

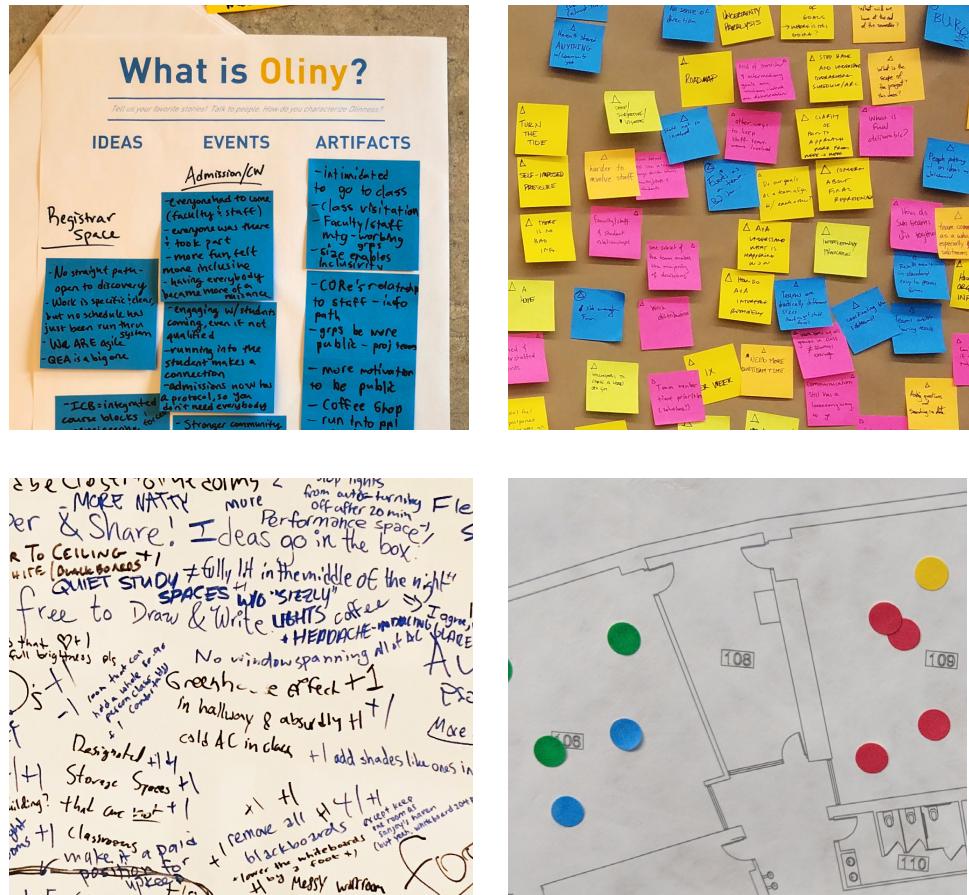
Reboot Report

Summer, 2019

A small part of a big story

During the fall 2018 semester, a group of students, faculty, staff, and consultants formed an experimental brain trust to focus on the Academic Center.

Grounded in our shared values of innovation and change, we began with the goal of identifying programming for the future of the AC; this goal quickly evolved to defining a community vision for the future of learning spaces at Olin.



Progress report in 3 parts

This three-part document shares our process, outcomes, and ideas about what happens next.

PART 1 shares what we did, why we did it, and what happened along the way.

Browse **PART 2** to explore our experiments, analysis and research.

PART 3 is an email address: *spaces@olin.edu* where you can email ideas and questions about this progress report and/or the future of learning spaces at Olin.

Space planning the Olin Way: A community-driven process

The workshop was organized as a recursive process, with participants acting both as lead investigators and also as ambassadors to the broader community.

We spent the majority of our time gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information about space uses on campus -- we conducted over 100 interviews, surveys and data crunches which are included in PART 2.

But once a month, we turned our focus outward toward the larger community, producing three public events to engage community input and share progress.



We staged a **LEMONADE STAND** outside during Alumni weekend in September, and collected 45 recollections from graduates about what “Olin-ness” means to them.

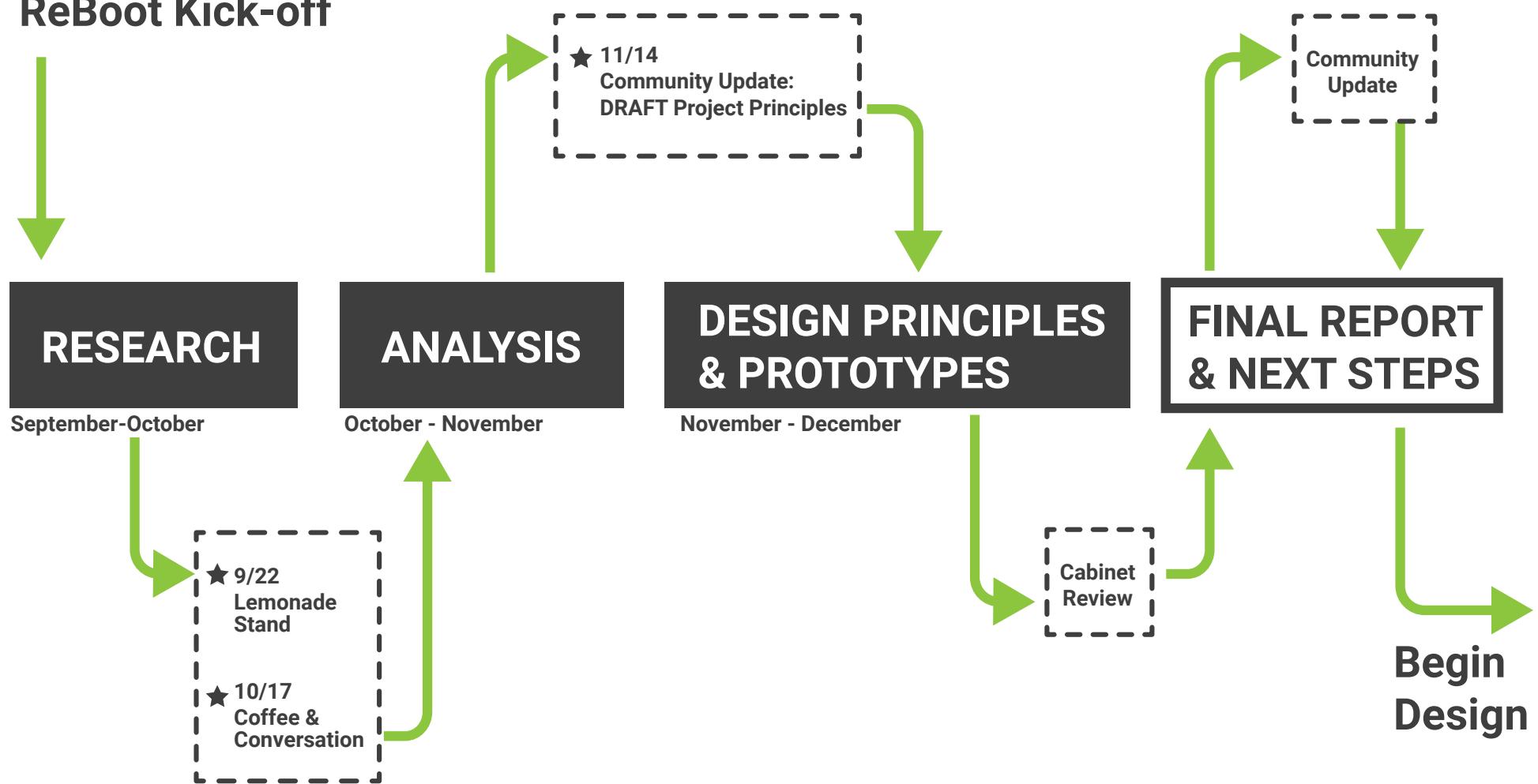
We hosted **COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS** in Milas Hall in October where we recorded impromptu live interviews and invited students, faculty, and staff to comment directly on our in-progress research to help shape the direction of the work.

In November we held a **COMMUNITY Q&A** in the library to share a progress presentation and gain feedback on our developing design principles which were beginning to emerge from the semester’s work.



★ Spring, 2018

Community ReBoot Kick-off



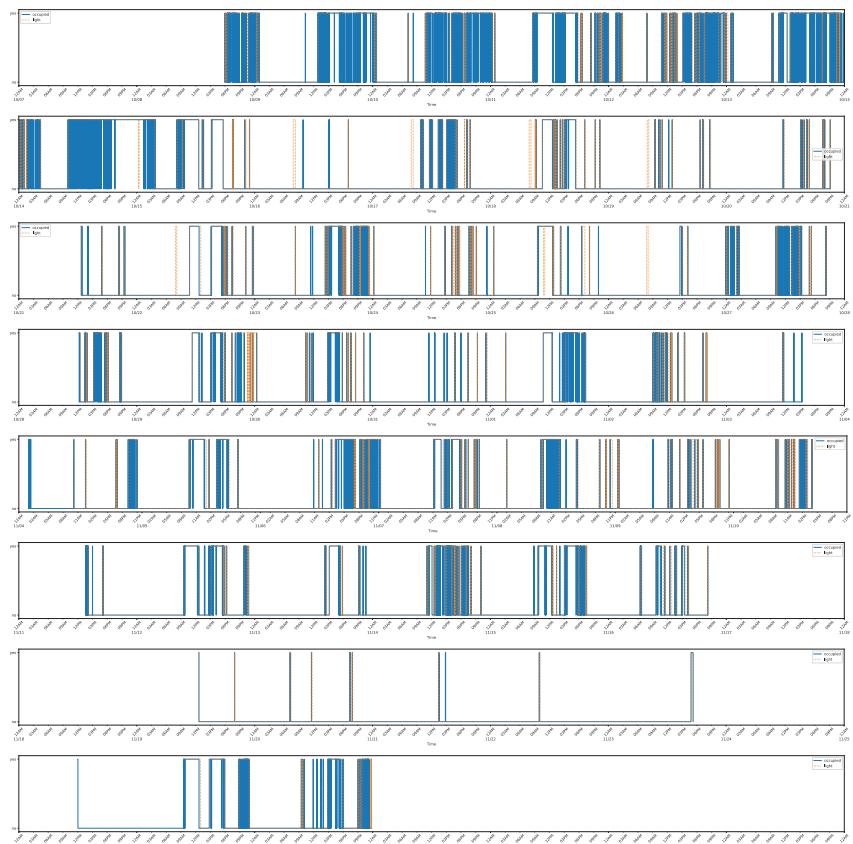
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Our research was organized in two categories:

I. QUANTITATIVE

Guiding Questions:

- What types of spaces do we currently have on campus?
- What are their specific physical and environmental properties?
- How and when are they used?
- Where are our pain points; what is in over-demand or under-use?



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

What we did:

- > We evaluated floor plans and took stock of the organization, infrastructure, and capabilities of each classroom.
- > Using data provided by Olin, we analyzed the scheduled use of each classroom, per hour, over the course of the year
- > By installing our own light and motion sensors for eight weeks, we studied the informal and off-hours uses of classrooms in parallel with the formal ones.

What we learned:

- + We are notably missing small “huddle” spaces for team collaboration, and one or more large, flexible event spaces
- + Our learning spaces are uniform in size and aesthetic/environmental qualities; this makes it challenging to support diverse learning and teaching.
- + We can take more advantage of opportunities for space sharing between some classes and programs and between day and evening uses

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Our research was organized in two categories:

II. QUALITATIVE:

Guiding Questions:

How does the Olin community feel about our spaces? Do our physical environments enable diverse teaching and learning contexts? Do they support our institutional mandate to operate as an ongoing experiment? Do they feel Olin-y?



QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

What we did:

- > We conducted over 100 1:1 interviews with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to identify themes and values and to bring new ideas to light.
- > We emailed surveys and stood in dining halls, hallways, and lemonade stands to engage as many people as we could.
- > We tried to describe the intangible things that make Olin distinctive and special. We probed for stories and started a podcast specifically to unpack what it means for an idea, action, event or place to feel “Olin-y”.

What we learned:

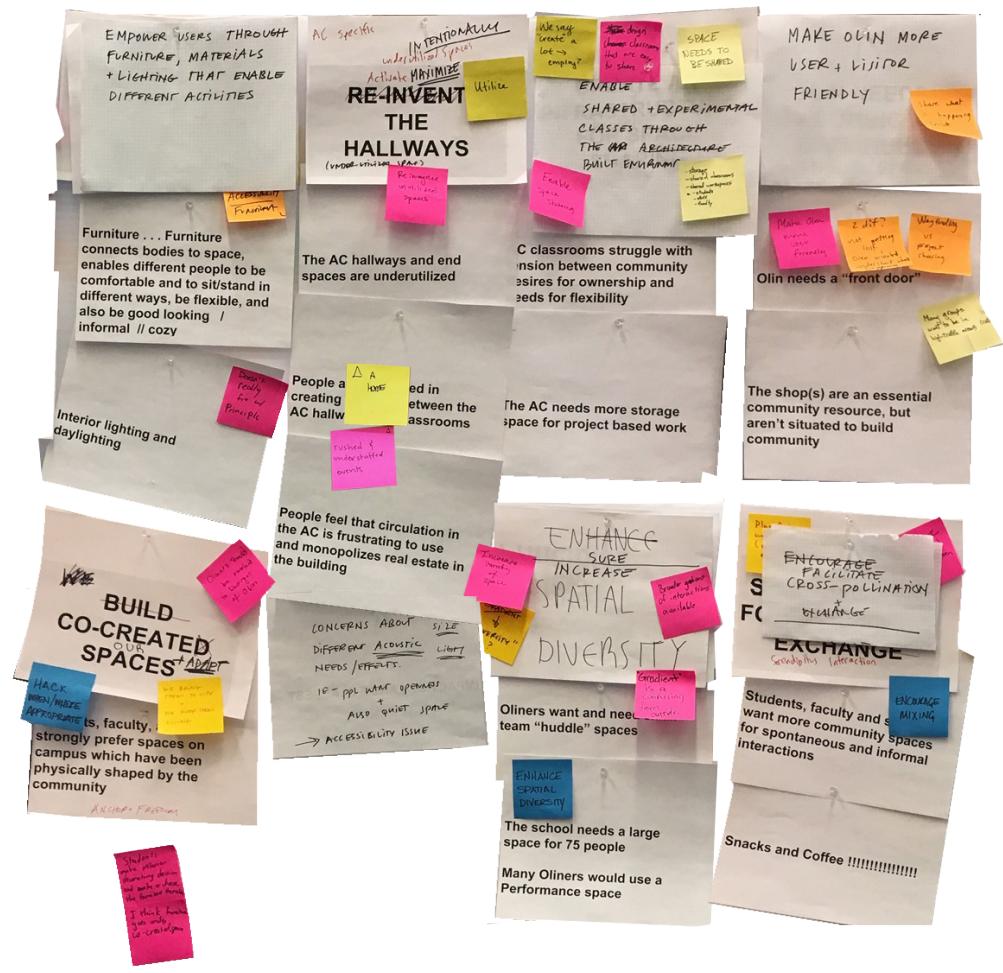
- + Spaces feel Olin-y when they have been physically shaped by their users
- + We want more opportunities for impromptu interaction among students, faculty, and staff in informal spaces
- + Involve everyone -- some things can only be learned through intensive engagement with all constituencies
- + Furniture matters and is an opportunity for direct Olin-er input to have a meaningful impact

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

As our work evolved, themes emerged:

Spaces work and feel best when they've been co-created by Olin-ers... the school needs a big, flexible space for experimentation and events ... small spaces for team huddles... more food options... the shop needs love and more space ... program and circulation spaces should be more visually connected ... the library feels good ... Olin needs a "front door"... furniture is really important...

Through a month of iterative workshops including a community presentation and a working session with external consultants, we slowly refined these themes to coalesce around five key principles to guide the transformation and creation of learning spaces at Olin.



1. Diversify spaces

Olin needs more spatial variety-- small spaces to huddle and large spaces to collaborate with visitors, tranquil spaces, lively spaces and spaces which can be reconfigured easily with furniture to adapt to different needs.

Creating a diversity of types of spaces means that all Olin-ers can find an environment that aligns to their individual learning, teaching, and research needs.

2. Connect people

The Olin community is hungry for spaces that facilitate informal cross-pollination between and among students, faculty, and staff .

Olin will become friendlier to both users and visitors with the creation of visual connections into teaching, learning, and research spaces, enhanced way-finding, and the creation of a welcoming and inspiring ‘front door’ experience.

3. Co-create at all scales

The most beloved spaces on campus are the ones which have been physically shaped by the community. As new spaces are planned, Olin-er involvement in the furnishings and organization should be incorporated into the design process.

Future spaces should be designed with the anticipation that they will be shaped, and re-shaped, by the community over time.

4. Remember the big picture

Our campus is an ecosystem; changes in one place can effect experiences in another. As we seek to change and expand our spaces in the future, we should be guided by a holistic understanding of how we work and what we need.

5. Everything is a prototype

Olin is an experiment. After two decades of experimenting with curriculum and pedagogy, it's time to start a new series of experiments with our spaces. From this workshop to new buildings, each project should embody Olin's experimental methodology.

Envisioning an ecosystem of transformation at multiple scales



50 square feet



50,000 square feet



For example . . .

XS

S

M

L

XL

Hallway Huddles

Temporary interventions to activate the social use of campus hallways and create playful opportunities for study and team work

Coffee Pop-ups

Building off of the success of Acronym, continuing to experiment with how food can activate existing spaces on campus

AC Learning Theater

Combining two classrooms in the AC to create a larger flexible learning space

Faculty / Classroom swap

An experiment to see what happens to informal interactions between students and faculty, making a space swap between the AC and Milas Hall

The Greenhouse

A temporary freestanding collaboration space that would enable faculty, students, and staff to experiment with how larger and more flexible spaces could be utilized, and which could inform larger building projects in the future

Cafeteria reinvention

Renovation of Olin cafeteria to enhance the relationship to campus center programs and optimize it for flexibility and acoustics

AC Addition

Addition to the AC to reorganize circulation within the building and entrance to the Olin campus

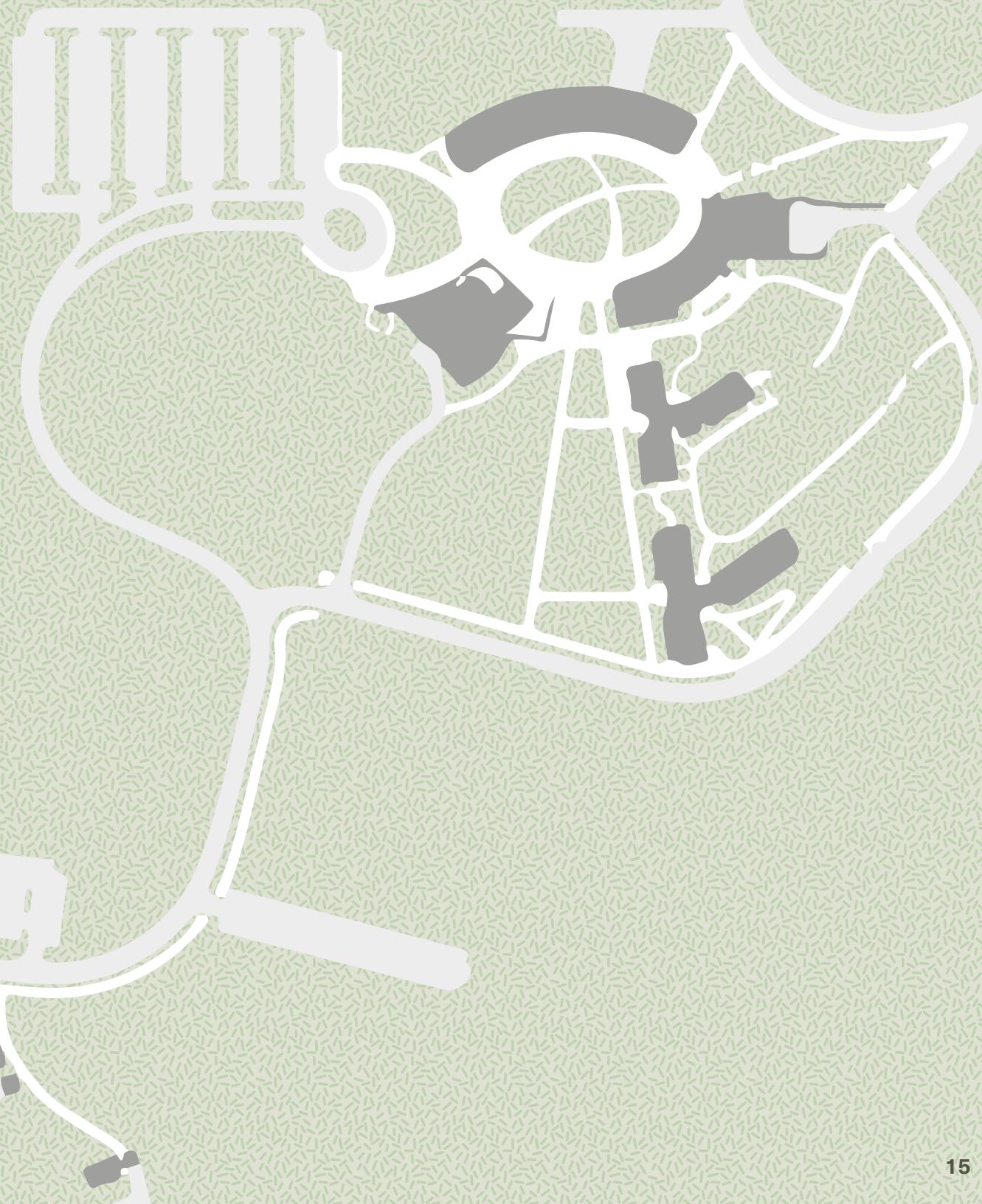
New Hall

A third dorm to support enrollment growth and demonstrate zero-energy living

The Reef

A porous and flexible center for learning, innovation, production and collaboration that would bring 50,000SF of new learning, fabrication, and research spaces to campus

What's next



The Rebooters



Aaron Hoover

Spirit Animal: Dire Wolf
Faculty
husband, dad, aspiring furniture-maker,
cyclist, burrito-eater



Abby Fry

Spirit Animal: Sea Turtle
Member of the Class of 2021
Accident prone



Adriel Mesznik

Spirit Animal: Wolf
An outside observer
An architect



Anne-Marie Dorning

Spirit Animal: Gazelle
Marketing and Communications
Lover of coffee and cardigans



Annie Barrett

Master of Architecture,
Harvard University Graduate
School of Design
Bachelor of Arts, w/ Distinction,
Yale University



Daniela Faas

Spirit Animal: Manta Ray
Director of Design & Fabrication
Operations & Senior Lecturer
mom of 2 creatures (1 human, 1 dog),
lover of outdoors & good food



Emily Nasiff

Spirit Animal: Edna Mode (Incredibles)
Computing & Design Major (21')
Daughter, Sister, Friend



Emma Pan

Spirit Animal: Robin
Class of '21, 4-Norther,
SG VP of Communications,
new-ish OFAC member
Artist, Orch dork, book worm, blanket thief



Evan Cusato

Spirit Animal: Snoopy
Junior, Maker, Doer of too many things
Skier, Pilot, Animal Lover



Evan New-Schmidt

Spirit Animal: Seacucumber
Student
Unemployed



Izzy Harrison

Spirit Animal: Baby Otter
Izzy
Izzy



Jeff Goldensen

Spirit Animal: Hummingbird
Strategic Project Strategy
Still figuring that out



Katie Butler

Spirit Animal: lioness
Senior mechanical engineering student,
member of PowerChords & OPIUM
friend, silly person



Lauren Taaffe

Associate Vice President
for Strategic Initiatives



Linda Canavan

Spirit Animal: Owl
the Registrar; Olin staff;
Believer in what we do
Mom, Wife, Sister, Gardener, Golfer,
Camper, NE Sports Fan



Madi Wyatt

Spirit Animal: Mouse
Aspiring mechanical engineer
Curious, Passionate about Aerospace,
loves: theater, singing, eating &
hanging out with friends



Mark Somerville

Spirit Animal: Suggest One
Dean of Faculty, Professor
Father, biker, potter, cook



Melissa Anthony

Spirit Animal: :/
Sophmore
TV watcher, Podcast Listener,
Passion project doer & napper



Patricia Gallagher

Spirit Animal: Owl
VP for Financial Affairs /
Chief Financial Officer
mom, wife, daughter, sister



Russ Zacharias

Spirit Animal: ...
Facilities Director
Still Russ