Massachusetts Institute of Technology
East Campus Urban Design Study

MIT Community Forum

Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
Greenberg Consultants
HR&A Advisors
VHB
Atelier Ten

11 December 2013
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12 December 2013
1. Highlights of what we heard from you:
   a. November 7 - MIT Community Forum
   b. November 14 - Cambridge Community Forum

2. 4 Critical Design Issues:
   a. Eastgate Site
   b. Gateway(s)
   c. Connections
   d. Public Space / Mixed Use

3. Discussion of Critical Design Issues
Feedback from MIT Community Forum
November 7, 2013

Kendall Square East Campus Gateway(s)
• Better connect MIT with Kendall Square
• Transparency and activity at street level
• Open up ground floors on Main Street to public access
• Need residential to keep area alive
• Need things that stay open late – theaters, movies
• Grocery store

Connections/ Public Space/ Vibrancy/ Permeability
• Better access to the Charles River
• A pedestrian plaza to enhance actual Kendall Square
• Do not turn back to the city, integrate, overlap campus and city
• Remove surface parking lots
• No more ‘dead ends’
• Winter gardens, internal public areas
• Integrate with development plans for surrounding areas like Volpe

MIT-ness
• Innovation, hands on research, transparency
• Space for MIT entrepreneurs to connect with industry and other students
• Innovation Center accessible to community
• Diversity and serendipity that brings ‘geeks’ together to create stuff to change the world
• Lots of meeting space, tables, green wall-up, good cafes a great catalyst
• MIT Museum – move to Kendall from current hidden location
• Extend the Infinite Corridor
• More space for students across all schools to collaborate, work together, explore ideas
Feedback from Cambridge Community Forum  
November 14, 2013

Kendall Square East Campus Gateway(s)
- Where exactly is Kendall Square?
- Improve link to MIT from T stop
- Improve T Station Headhouse
- Work with MBTA to improve service
- Keep long term plans for circumferential transit in mind
- Consider rotary at Main and Broadway
- Strongly define Main Street with ‘communal’ uses – retail for student and neighbourhood use
- Great place for grocery store
- Need porous edges to Main Street, new public spaces, life in the evening, movie theaters etc.
- Performance areas with backstage workshops

Housing and Vibrancy
- Need people around nights and weekends for retail viability
- Need housing for grad students, post docs, and junior staff
- Housing diversity – affordable, middle income

Connections/ Public Space/ Permeability
- Activate path from Kendall Square to River
- Enhance open space connections to River
- Revitalization of Memorial Drive
- Conversion of median into working landscape
- Partnerships are key in rethinking surrounding infrastructure
- Look to reduce auto impacts, more pedestrian spaces

Environment/ Sustainability
- Leadership on environment
- Storm water, green infrastructure
- Tree canopy enhancement, green streets
- Link with Sub Watershed Boundary of the Charles River
- Modify street grid, orientation to the River and southern exposure

MIT-ness
- Highlight MIT’s unique successes
- Celebrate high tech leadership and accomplishments
- True MIT-ness is figuring out big ideas and solutions
Critical Design Issues
Eastgate Site
4 Critical Design Issues
Connections

4 Critical Design Issues
Public Space / Mixed Use
4 Critical Design Issues

Eastgate Site

- Existing Academic Building
- Existing Key Building on/rear site
- New Laboratory/Office/Retail
- Student Housing
4 Critical Design Issues

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- Existing Academic Building
- Existing Key Building on/next to site
- New Laboratory/Office/Retail
- Student Housing
4 Critical Design Issues

Eastgate Site
4 Critical Design Issues
Gateway(s)
Existing Conditions
Existing Conditions
4 Critical Design Issues
Gateway(s)
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Connections
4 Critical Design Issues
Public Space - Landscape Types
Plaza
Plaza

Union Square Plaza, New York
Common Space
Landscape View
Landscape View

Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York
Landscape View

Hudson River Park, New York
Connective Corridors
Connective Corridors
Hybrid Landscapes
Hybrid Landscapes

Boston Children’s Museum, Boston
Hybrid Landscapes
Cultivating the synergistic DNA of Kendall Square

The Infinite Corridor
Labs/Offices
Research
Learning

The ‘T’
Labs/Offices
Shopping

Kendall Square
Main Street
Living

Open Space

Research
Learning

The River
Cultivating the synergistic DNA of Kendall Square

The Infinite Corridor

Research

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Eastgate Site

Gateway(s)

Connections

Public Space / Mixed Use