Introduction
Assessment of previous studies

Elkus / Manfredi

SA+P Faculty Design Group
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<tr>
<td>11/7/13</td>
<td>MIT Community Forum 5:30 - 7:00pm</td>
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<td>12/11/13</td>
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Principles and Strategies
Principles

1. As a Gateway, the East Campus project will be emblematic of MIT in the 21st Century.

2. The project will engage and enrich Kendall Square as the most densely populated innovation center in the world, and an important cultural, business and social partner of MIT and the City of Cambridge.

3. Developing commercial research buildings integrated with the overall vision for the East Campus will be essential to the economic viability of the plan.

4. The utilization of landscape and architecture will provide:
   • A unique blending of city and campus
   • Increased connectivity
   • An enhanced sense of place
   • A sustainable urban environment

5. The project will embody an “MIT-ness” both in its process and product.
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Strategy
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Rather than a singular entrance to MIT, the gateway will be a node of activity and a multifaceted series of spaces and portals.
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Strategy

Leverage the potential of the East Campus as an appropriate and memorable presence on the ground and on the skyline of Cambridge.
2. The project will engage and enrich Kendall Square as the most densely populated innovation center in the world, and an important cultural, business and social partner of MIT.
Strategy

A vital and varied MIT presence will be expressed on Main Street.
Strategy

The vision should consider adaptive reuse options as a way to enrich the layered experience and diversify the scale of Kendall Square.
Strategy

The 24-hour nature of research will be served with safe, welcoming public spaces and amenities open at all hours of the day and throughout the week.
3. Developing commercial research buildings integrated with the overall vision for the East Campus will be essential to the economic viability of the plan.
Strategy

The plan will be flexible enough to allow for academic and research uses that have not yet been thought of, and for unanticipated funding sources.
Strategy
The incremental development of the East Campus will be economically viable at each step of its realization.
Strategy
The architecture of the commercial research buildings will reflect the unique market opportunity of being on the MIT campus - innovative and distinctive, yet flexible.
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Strategy
The East Campus will be both a recognizable part of the MIT campus, and a part of the wider city.
Strategy

Open space in the East Campus will complement the mosaic of existing campus landscapes both spatially and as sustainable urban ecosystems.
Strategy

The ground plane will be liberated to include an interrelated exterior and interior public realm.
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Equal consideration will be given to open space, the MIT arrival experience, and connections to the Charles River.
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Strategy

The Infinite Corridor needs to find a new and appropriate expression in the East Campus.
Strategy

Multiple modes of circulation, transportation and parking will make a balanced contribution to the vision with a priority given to active transportation, and a high quality pedestrian environment, and well managed materials handling facilities.
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MIT gateway and campus connections
How can MIT more immediately announce itself on arrival at the Kendall T stop?
How can MIT-specific activities to be made more prominent and varied in the East Campus?
To what extent can adaptive reuse of the historic buildings help to bring the identity and life of MIT to Main Street?
What kind of presence should the East Campus have on the urban skyline?
How can the indoor and outdoor rhythms of the infinite corridor be transformed and celebrated in the East Campus?
How can the infinite corridor become a window into MIT in the East Campus?
How can connections to the Sloan School be strengthened through the East Campus?
How can the presence of the commercial research buildings be balanced by appropriately scaled open space?
Connections to the city
How can the historic buildings be adapted to create an open and porous edge to the East Campus?
How can Main Street become activated at all hours of the day and throughout the week?
How can the increasing vitality of Kendall Square retail best serve the MIT and Cambridge communities?
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How can the East Campus better connect to Third Street and the fast-changing areas to the north?
How can new public open space on the East Campus help to create a more complete open space system in this part of the city?
Connections to the river
How can the river become more central to the experience of the East Campus and Kendall Square?
How can connections across Memorial Drive to the river be made more welcoming and safer?
How can the Wadsworth Street connection to the river be strengthened?
How can the variety of connections to the river be increased?
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Questions for Discussion

If the dome at 77 Mass Ave is the western gateway to MIT ‘s Infinite Corridor how would you describe the 21st century counterpoint gateway to the Infinite Corridor at the East Campus? What is a gateway?

What does East Campus need to provide to enrich life for students, staff and faculty?

What kind of programs would contribute to the vitality of East Campus?

What are the qualities of both interior and exterior spaces that create appealing opportunities for learning, entertainment, dining, recreation, quiet contemplation?

How do we continue to facilitate MIT’s interdisciplinary character in the East Campus?
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