

A FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Architec Degree, Universidad Católica  
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SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
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August, 1961

Signature of Author \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Architecture, August 14, 1961

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
Head, Department of Architecture

## A B S T R A C T

Title: A Fine Arts Center for the University of Massachusetts

Author: Renato Parada

Submitted to the Department of Architecture on August  
14, 1961 for the degree of Master of Architecture

The University of Massachusetts in Amherst needs a Fine Arts Center which will include educational facilities for the following schools: Art, Speech, Music, Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

It is the purpose of this thesis to provide the architectural framework for such a program.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

August 14, 1961


Pietro Belluschi, Dean  
School of Architecture and Planning  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dean Belluschi:

I hereby submit this thesis, entitled  
"A Fine Arts Center for the University  
of Massachusetts," in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Architecture.

Very truly yours,



  
Renato Parada

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"The University of Massachusetts  
is the Land-Grant University  
of the Commonwealth, its  
primary purpose being to serve  
the people and the interests  
of the State and the Nation."

University of Massachusetts  
Bulletin - Summer Session  
1961

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Situated in one of the most picturesque sections of the State, the University joins with its academic neighbors - Amherst, Smith and Mount Holyoke Colleges - in maintaining the rich tradition of educational and cultural activity associated with this Connecticut Valley Region. It began, like most state universities, as an agricultural college and it was formally opened to students in October 1867. The University is now organized into a basic College of Arts and Sciences, a College of Agriculture, a Graduate School and professional Schools of Engineering, Nursing, Home Economics and Business Administration. There are two divisions: Physical Education and Military Science and Tactics with units in Armored Cavalry and Air ROTC.

## C A M P U S

The site consists of approximately 821 acres about one mile north of the center of the town. Topographically it is composed of three terraces each about one-third mile wide, running north and south the full length of the site. The west terrace, 60 feet below the middle one, is a fairly level plain sloping gently westward to Mill River. The middle terrace is a shallow bowl which holds, at its center, the College Pond. Most of the existing permanent buildings of the University are dispersed around the rim of this bowl. The east terrace rises from 90 to 200 feet above the level of the College Pond. Only the southern portion of it has been used for roads and buildings.

The existing facilities of the University comprise about 80 buildings including Stockbridge House, the oldest house in town built in 1728 and now used as a faculty club. These buildings are generally spread throughout the middle of the site and enclose an area, about one mile in diameter, which is centered on the north end of College Pond. Since students have limited time in which to go from one class to another, the area encompassing the existing classroom buildings, lec-

ture halls, and gymnasium is as large in overall dimensions as is practical. These facilities are generally located to the east, west and north of the College Pond. They are quite far apart, with virtually no existing relationship, in order to create interesting outdoor spaces or even to keep a sense of order. There is no prevailing architectural style and the only visual feeling of unity on the buildings is created by the use of red brick.

## T H E   S I T E

Three different sites were suggested for the location of the new Art Complex. The following is the reasoning which led to the final selection. 1 - A site on the south-west side of the central classroom area would be well centered in the academic complex. This site was eliminated mainly because the proposed building would be of such a volume as to appear crowded on this site; too near to the existing Physical Education Building to be consistent with the generosity of the campus plan. 2 - A site on the west side of Lincoln Avenue was put aside because it was out of the central academic area to which an Art Center should belong. 3 - A site on the south end of the central lawn on the Campus seemed to be best of the available locations. It is well related to the academic buildings and it offers, because of its size, plenty of freedom to the design. It has the disadvantage of voiding a fine connection from the proposed administration buildings towards the College Pond.

At this point it seemed wise to study the whole area again, having in mind that neither roads nor buildings exist on this side of the Campus. Considerations of this new proposal are to shift the road running north of the adminis-

tration buildings to the south of the same group and to provide a new site for the Arts Complex on the south east end of the central lawn of the Campus, with its longer side running in the same direction as the contours. One of the aims of this site plan is to introduce a sequence of outdoor spaces through which the buildings can be related to the large central lawn. For this reason, it is proposed to extend the College Pond and relate it to the Administration and Fine Arts Buildings.

## P R O G R A M

This Fine Arts Center groups the departments of Speech, Music, Art, Landscape Architecture and Architecture of the University of Massachusetts.

### Speech Department

A theater for four hundred people and its facilities constitute the base of this department. Classrooms, administration offices and a museum have also been considered. The theater will be used for private as well as public presentations and will assume an important role in the cultural life of the campus.

### Music Department

A vast program is offered in the music department. Music theory and history, vocal and instrumental conducting, and individual instrumental instruction have been considered on the program.

### Art Department

This school offers a variety of courses in painting, sculpture, print making, ceramics, art history etc. A space to exhibit students' work is included in the program of this department because of the importance in the teaching program.

### Landscape Architecture

A complete program for undergraduates as well as graduate students is offered by this department.

### Architecture Department

The requirements of this department are to satisfy a five year architectural program.

### Library

Library facilities for all the departments have been combined in one central unit in order to unify the Arts complex.

### Art Gallery

A central art gallery to exhibit permanent collections of painting and sculpture owned by the University is proposed. The possibility of a temporary exhibition must also be considered while designing this space.

## D E T A I L E D   P R O G R A M

## SPEECH DEPARTMENT

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Theatre	4,000
Box Office	60
Foyer and Lobby	1,480
Projection Booth	96
Stage (Theatre Production)	4,400
Shop	1,500
Costume Room	630
Dye Shop	112
Men's Dressing Room	360
Women's Dressing Room	360
Prop Room	312
Scenery Storage	1,500
Wardrobe and Costume Storage	512
Electrical Storage	375
Utility Room	150
Rehearsal Room	1,500
Drafting Room	750
Green Room (Cast Lounge)	750

## SPEECH DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Listening Room	150
Secretary's Office	108
Office Theatre Director	135
Office (Stage Designer)	135
Office (Tech. Director)	300
Television Studio & Control Room	1,750
Classroom	2,000
Classroom	625
Classroom	625
Museum	800

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Main Office	720
Closet for Main Office	48
Dept. Head Office	480
Dept. Head Lavatory & Wardrobe	42
Studio for Dept. Head	480
Six (6) Studio-Offices	2,880
Three (3) Studios for Teaching	588
Two (2) Offices	168

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Sqaure Feet</u>
Group Piano Instruction	580
Instrumental Instruction and Ensemble Room	528
Choral Instruction and Ensemble Room	528
Band, Orchestra Rehearsal & Classroom (Recording)	3,120
Storage of Uniforms & Robes	432
Storage & Issue of Musical Instruments	528
Choral Rehearsal Room, Recital Areas, etc. Music Theatre	4,225
Classroom Theory, Music Education Rehearsal Room, Music Theatre	780
Gen. Classroom, conferences, special meeting, music theatre rehearsals	1,088
Six (6) Piano Practice Rooms	288
Two (2) 2-Piano & 1-Instrument Practice Rooms	160
Piano & Harpsichord Practice Room	120
Two (2) 2-Piano Practice Rooms	200
Ten (10) Practice Rooms for one or two instruments	250
Two (2) Practice Rooms for Organ	500

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Three (3) Listening Rooms	75
Locker Room	452
Students Lounge	1,296

## ART DEPARTMENT

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Secretary's Office	224
Secretary's Storage Closet	18
Duplicating Room	192
Chairman's Office	270
Seminar Room	216
Slide & Photograph Room	750
Office	117
8 Offices	864
Lounge	1,200
Photograph Room	500
Art Gallery	4,500
Storage for Art Gallery	1,500
Packing and Shipping Room	1,200
Drawing Room	1,500
Drawing Room	1,500

## ART DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Classroom (100 students)	1,512
Classroom (40 students)	625
Classroom (40 students)	625
Study Room	192
Closet to Chairman's Office	20
Oil Painting Studio	1,500
Water Color Studio	1,500
Design Studio	1,500
Ceramics Studio	1,500
Life Drawing Studio	1,500
Photography Studio	1,500
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Office Studio Combination	480
Drawing Studio	1,500
Sculpture Studio-Metal	1,500

## ART DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Sculpture Studio, Wood & Stone	1,500
Print Making Studio, Drawing	1,500
Print Making Press Room	1,500
Graduate Student Studio	1,800
Photo Dark Room	300
Workshop, Wood & Metal	1,500
Dept. Storage Room	600
Dressing Room for Models	80

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Freshman Drafting Room	1,400
Drafting Room, Soph., Jr., Sr.	4,900
Drafting Room, Graduate	1,400
Planning Room	1,400
Lecture Room	750
Lecture Room	750
Dept. Head Office	308
Staff Office	140
Staff Office	140
Staff Office	140

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Staff Office	140
Staff Office	140
Staff Office	140
Business Office	168
Plant Materials Room	1,000
Constructing IA Models	600

## ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Administration Offices	1,400
Small auditorium	3,000
Five (5) Drafting rooms	10,000
Four (4) lecture rooms	3,000
Modeling and samples	1,500
Exhibition of Materials	1,000
Photographic Laboratory	1,400
Faculty Offices	2,800

## LIBRARY

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Main reading areas	4,000

## LIBRARY (CONTINUED)

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Architecture and Landscape Architecture Reading and Reference room	800
History and Arts reading and reference rooms	800
Music reading and reference rooms	800
Stacks	10,500
Slide and photo collection	1,300
Librarian's office	400
Back volumes and general storage	900

## ART GALLERY

<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Net Square Feet</u>
Exhibition area	12,000

## C O N S I D E R A T I O N S

These are the main aims considered in the design of the Fine Arts Center: create well controlled outdoor spaces through which the indoor spaces are related to the large central lawn, and at the same time be aware of the existing and proposed spaces in order to effect a general continuity on the site plan; organize the departments in a clear sequence of indoor and outdoor spaces which give, by their shapes, different character to the organisms that they serve; consider the fact that the site has a downward slope to the College Pond and try to fit the new building to this characteristic as well as make use of its possibilities for design.



**LEGEND**

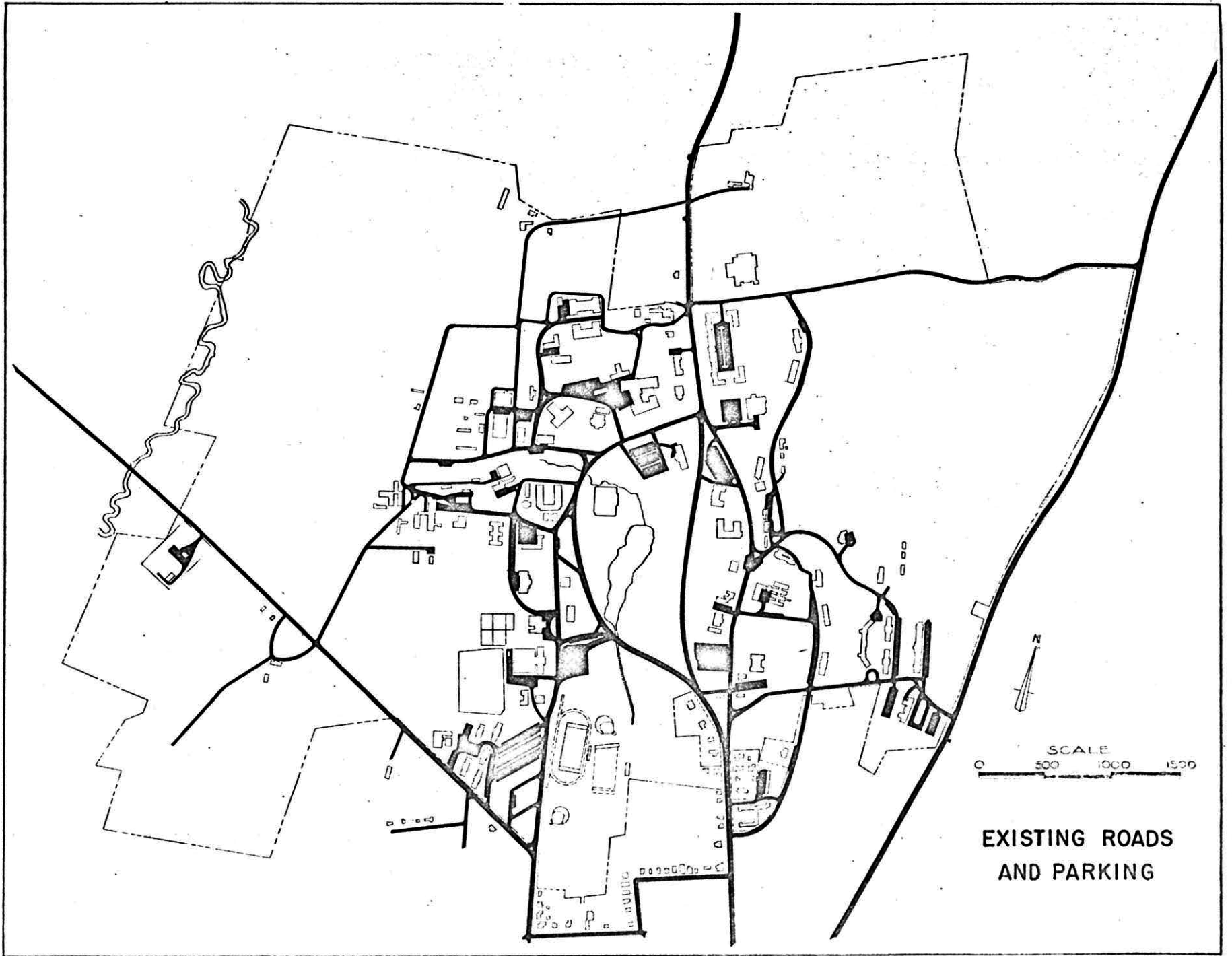
- EXISTING BUILDING TO REMAIN
- ▨ PROPOSED BUILDING
- EXISTING PROPERTY LINE
- - - PROPOSED PROPERTY LINE
- - - NO ACCESS PROPERTY LINE
- ROADS
- ▨▨▨▨ PARKING
- WALKS
- ⊙ EXISTING EVERGREENS
- \* PROPOSED EVERGREENS
- EXISTING DECIDUOUS TREES
- PROPOSED DECIDUOUS TREES

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
AMHERST MASSACHUSETTS

**MASTER PLAN**



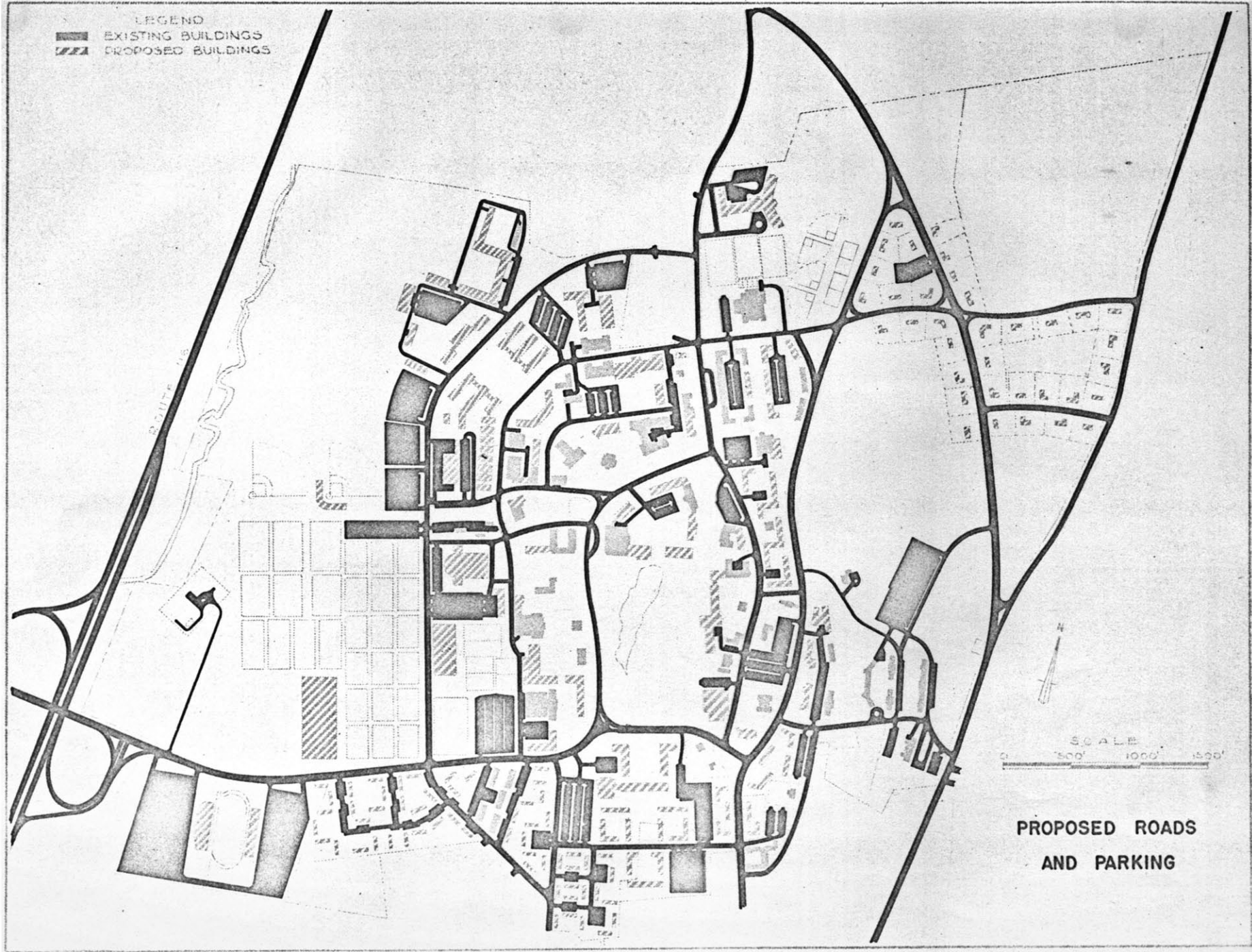
PREPARED FOR THE DIVISION OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
**SHURCLIFF SHURCLIFF & MERRILL** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
 14 BEACON STREET BOSTON MASS.  
**NIELS H. LARSEN** ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT  
 JUNE 1957



SCALE  
0 500 1000 1500

EXISTING ROADS  
AND PARKING

LEGEND  
EXISTING BUILDINGS  
PROPOSED BUILDINGS



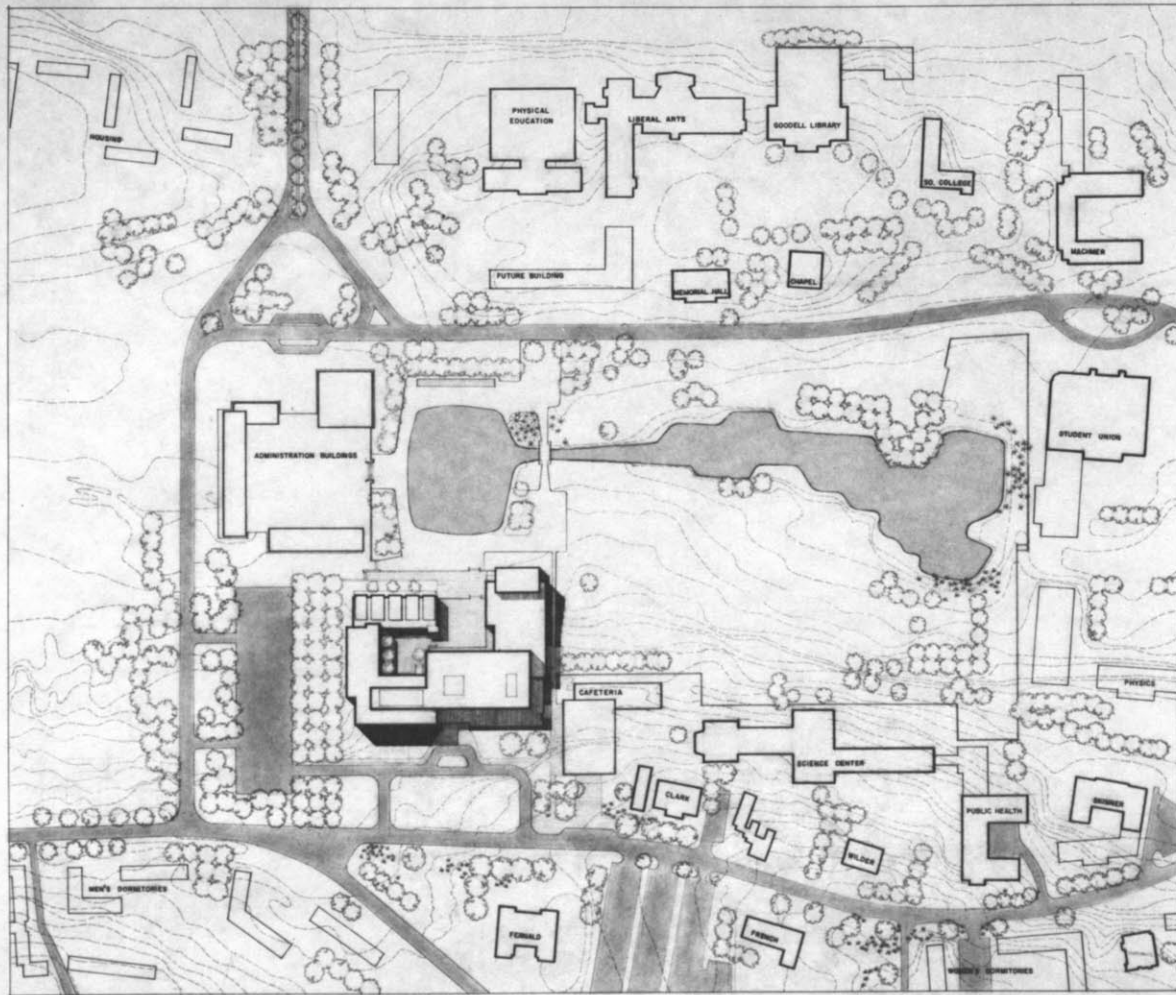
PROPOSED ROADS  
AND PARKING



*The pond at the University of Massachusetts.*

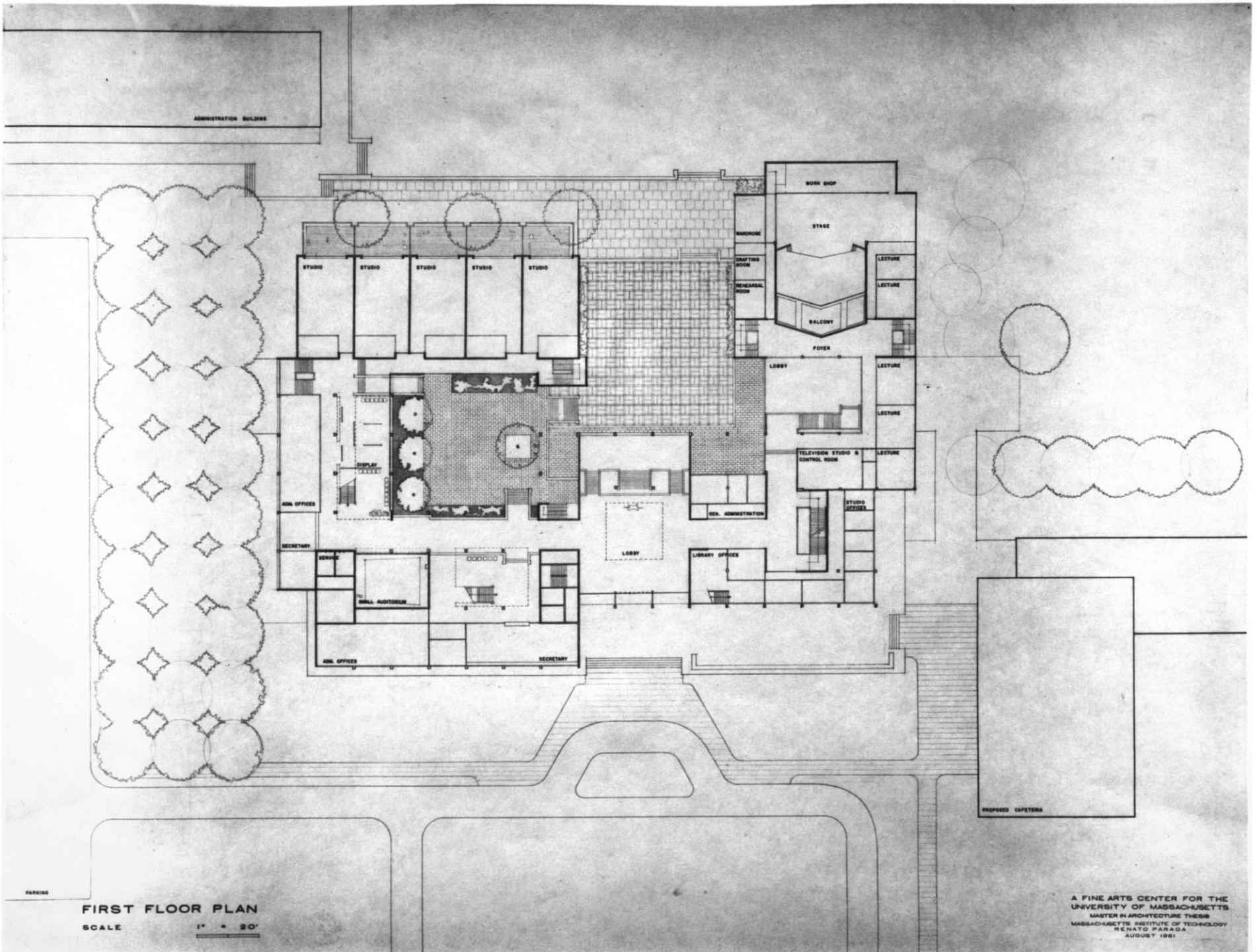
## B I B L I O G R A P H Y

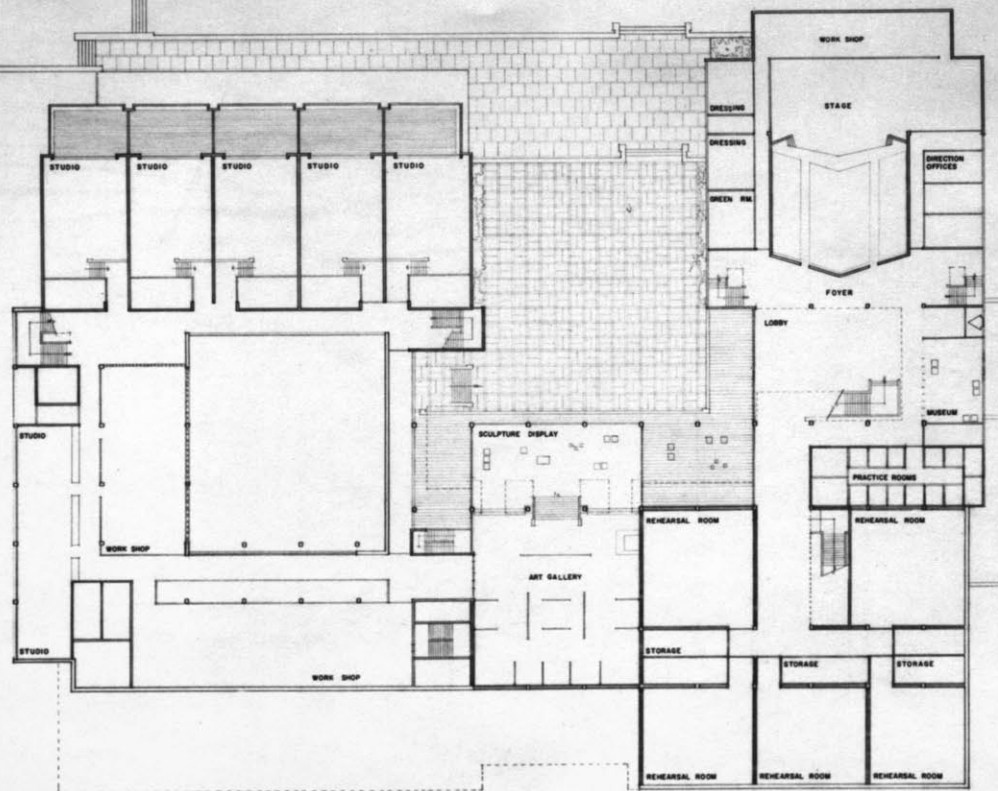
- Kepes, Georgy. Visual Arts Today. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1960.
- Kirwan, Ernest. Art Complex for Princeton University, M.I.T. Thesis. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1959.
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SITE PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 100'

A FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASTER IN ARCHITECTURE THESIS  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
REYNOLDS PARADA  
AUGUST 1961



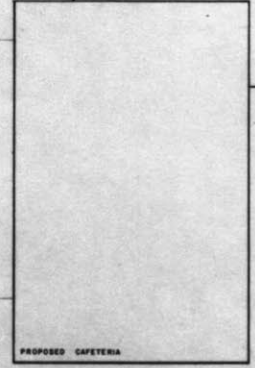
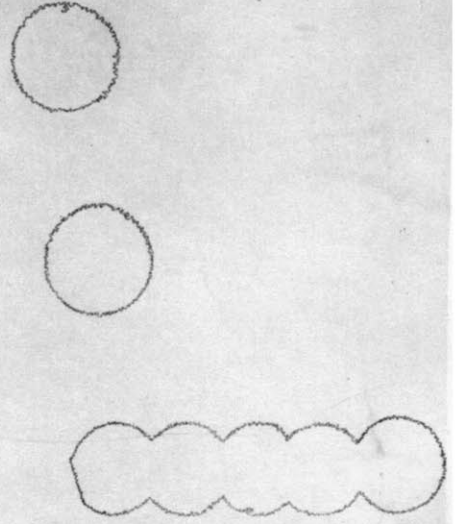
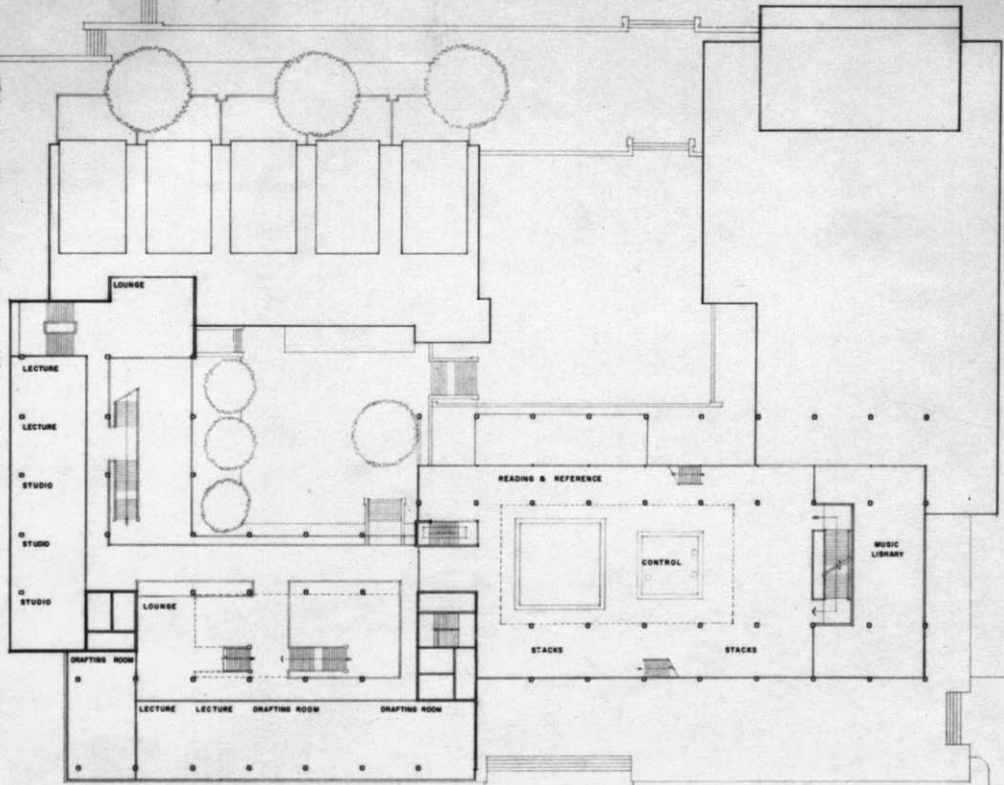
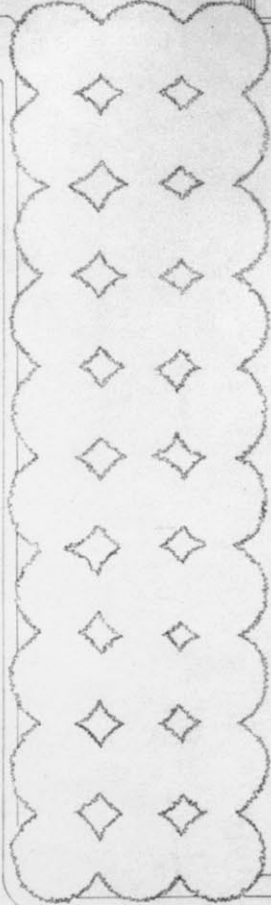


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1" = 20'

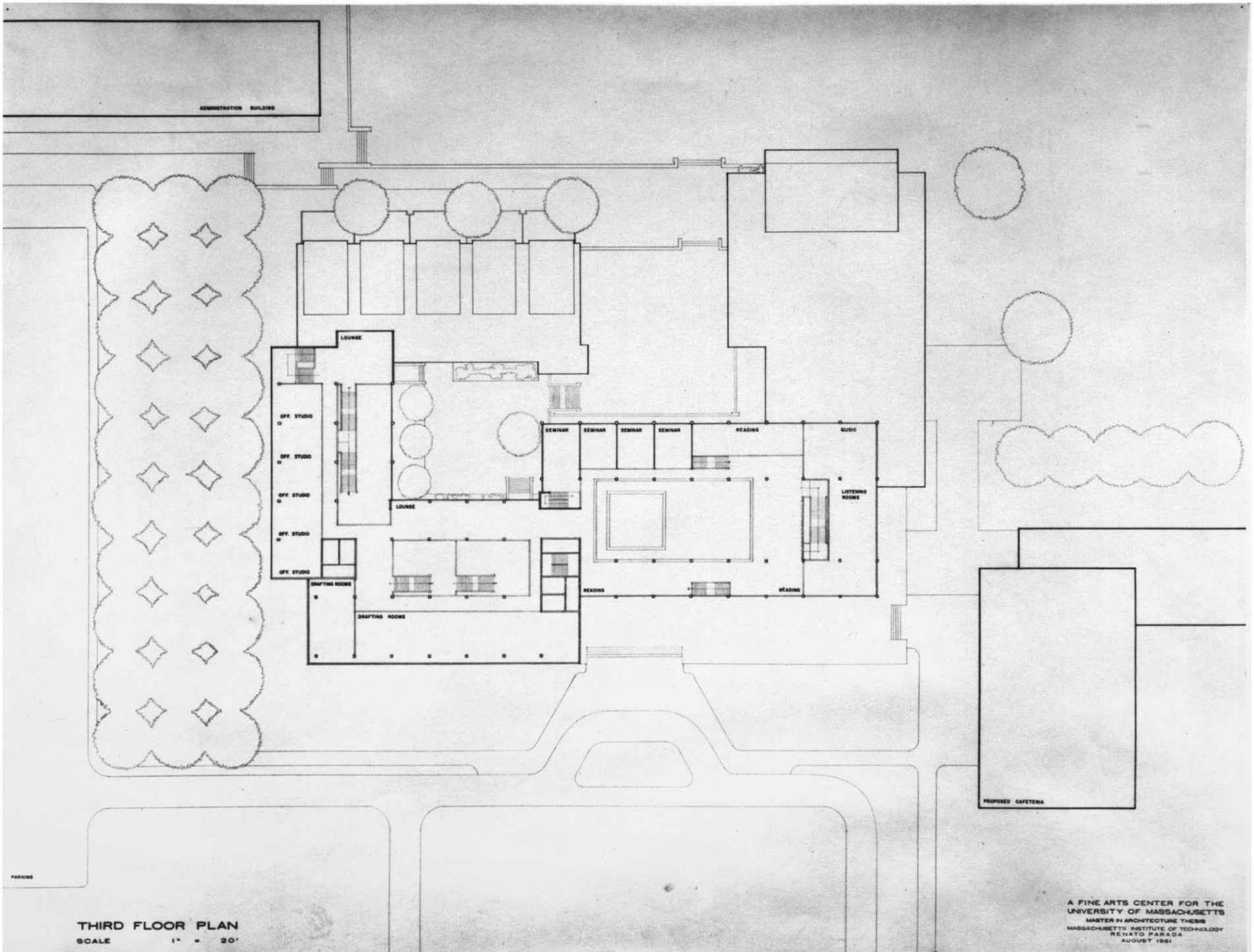
A FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE  
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 RENATO PARADA  
 AUGUST 1961

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



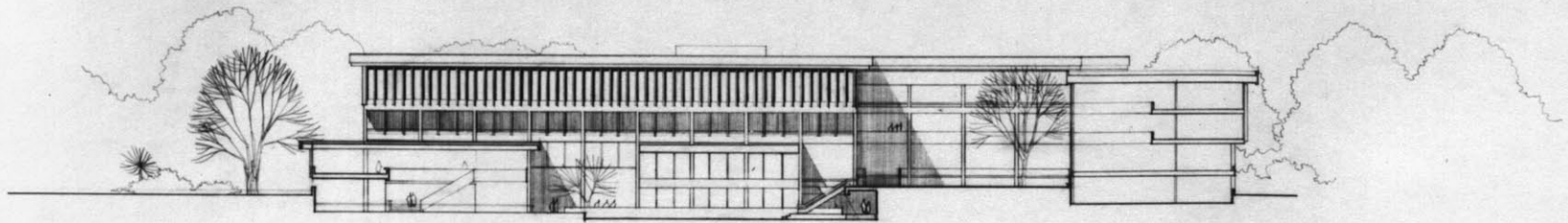
SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 20'

A FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE  
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RENATO PARADA  
AUGUST 1961

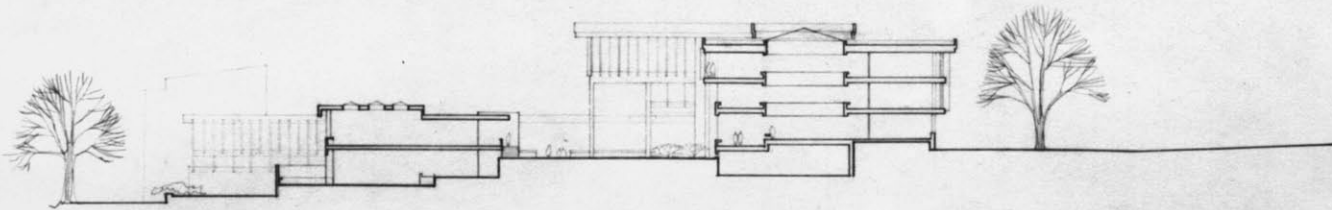


THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 20'

A FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASTER IN ARCHITECTURE THESIS  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
RE NAYTO PAPA DA  
AUGUST 1961



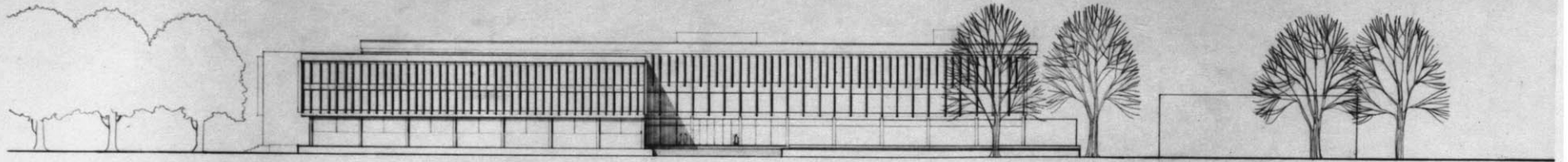
SECTION B-B



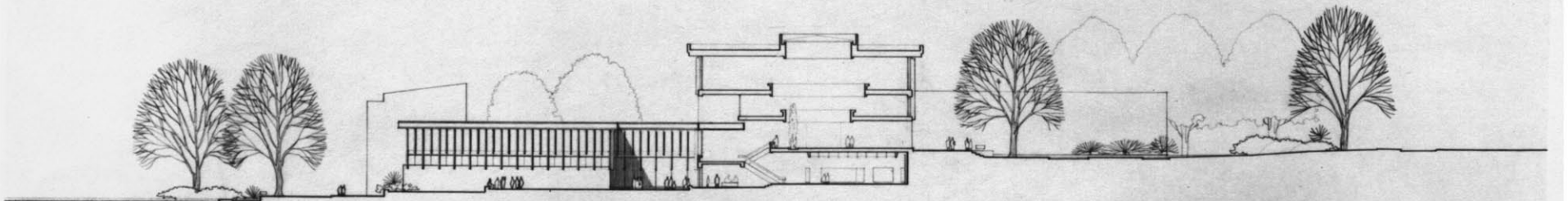
SECTION C-C

SECTION PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 50'

A FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE  
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RENATO PARADA  
AUGUST 1961



EAST ELEVATION



SECTION A-A

ELEVATION PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 20'