

THE PROJECT

The Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) is located in Boston's Longwood Medical Area, near the Harvard Medical School, teaching hospitals, and research institutions. HSPH has been identified by Harvard University as one of the professional schools that could be relocated to land the University will be developing in Allston. DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) and the architecture firm Payette Associates were retained by Harvard University's Allston Development Group to study the facility needs of the School and the physical implications of meeting those needs either in the Longwood area or on the University's expanded Allston campus.

CHALLENGE

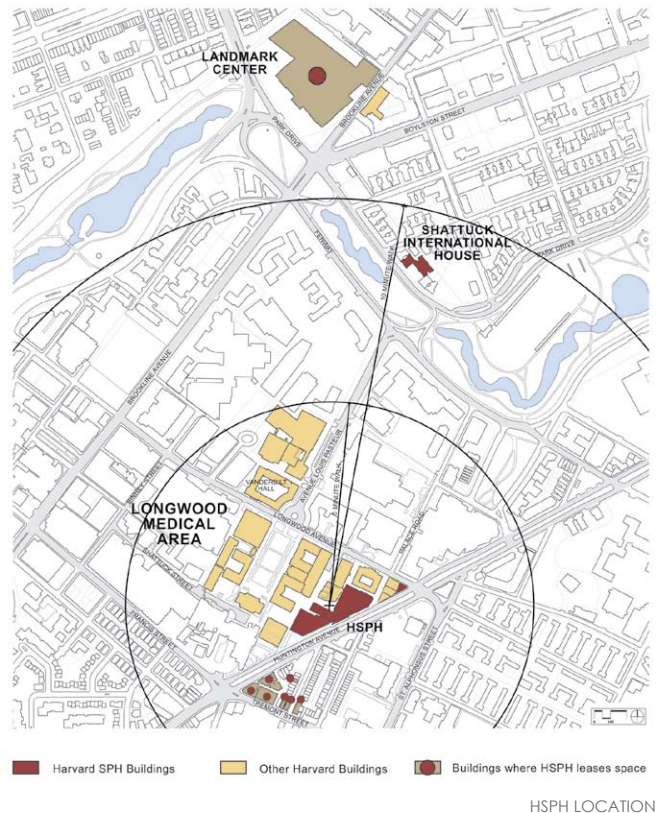
A major project goal was to develop a facility program that will encourage collaboration. The School's mission, focused on preventing disease and promoting the health of populations, is organized around public health problems rather than by department, discipline, profession, or skill. DLM worked with the HSPH faculty to identify those relationships that will need to be strengthened in order to support the School's goals and objectives.

The challenge of providing the required amount of space for HSPH in its present location is problematic. The School is presently housed in 27 non-residential buildings. There is insufficient space for current and future initiatives and the dispersion of faculty and programs hinders the School's interdisciplinary, problem-centered approach.

SOLUTION

Through extensive work with steering committees representing HSPH's academic constituents, a facility program was proposed that could support the desired collaboration and anticipated School development.

Several options for providing this space in the Longwood area were studied by Payette Associates, although expanding would be difficult as there is little land available for new construction and few options for leasing a significant amount of space in one building. In each scheme HSPH would remain scattered and to renovate any of the major existing facilities would require swing space, which is not available in the area. The alternatives developed to test the fit of the program on the Allston site sought to create a complex of buildings that supports interdisciplinary projects, provides HSPH with a strong visual identity, and ensures good connections to researchers across and beyond the University focused on health-related problems.



RESULTS

The HSPH development plan will be factored into the University's overarching plan for its expansion in Allston.

*Project completed under previous name: Dober, Lidsky, Craig and Associates, Inc.

PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE
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