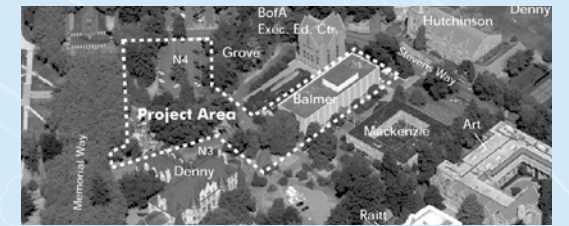
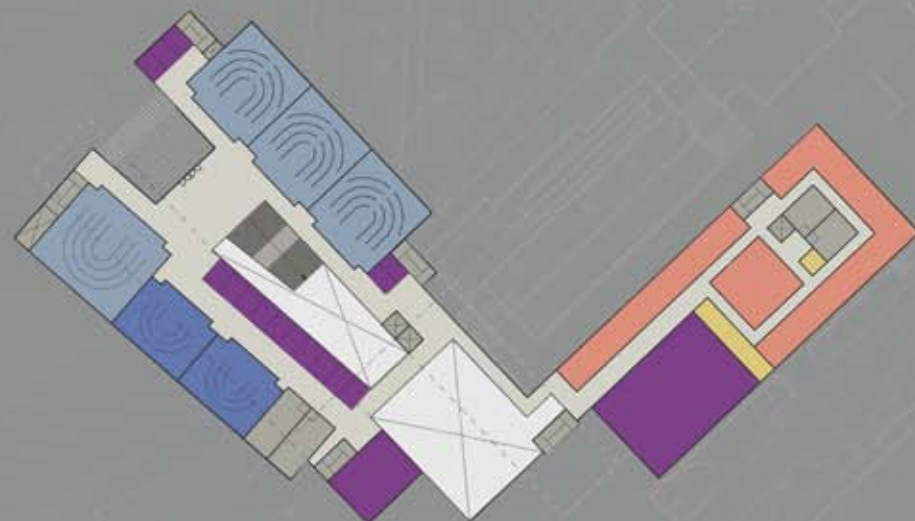




Building Momentum

The Business School's New Facilities Project Enters Design Phase

by CLARK McCANN



UW BUSINESS SCHOOL degree programs have not benefited from a major addition or renovation in 45 years. That will soon change as the most ambitious building project in the School's history takes shape. Seattle-based LMN Architects, a national firm acclaimed for its designs of both public and private buildings, has been chosen to execute the design. The first phase of the process, schematic design, is expected to be completed before the end of the year. Schematic design establishes the specific uses, height, size and location of the buildings on the site. In addition, building systems will be selected with performance goals and sustainable features to create a facility that qualifies for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification. LEED designations were created by the US Green Building Council to foster environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient building practices. LMN has completed more than 85 higher-education projects in North America and is perhaps best-known locally for its award-winning designs of the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science and Engineering on the UW campus and the Seattle Symphony's Benaroya Hall.

John Nesholm, partner at LMN, said, "The importance of new facilities, along with their prominent location at the core of the campus, creates great design opportunities. It's truly a privilege for us to be involved in this project for the Business School and the University of Washington."

Building a new world-class home for the Business School will take place in two phases. Phase I calls for two new multi-purpose classroom and office buildings linked together

with a central atrium. Together, these new buildings will add about 123,000 gross square feet to the School's facilities. Construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2008, with occupancy about two years later. If state funding occurs as planned, Balmer Hall will be demolished in Phase II, tentatively scheduled for 2010, and replaced by another all-new building, standing at the center of a five-building complex. Combined with Mackenzie Hall and the Bank of America Executive Education Center, the new Business School complex will feature four contemporary multi-purpose buildings, along with one administrative center (Mackenzie) that is envisioned to be replaced in the next 12-15 years by further expansion.

When both Phase I & II are complete in 2012, the Business School will have state-of-the-art classrooms sized efficiently for different uses, ample breakout rooms for team learning, office and laboratory spaces, an atrium, common areas, and a 250-seat auditorium. The total space available to the Business School will increase by about 35 percent. And even more significantly, classroom seats will expand by more than 50 percent.

Associate Dean Pete Dukes, who heads up the School's building committee, is excited about what new facilities will mean for the future. "When this new complex is complete," Dukes says, "we'll have the room to accommodate growth, expand our revenue-generating programs, and run every program more efficiently. More importantly, we'll have facilities designed to deliver the kind of education students and faculty expect from a top-tier business school." ■