NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

THE SAADIYAT CAMPUS

THE PROJECT

"NYU's agreement with the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to create NYU Abu Dhabi is the outcome of a shared understanding of the essential roles and challenges of higher education in the 21st century: a common belief in the value of a liberal arts education, concurrence on the benefits a research university brings to the society that sustains it, a conviction that interaction with new ideas and people who are different is valuable and necessary, and a commitment to educating students who are true citizens of the world. NYUAD is the first comprehensive liberal arts and science campus in the Middle East to be operated abroad by a major American research university.

NYUAD will consist of a highly selective liberal arts and science college, distinctive graduate programs, and world center for advanced research, scholarship, and creativity—integrated with each other and connected to NYU New York. Situated in a major strategic crossroads and rapidly evolving city, the NYUAD campus will draw international faculty and students from the top of the world's talent pool, and contribute to the development of Abu Dhabi as a capital of ideas, research and education." *-New York University*

THE NYU ABU DHABI CAMPUS
SAADIYAT ISLAND, NEARING COMPLETION

CHALLENGE

Based on the evolving academic and strategic plan, Dober Lidsky Mathey provided programming assistance for buildings and spaces for the new campus. Included in the programming process was the description of spaces for the humanities, social science, sciences and engineering, arts, centers and institutes, university classrooms, public access computer labs, library/information commons, administrative offices, and operations. Essentially, we provided a definition of the amount and type of space required for this new campus initiative. The program provided the information of the master plan to proceed.

SOLUTION

A key issue for this project was timing—defining space needs as the curriculum and planning assumptions were still being debated and discussed within the University. The need for a participatory process was essential. Many of the policy choices being discussed by NYU had spatial implications and helping the University to understand those implications informed their discussion. The need for flexible, adaptable spaces was critical. The spaces that we defined for the new campus will allow the curriculum, pedagogy, and research to evolve over time. Over 700,000 net assignable square feet were defined.

RESULTS

The NYU Abu Dhabi campus is now a fully functioning college, newly constructed. http://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/about.html

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DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY
CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS