

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDELINES ELEMENT**

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, the goals, objectives and policies contained in this element shall guide development of the Main Campus and Southwest Campus in Tallahassee as well as the Panama City Campus in Panama City, Florida.

### **Introduction**

The Main Campus of The Florida State University is a rich repository of architectural treasure. From the Jacobean (and Gothic) styles of the historic zone to the more severe, modern architectural vocabulary of the northwest campus area, FSU has a proud architectural heritage upon which to build. Future campus designs should build upon this heritage.

Five concepts should guide future developments on the campus. First, FSU should extend the character of the original campus through the design of new and expanded facilities and architectural elements that build upon the warm and gracious feelings evoked in the historic zone. It seems difficult in the late twentieth century to create buildings that are identical to the campus' Jacobean Revival buildings, such as the Westcott Building (see **Photo 15.1**), the Longmire Building, Jennie Murphree Hall, Montgomery Hall, and Landis Hall. The special use of Gothic Revival, as in the Johnston Building and Dodd Hall (see **Photo 15.2**), also seems less than easy to attain. However, today's architects can indeed create facilities that genuinely and recognizably reflect the beauty of the historic buildings on campus. Three successful examples of facilities benefiting from this creative effort are the College of Medicine (see **Photo 15.3**), the Chemistry Building, and the Student Life Building.

Second, the notion of defined space is crucial to creating humanistic spaces that are inviting and academic in nature, rather than barren and sterile. In order to achieve the proper scale and positioning of campus buildings, it is necessary to follow the objectives for achieving a characteristic open space/quadrangle at FSU that are discussed in Element 3.

Third, the difference between facilities that are "monumental" (dominant) and those which are "fabric" (subordinate) should be noted. Monumental buildings are those which occupy prominent positions, such as at the end of a quadrangle, and whose architecture dominates and sets the tone for the entire quadrangle. The massing and architectural details of these buildings should belong to the rich design heritage of Westcott Building. Fabric buildings, in contrast, are subordinate buildings in their courtyard and are those that require less detailing and whose massing can be simpler, such as straightforward rectangular "boxes." However, these buildings should still be fine and handsome

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

in appearance. An excellent example of a subordinate, fabric building that is still outstanding is Montgomery Gymnasium.

The fourth concept is that of mixed-use facilities. A great deal of the present success of the FSU campus is due to the variety of facility uses that are intermingled. This gives a variety and energy to the campus land uses that would be absent if buildings were segregated by function. For instance, the mixture of library, academic, residence, and athletic facilities around Landis Green give that space a 24-hour activity level that encourages interaction between different campus users and that lends itself to the serendipity of chance encounters. All of this helps to produce an excellence in campus life that is truly beneficial to the university experience.

The fifth concept is that of the picturesque. This architectural idea, meaning a landscape of delightful, asymmetrical building forms and building compositions, is important to the campus development. Although the Jacobean style lends itself to and often takes advantage of symmetrical building forms (as at the Westcott Building), one of its major strengths lies in its ability to organize asymmetrical building parts into an aesthetically pleasing whole. This ability should be exploited on the campus so that architects can create contemporary facilities that flexibly house a variety of functions, without forcing those functions into symmetrical boxes. In addition, this same asymmetrical condition can be applied to the development of all the buildings in a courtyard. Although the plan indicates a fairly symmetrical build-out of the new quadrangles, this is merely schematic in its graphic presentation. In actuality, if the building program necessitated the building of a very large facility, that facility could be massed in such a way that its asymmetrical shape could avoid overwhelming a courtyard, even if an entire side of a courtyard was needed for a single structure.

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.1 Jacobean Revival (Westcott Building)**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.2 Gothic Revival (Dodd Hall)**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.3 Contemporary Jacobean (College of Medicine)**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

These large-scale concepts are not the only guidelines that FSU should follow as it develops its campus. FSU should continue to develop its campus beautifully and successfully by means of a coordinated design strategy at two levels of detail: at the campus scale (in terms of framing open spaces, defining courtyards and enclosure, etc.) and at the individual building scale (material, scale, proportions). Both of these levels of detail will be addressed below.

**Goal 1**

**To establish excellence in architectural design that will help produce an aesthetic and functional campus.**

**Objective 1A**

**FSU will seek to extend throughout its Main Campus the desirable architectural character of the original Jacobean Revival historic zone.**

**Policy 1A-1**

The designers of new facilities throughout the campus will base major aesthetic decisions on the Jacobean Revival style. Elements to consider using include:

- the Jacobean arch (see **Figure 15.1** and **Photos 15.4, 15.5, and 15.6**) and, if a Gothic Revival facility is contemplated, use of the Gothic arch (see **Figure 15.1** and **Photos 15.2 and 15.7**);
- Planar, red brick facades with areas of decorative brick patterning (see **Photos 15.8 and 15.9**);
- sculptural building elements, such as entrance and corner pavilions and porches, towers, and window bays (see **Photos 15.10, 15.11, 15.12, and 15.13**);
- tile or slate pitched roofs, punctuated by dormers and gables (see **Photo 15.14**), or flat roofs hidden behind crenellated parapets (see **Photo 15.10**);
- building podiums that raise the first floor slightly above ground level (see **Photos 15.6 and 15.15**);
- gables and window groupings that are centered between (not straddling) building piers (see **Figure 15.2** and **Photos 15.6 and 15.16**);

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

- windows that are, or appear to be, casement windows, whose height is greater than their width -- though these windows can be ganged together to produce a horizontal band of fenestration. (Although double-hung windows are common in the historic zone, casement windows are more properly used in Jacobean architecture.) See Photos **15.9**, **15.12**, and **15.13**; and
  
- ornamental details in stone (or similar material) that highlight major building portals, accent door and window openings, serve as quoins and string courses, accent roof lines and gables, and punctuate the top of piers and crenellations. See Photos **15.1 thru 6**, **15.15**, and **15.17** and **15.18**.

**Policy 1A-2**

The designers of all independent architectural elements such as covered arcades/bridges, fountains, gateways, and kiosks will base major aesthetic decisions on the Jacobean Revival style. See Policy 1A-1 above for elements to consider. These elements shall be placed in such a manner as to frame vistas, punctuate building facades, connect adjacent facilities, and especially, to provide a clear, architectural focus to the system of campus pedestrian connections. Gateways and covered arcades will mark/frame entrances and exits to quadrangles and will relate to other similar architectural elements and/or building portals so that pedestrians are easily able to find their way through the campus. For examples, see **Photos 15.19** and **15.20**.

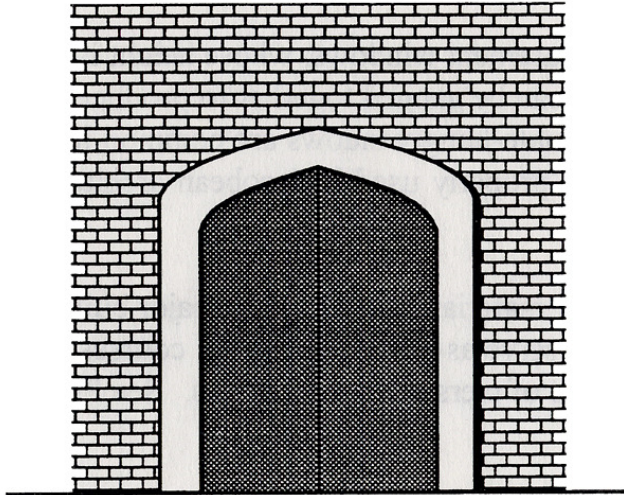
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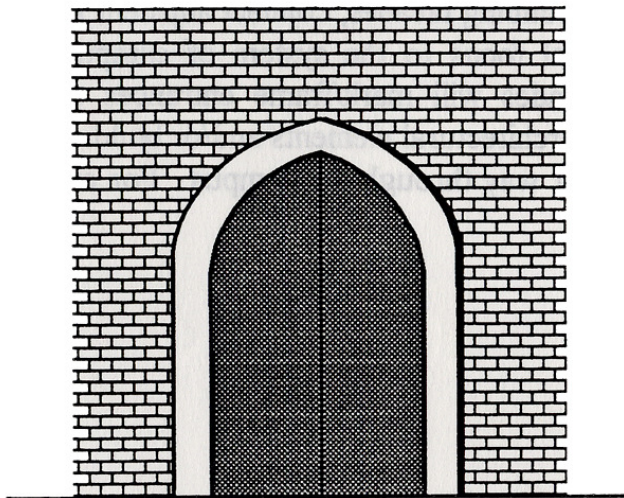
FS-200  
13 June 2008

15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Figure 15.1 Jacobean and Gothic Arches



Jacobean Arch



Gothic Arch

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008



**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.4 Jacobean Arch**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.5 Jacobean Arch**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.6 Jacobean Arch and Proper Gable/Pier Design (Montgomery Gymnasium)**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Photo 15.7 Gothic Arch

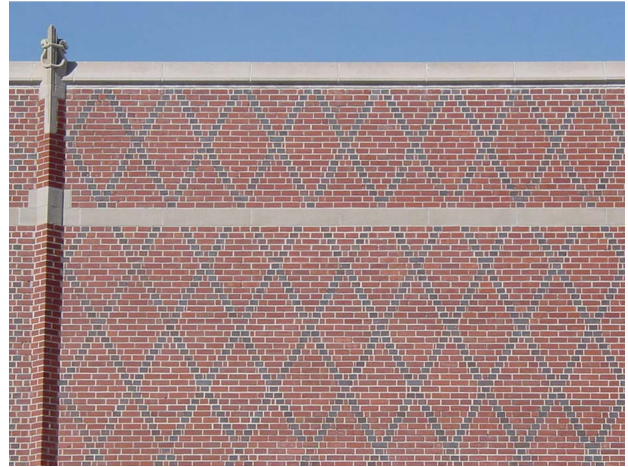


Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photos 15.8 and 15.9 Decorative Brick Patterning**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

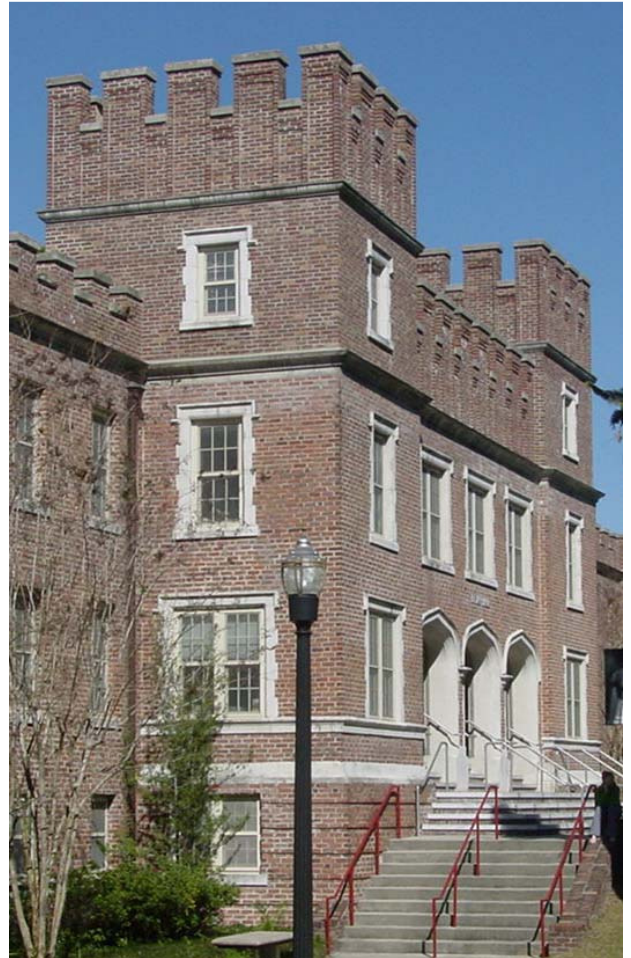
**Photos 15.10 and 15.11 Sculptural Building Elements**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.14 Pitched Roof and Gables**



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Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008



**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.15 Building Raised on Small Podium**



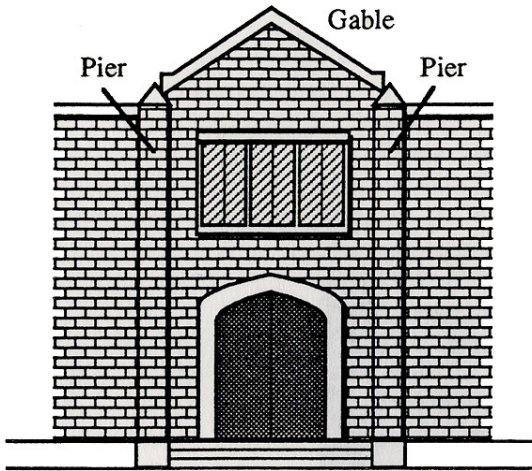
Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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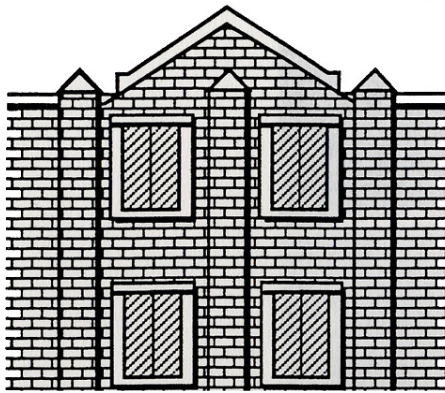
FS-200  
13 June 2008

15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Figure 15.2 Gable and Pier Relationships



Correct Gable and Pier Relationship



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Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

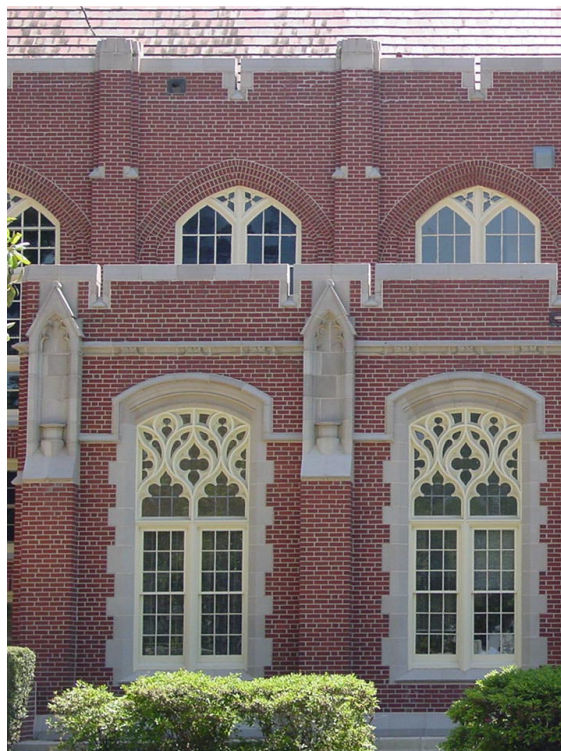
15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Photo 15.16 Proper Gable/Pier Design



**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photos 15.17 and 15.18 Ornamental Details**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**Policy 1A-3**

The designers of renovations/additions to campus facilities will, wherever appropriate, base major aesthetic decision on the Jacobean Revival style. See Policy 1A-1 above for elements to consider. In the case of renovations to buildings of drastically dissimilar aesthetic appearance (such as the Brutalist style of McCollum Hall), renovations/additions can be in a style more closely conforming to the original building.

**Objective 1B**

**The University will select the appropriate architectural impact for new facilities and facility improvements/additions based on a considered balance between dominant and subordinate buildings, allowing for different University needs -- aesthetic, functional, and programmatic.**

**Policy 1B-1**

Follow the campus-siting armature of quadrangles and courts established in the Master Plan, **Figure MP.1**, to balance buildings with a monumental presence with those of a more modest appearance. Each quadrangle/court will have dominant and subordinate buildings. The architecturally dominant buildings will normally be located on the short ends of each quadrangle, those ends being the main spatial foci. See **Figure 15.3**. For more unusual/asymmetric spaces, such as the Woodward quadrangle, the Campus Development and Space Committee will carefully consider which site has the most impact and place the architecturally dominant building there.

**Policy 1B-2**

Flexible selection of monumental or more modest fabric building typology for each new facility will be determined not only by campus placement (including relationship to major open spaces and other quadrangle buildings) but also functional nature and potential for mission change.

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photos 15.19 and 15.20 Independent Architectural Elements**



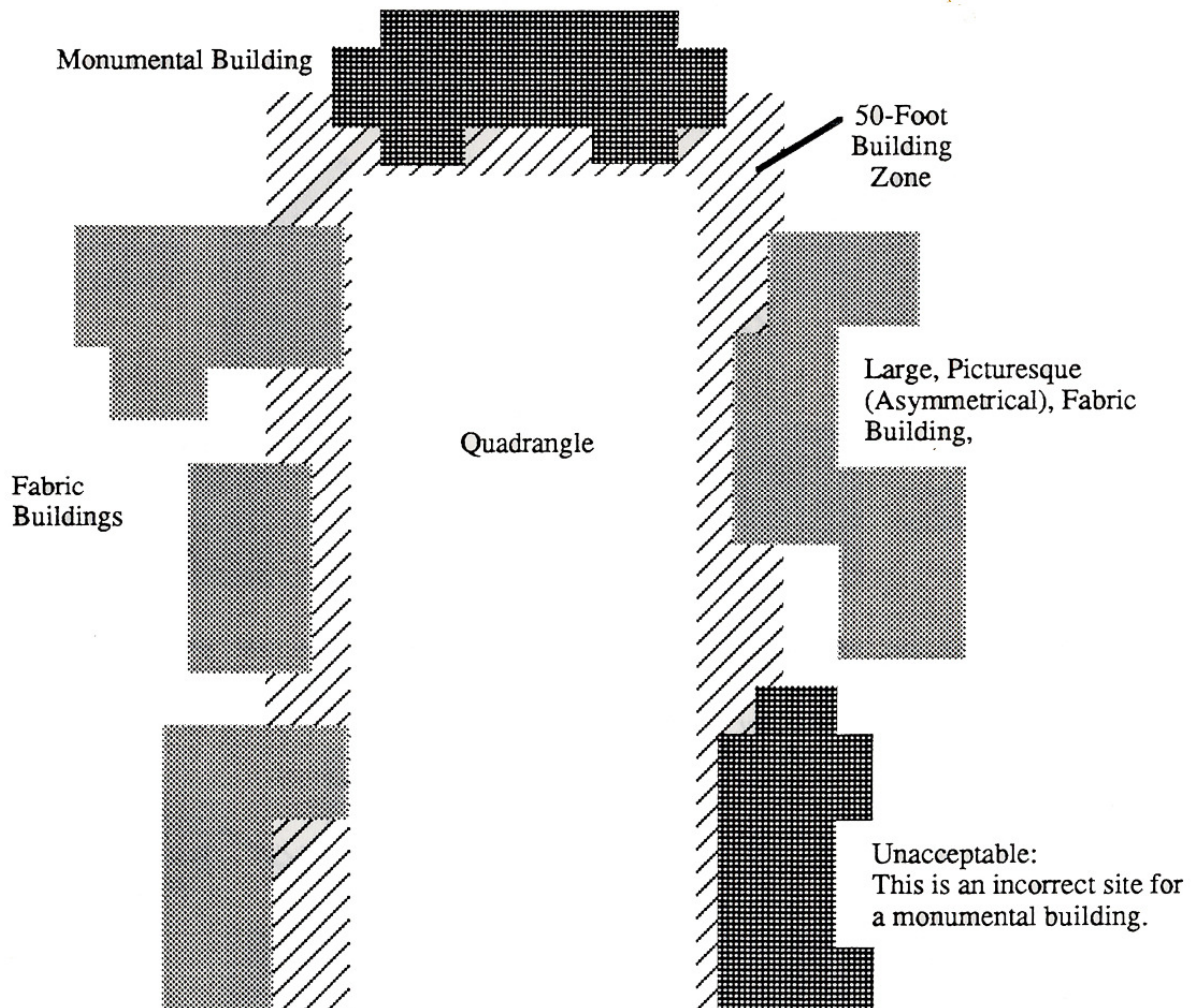
Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Figure 15.3 Siting of Monumental and Fabric Buildings

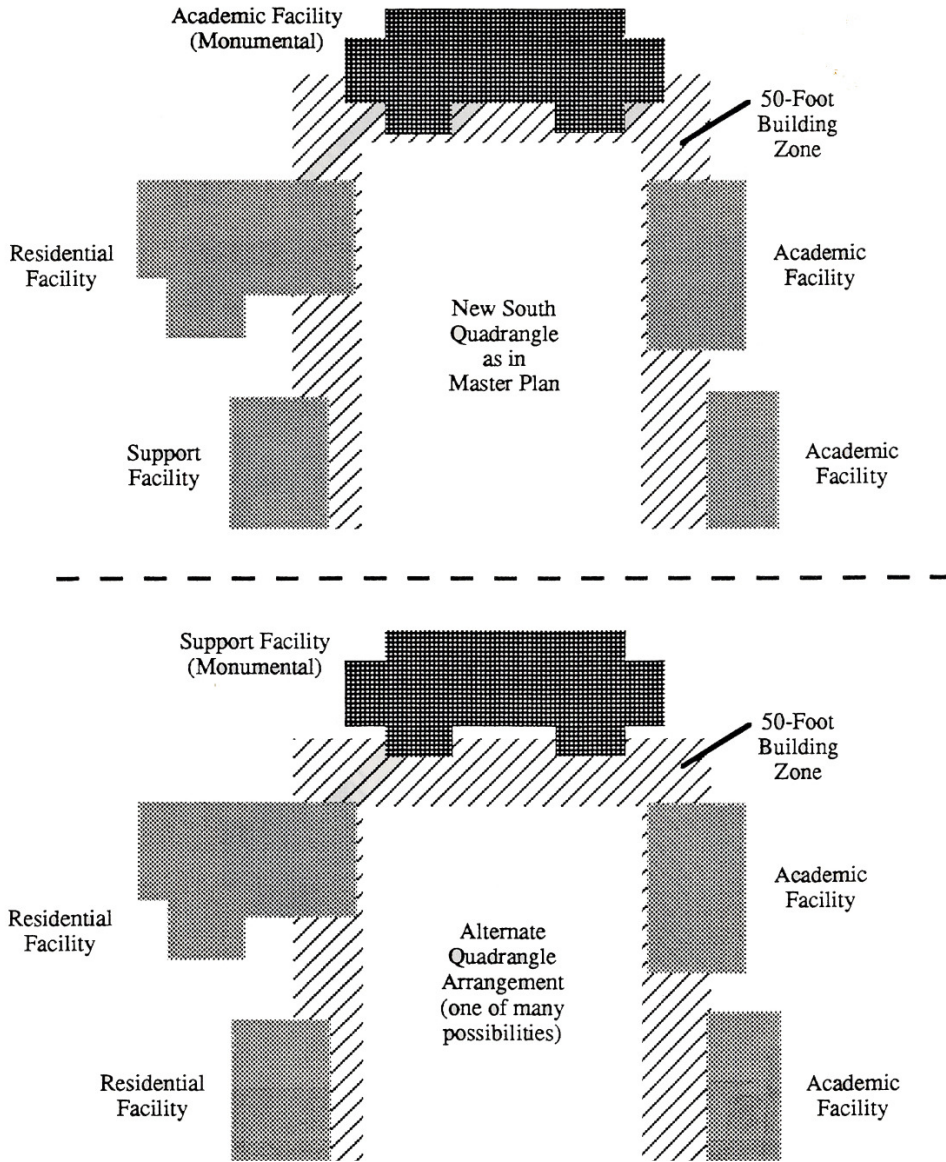


Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008

15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Figure 15.4 Flexibility of Mixed-Use Quadrangles



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008



**Policy 1B-3**

All quadrangles shall be mixed-use (i.e., some mixture of academic buildings, administration/support buildings, residential buildings, etc.). Buildings should be sited within quadrangles based upon necessary campus adjacencies as well as their appropriate position as monuments or fabric buildings. The assignment of building types -- academic, support, residential -- throughout this document is purely schematic. Each quadrangle, as it is developed, will be reviewed for the appropriate mix of functions. See **Figure 15.4** as an example of this flexibility as it could apply to the South quadrangle.

**Objective 1C**

**Individual facilities should be planned and designed to have building elements that are permanent and strongly support the campus aesthetic and to have building elements that are more flexible and, therefore, less permanent in nature. See Figure 15.5.**

**Policy 1C-1**

Develop the facility's cladding and its entry sequence (doorway, vestibule, central public space) and vertical circulation as the long-term core element of each facility.

**Policy 1C-2**

The basic building material for the exterior cladding is brick. Architectural details, such as portals and window surrounds, will be composed of stone or similar materials, to add character and focus to the building facade. See **Photos 15.1, 15.2, and 15.3**. Colors for the brick and details will be as close as possible to those used in the historic zone.

**Policy 1C-3**

The entry sequence shall be composed of structural and ornamental materials that foster the creation of a Jacobean Revival aesthetic. Exterior materials shall be brick, stone (or similar materials), tiles, and/or other materials similar to those used in the historic area. Interior materials shall be brick, stone (or similar materials), tiles, wood paneling, stucco, and/or other materials similar to those used in the entries and grand, ceremonial spaces in buildings in the historic area. See **Photos 15.21 and 15.22**.

**Policy 1C-4**

Except for the cladding and entry sequence, internal plan arrangements must have great

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

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15-25

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

flexibility for economical rearrangement through proper material selection and structural placement/type. Close attention should be paid to structural bays and their ability to support future floorplate reconfigurations.

**Policy 1C-5**

Building support elements (HVAC, electricity, hard-wired communications, water, and waste-handling of all varieties) should be reconfigurable, in order to support the flexibility of the building and of future technological changes. During the facility programming process, identify those elements likely to need the greatest flexibility or ease of modification and then ensure that they are designed to accommodate future building and technological changes.

**Policy 1C-6**

Minimize level changes to ease future reconfiguration.

**Policy 1C-7**

To provide designers with the most options for flexibility while also providing visual diversity, the massing of new facilities should normally be picturesque (asymmetrical) in organization.

**Policy 1C-8**

Individual facilities, both new and renovated, should be considered for mixed uses (i.e., classrooms, lab, lecture).

**Objective 1D**

**Reduce facility-operating costs through proper architectural design.**

**Policy 1D-1**

Plan and build all facility improvements and additions as well as new facilities in a way that will reduce long-term facility operating costs.

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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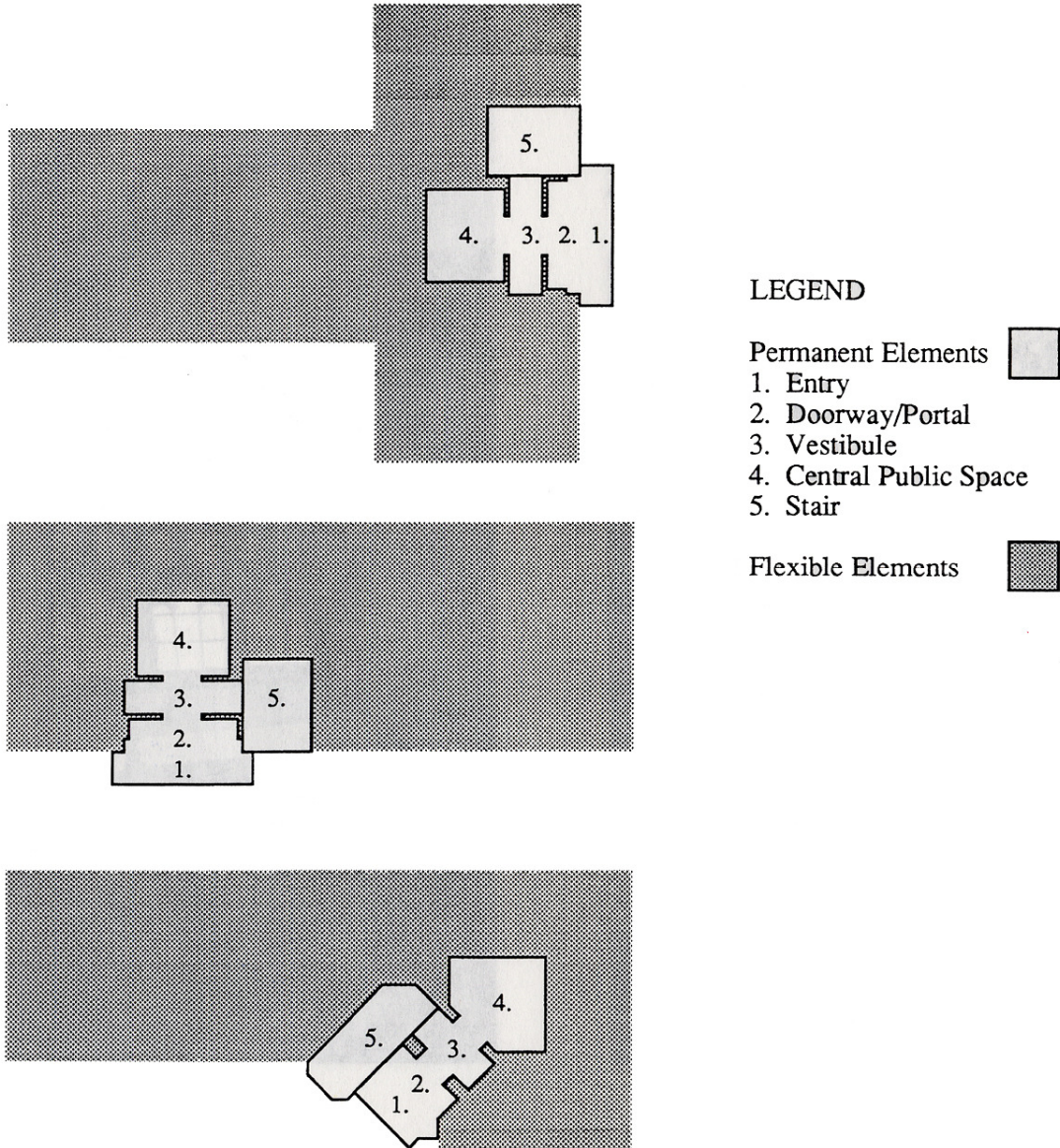
FS-200  
13 June 2008

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15-26

15 Architectural Design Guidelines

Figure 15.5 Permanent versus Flexible Schematic Building Elements  
(in Generic Building Layouts)



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**Photo 15.21 Exterior Entry Sequence  
(Gilchrist Hall)**



**Photo 15.22 Interior Entry Sequence  
(Dodd Hall)**



Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

---

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines****Policy 1D-2**

Select energy-efficient and low-maintenance exterior and interior materials, architectural details, and building equipment and fixtures.

**Objective 1E**

**To the greatest extent economically and physically feasible, all historic facilities that undergo rejuvenation and retrofit will be brought to necessary accessibility and life safety codes without adversely impacting the quality of the facility.**

**Policy 1E-1**

Bringing historic facilities into compliance with necessary codes will be done with minimum adverse impact to the visual quality of the facility's exterior presence.

**Policy 1E-2**

Bringing historic facilities into compliance with necessary codes will be done with minimum adverse impact to the quality of the facility's entry sequence (porch, vestibule, hall, staircase) and important ceremonial rooms.

**Policy 1E-3**

The architectural planning and design process will also be governed by the currently applicable State of Florida statutes, the requirements of the Florida State University, and other applicable codes and standards which are listed in the at the end of this Element and shall be considered an integral part of this Master Plan.

**Objective 1F**

**The University will conform to the following additional architectural design guidelines.**

**Policy 1F-1**

The University shall continue to prioritize and seek funding for the mitigation of accessibility issues in University facilities. Priorities for mitigation shall consider the following items (in priority order):

- building access from exterior;
- exterior signage;

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

---

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

- accessible toilet facility;
  
- accessibility of all public spaces, including auditoriums; and
  
- interior signage.

**Policy 1F-2**

The University will use the guidelines in this element to develop its on-campus edges and will coordinate with the City of Tallahassee to create compatible standards for the off-campus edges.

**Policy 1F-3**

In the event that FSU develops satellite University facilities occupying sites on campuses that are not part of the State University System of Florida, Board of Governors, the University will establish joint coordination methods regarding the design of those facilities.

**Policy 1F-4**

The architectural planning and design process will also be governed by the currently applicable State of Florida statutes, the requirements of the Florida State University, and other applicable codes and standards which are described at the end of this Element and shall be considered an integral part of this Master Plan.

**Policy 1F-5**

FSU will continue the current initial design review process accomplished by the Campus Development and Space Committee, assisted by the Facilities Department. This initial design review will carefully consider each of the above guidelines. See the Plan's **Appendix** for this Committee's process, which is an integral part of this Master Plan.

**Policy 1F-6**

FSU will use the design review process to adjust these architectural guidelines. The Campus Development and Space Committee, assisted by the Facilities Department, accomplish this process. This review mechanism, which is a post-occupancy evaluation process, will regularly review the effectiveness of the architecture guidelines and adjust them as necessary.

**Objective 1G**

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

**FSU will seek to extend throughout its Panama City campus and on its other properties and sites an approachable, friendly style of architecture that builds upon the character of the existing buildings, where appropriate, and enhances the existing architecture of the campus/site as much as is feasible. These properties shall not be required to use the architectural character of the Main Campus.**

**Policy 1G-1**

The designers of new facilities on the Panama City campus and on other FSU properties will base major aesthetic decisions on the character of the existing buildings, where appropriate. It shall be a primary aesthetic policy to build upon the strengths on existing facilities, in order to achieve a community of facilities that look coordinated and compatible.

**Policy 1G-2**

The designers of new facilities on the Panama City campus and on other FSU properties will base major aesthetic decisions on enhancing the existing architecture of the campus/site as much as is feasible. While the aesthetic theme of the site should be followed, designers of future facilities are encouraged to build facilities that are more user-friendly, pleasant, functional, accessible, energy-efficient, durable, and open to outside views of gathering places, landscaping, and outdoor amenities. Designers of these facilities should consider the provision of covered outdoor waiting areas, outdoor landscaped courtyards, pedestrian connections to other buildings, and other elements that foster academic life and the mission of the University.

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

---

FS-200  
13 June 2008

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines****Supplement to Architectural Design Guidelines Element Goals, Objectives, and Policies****Codes and Standards**

Regarding building codes and State oversight of university projects, substantial changes have been made to the regulatory system that controls university development over the past several years. The restructuring of the higher education governance system, the adoption of a statewide building code, the evolution of University Boards of Trustees, and the advent of a University permitting department are just a few examples of such changes. Because some of these changes are still somewhat evolving, it is difficult to fully predict or evaluate how campus construction, and the systems and policies that oversee it will be impacted.

The vast majority of all capital construction projects completed at Florida State University, regardless of whether they fall within the category of either a major or minor project, are administered by the Facilities Department. All construction activities that occur on the Florida State University campuses are tightly regulated by a series of existing and new statutes, standard practices, guidelines, and policies. The responsibility for ensuring that the completion of this project meets these requirements has been assigned to the Facilities Department; that portion of the process remains unchanged.

The planning, programming, design and construction phases of any capital project are generally regulated by three areas of governance: Florida Statutes, building/life safety codes, and University standards, guidelines, and policies. Not surprisingly, there is a certain amount of overlap between many of these items.

Florida Statutes, especially those found in Chapter 1013, provide specific direction on various aspects of the University's capital improvements program, including capital budgeting, master planning, and the like. Other legislation is represented elsewhere in the Statutes, including information on the statewide building code. Of course, any discussion about legislation must also include federal initiatives, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which apply equally to all University projects.

Over the years, the University and the former Board of Regents developed and adopted various sets of guidelines and policies that assisted in the administration of construction and renovation projects. Though many of the former BOR policies and Chancellor's Memoranda have been rescinded by the Florida Department of Education, Florida State has chosen to adopt a similar set of policies and procedures. These can be found at the following website:

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

---

FS-200  
13 June 2008



**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

<http://www.vpfa.fsu.edu/policies/facilities/forms.html>

A number of University guidelines and specifications are maintained in the “Design Guidelines and Specifications” section of the Facilities Planning and Construction website at <http://www.fpc.fsu.edu/guidelines.html>. The University’s Campus Master Plan provides guidance on the design of new facilities and landscaping components in the form of “Architectural Design Guidelines and Landscape Design Guidelines” These guidelines describe the University’s general design intent towards these project components. More specific direction can be found in the “Florida State University Design Guidelines and Standards,” which are also kept on-line at this website. These guidelines contain specific information about preferred materials, methods of construction, systems information, and the like.

Other University departments have likewise promulgated similar kinds of guidelines. For instance, the Office of Telecommunications has standards and guidelines specifically developed for architects and engineers, which provide important information on telecommunication system infrastructure, and operating specifications for data networking equipment. This standard should be rigorously followed.

Generally speaking, the design professional shall meet with the Facilities Department and other appropriate University departments prior to the commencement of the design phase to discuss all applicable statutes, codes, guidelines, standards, policies and procedures. Any questions concerning the applicability of any particular form of governance must be sufficiently answered so as to remove any confusion or question about how a project will be administered and by which statute or code. It shall be the responsibility of the design professional, the construction manager, or the general contractor to ensure that every capital project follows the requirements of all applicable statutes and codes. It should also be noted that the design professional shall ensure that the design documents comply with all codes until the date the project is permitted for construction as part of the basic service requirements.

It is worth noting that the Florida State University Building Code Administration Section, a unit of the University’s Environmental Health and Safety Department, ensures that all new building construction, additions, alterations, repairs, remodeling or demolitions and all installations of building systems meet Florida Building Code requirements including all electrical, plumbing, mechanical, gas, gas fuel, fire prevention, energy conservation, accessibility, stormwater and flood plain management requirements. This office supervises, directs and enforces the permitting, plans examination and inspection program in all University buildings, including parking garages. When the Building Code Administrator is satisfied that all code requirements

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

---

FS-200  
13 June 2008

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15-33

**15 Architectural Design Guidelines**

have been met, a certificate will be issued that allows completed buildings to be occupied.

It is the responsibility of the design professional, the construction manager and the University's construction project manager to ensure that all plans review and construction inspection requirements are met. It is highly recommended that at the commencement of this project, the design professional, the construction manager, and/or the general contractor meet with the University's Building Code Administrator to discuss the project and any possible code issues, schedules of plan review, and other administrative procedures.

Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

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Revised: 02 June 2011  
Effective:

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FS-200  
13 June 2008

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15-35