DESIGNER'S GUIDE

SECTION I

Organizational Issues
(Revised: March 3, 2008)

Yale University
Facilities Planning & Construction
I. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES
   MISSION STATEMENT
   HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
I. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Facilities Planning and Construction Department, are here for one basic reason: To serve as part of a team that provides the environment in which the mission of the University is achieved, in a cost effective and efficient manner. The value we add is in facilitating – managing – the process of creating some of those environments. We strive for full satisfaction of all stakeholders’ needs and requirements at all times, on all activities. The portfolio of ongoing projects is the framework in which we manage our movement toward physical environments that reflect institutional ideals.
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

New designers, when they first visit Yale University always express amazement at the apparent cacophony of the physical form: wings seem to attach to other wings at odd angles; color patterns change with no apparent reason; even the floor numbering seems disorienting with an E-level and a G-level below level 1. The current physical plant embodies the dynamic nature of this institution.

The following diagrams show some of the steps by which we have grown. Each addition, each change, was driven by a particular need at a particular point in time. In each case, the designers made their contribution to knit together the disparate pieces of the complex into a whole. The results of the efforts of all of these various individuals are a complex with many idiosyncrasies, some of which are endearing, some of which are not. As each of us is called upon to make our contributions to this lasting institution, it is incumbent on us to be respectful of the contributions made in the past and to strive to make the whole more complete. This will sometimes mean making particular parts of a project more "background" than other parts of a project. By consciously choosing what areas of the complex will be more "foreground", we can begin to minimize the visual disharmony and begin to make the complex feel more whole.
STERLING HALL OF MEDICINE, YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.
GROUND PLAN OF BUILDINGS IN 1927