SUSTAINABILITY

DRAFT // PHILOSOPHY

A powerful, public statement of Smith’s commitment to remaining a perennial blessing to the country and the world, the renovated library will manifest our increasing capacity to live in an environmentally responsible and responsive manner.

The cornerstones of sustainability -- concern for the environment, for economics, and for social equity -- will inform the building processes across time, and throughout its lifespan.

Understanding the significant challenge posed by climate change, the renovated library will foster resilient communities through its energy efficiency, its aesthetics, and rich opportunities for learning, knowledge creation, and human interaction.

The building will articulate a view of natural systems, and invite active exploration, acknowledging that natural processes are ongoing, and that knowledge and appreciation of these interconnections are necessary to thrive.

DRAFT // GUIDING PRINCIPLES

• Ecological design. We will push the envelope on ecological design as an element central to the evolving 21st Century campus. It will integrate forward-thinking sustainable landscape and architectural practices into the unique context of the Smith campus, drawing inspiration from its multi-layered historic development to reveal and interpret relationships between the campus, local ecology (particularly the Mill River flowing through the campus), and the College’s regional setting-- the Connecticut River Valley.

• Legibility, natural processes, ecological context, and program. This building should relate to its surroundings in a powerful and beneficial way-- and make key, selected natural and building processes evident and visible. The new library will take inspiration from nature and reorient our sense of the campus and the landscape. It will serve as an educational touchstone.

• Create a range of inspiring, healthy, efficient, flexible spaces for research & reflection.

• Provide a stable environment for special collections.

• Build less (library is currently 6%-7% of campus space.)

• Minimize net greenhouse gas emissions (SCAMP)

• Reuse and rehabilitate key assets (e.g. Alumnae Gym.)

• Prepare for the unknown: build to last, and build for adaptability.

• Promote positive environmental behavior & personal responsibility.

• Provide ecologically & pedagogically beneficial landscapes and a sense of place.

• Minimize operational complexity.

(YOUR COMMENTS)