROGRAM MERGES THE DISCIPLINES OF BUSINESS, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE WITH EMPHASIS ON THE NECESSARY COLLABORATION TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION.

SHARED SPACES, EXPOSED FACULTY OFFICES AND STUDIES, AND GUIDED CIRCULATION ARE INTENDED TO INCREASE INTERACTION AMONG STUDENTS AND FACULTY.

CONVENTIONAL EDUCATION SEPARATES DISCIPLINES AND LIMITS EXPOSURE TO OTHER FIELDS, HENCE HINDERING STUDENTS’ LEARNING CAPACITY.

DNA ‘CONCEPTUAL MODEL’ LABS AND CLASSROOMS FROM ALL DISCIPLINES ARE DISPERSED TO CREATE EXPOSURE THROUGH CIRCULATION.

AN EVOLVING CURRICULUM, AND A FACILITY THAT ENCOURAGES INTER-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION WILL RESULT IN A BROADER EDUCATION.
"INTERDISCIPLINARY’ REFER TO A PROCESS [OF CONSTRUCTING] KNOWLEDGE IN WHICH STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS COME TOGETHER TO ANALYZE DIFFERENCES IN DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO A PROBLEM AND TO WORK TOWARD A MORE COMPREHENSIVE VIEW THAN ALLOWED BY THE VISION OF ANY ONE FIELD."

"ALL DISCIPLINES HAVE IMPORTED ASPECTS OF OTHER FIELDS TO CLARIFY THEIR OWN DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES."

"[INTERDISCIPLINARY] INITIATIVES SEEK TO PROMOTE CONNECTED LEARNING BEYOND THE DISCIPLINE AS A PRIMARY GOAL -- PURSUING KNOWLEDGE THAT INTEGRATES AND SYNTHESIZES THE PERSPECTIVES OF SEVERAL DISCIPLINES INTO A CONSTRUCTION THAT IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS DISTINCTLY DISCIPLINARY PARTS."
QUAD: CAFETERIA WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND ITS SERVICES RELOCATED TO CURRENT MATH/SCIENCE BUILDING. THIS WILL CREATE A LARGER OPEN AREA IN THE CENTER OF STUDENT CIRCULATION - FUTURE "QUAD."

IMMEDIATE SITE: HISTORIC MARSHALL HALL WILL BE RELOCATED. ADMISSIONS BUILDING WILL BE DOWNSIZED, AND ITS SERVICES RELOCATED TO POLING HALL.
MERGING THREE DISCIPLINES IN ONE ACADEMIC FACILITY WILL RESHAPE THE CULTURE OF THE CAMPUS BY REDIRECTING STUDENT CIRCULATION TO ONE COMMON PLACE.
THE IMMEDIATE SITE IS CHARACTERIZED BY A DIVERSE TOPOGRAPHY.

VARYING FLOOR ELEVATIONS WITHIN THE ATRIUM MIMIC THE PROMINENT LANDSCAPE.

AN 800-SEAT AUDITORIUM IS INTEGRATED, AND HIDDEN AS PART OF THE LANDSCAPE.
Main entrance directs traffic to the atrium.

Tenants who enter through the street entrance are guided down a ramp toward the main entrance in order to reach the atrium.

For social purposes, the atrium houses a large study/gathering area, a cafe, and a more private lounge.

Two large lecture halls are exposed through glass to engage passing tenants and increase interest in ongoing activities.

The primary form of vertical circulation is housed at the center of the atrium, resulting in the users interacting, seeing, and being seen.
The main stairway leads to an open gathering area which features a large glass wall, visually connecting the user to the exterior.

To continue on to the 3rd level, the user is guided and exposed to the activities taking place in shared lecture halls and physics labs.

In the opposite direction, the user navigates through a group of faculty offices and "floating" study rooms; all of which are exposed through glass walls to encourage social activity.

In addition, this level features a small study area above the cafe, and a lounge above the 1st floor lecture hall.
Similar to the 2nd floor, the 3rd floor exposes the user to the ongoing activities of lecture halls and laboratories.

Each student, regardless of their major, is exposed to other disciplines.

In addition, the third floor houses the office of the president of Monmouth College.

In a scheme where interaction leads to collaboration and innovation, all parties should be involved.
THE FOURTH LEVEL HOUSES A COMPUTER LAB AND A LARGE STUDY/GATHERING AREA; BOTH OF WHICH WILL ATTRACT STUDENTS TO CIRCULATE VERTICALLY.

THIS WILL RESULT IN COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION.
ENTERING THE BUILDING

INTERIOR