February 2, 2018

REPORT ON DEPARTMENT FACULTIES STUDY

The Facilities Committee of the Department of Architectural Technology has progressed in identifying core principles and strategies for enhancing our learning and administrative space. These principles were reviewed at a faculty meeting in January 2018, with direction given to finalize a plan for presentation and review by the college administration.

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE PLANNING EFFORT:

PRINCIPLES FOR ALL DEPARTMENT LEARNING SPACES[1]

o   Learning spaces must facilitate multiple modes of learning including discussion, oral and visual presentation, lecture, seminar, and group work.
o   Learning spaces are to be set up to encourage active learning techniques.
o   Furniture is to be selected to allow flexibility of arrangement.
o   All learning spaces require appropriate tools and equipment, including white boards, pin up boards, projection, smart screens/whiteboards.
o   Provision of computers in classrooms to exploit latest technologies to reduce space, heat generation, and hardwiring requirements to allow greater flexibility.
o   Lighting to be meet current standards and support multimodal learning activities.

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR STUDIOS

o   Studios must also accommodate multiple modes of learning including digital and hand drafting and sketching, digital and physical model making, desk critique overlays, pin up reviews, formal oral and visual presentations, group work, layout space, discussion, seminar, active learning activities.
o   Storage is a critical component to support student model making as part of the studio pedagogy.
o   Studio planning to include space for large site models, also critical to studio pedagogy.
o   Display lighting is required for all pin-up and presentation areas.

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[1] See College Council Building and Ground Committee Report on Learning Environments: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/buildings-and-grounds/files/2016/05/20160819Reconsidering-the-Classroom-at-City-Tech.pdf

INFORMAL SPACE

o   All space within the department, including corridors and break out areas to be reinforced as part of the critical functioning of the department to support informal interactions between students as well students and faculty before and after classes.
o   General lockable storage for students should be provided.

ADMINISTRATIVE SPACE

o   The main office reception and staff area is a critical space for the department that must be sized and configured to facilitate the needs of a department serving over 700 students and 60-80 faculty.
o   Part-time faculty access to workspace, computers, printers, and copying equipment is critical to facilitating their teaching responsibilities.
o   Full-time faculty offices must be consolidated to facilitate seamless student advisement as well as direct communication between the staff, faculty, and chair of the department.
o   Relocated full-time faculty offices to meet CUNY/PSC established standards[2] of 120 sq. ft. per person.
o   Relocated faculty offices to achieve level of privacy and security commensurate with existing department offices in the department administrative suite.

PLAN STUDIES:

We are actively working to define and achieve the needs for our department to accommodate our new degree program and respond to the critique of our accrediting body. These plans represent our application of research-supported pedagogy for 21st century learners that centers on multi-modal learning and flexible arrangements of classroom configurations supported by technology and teaching tools. This approach to learning environments is supported by the CUNY Master Plan and is accepted as best practice on campuses across the country.

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[2] http://www.psc-cuny.org/contract/article-30-facilities-and-services

STUDIO PROGRAM + LAYOUT (V814)
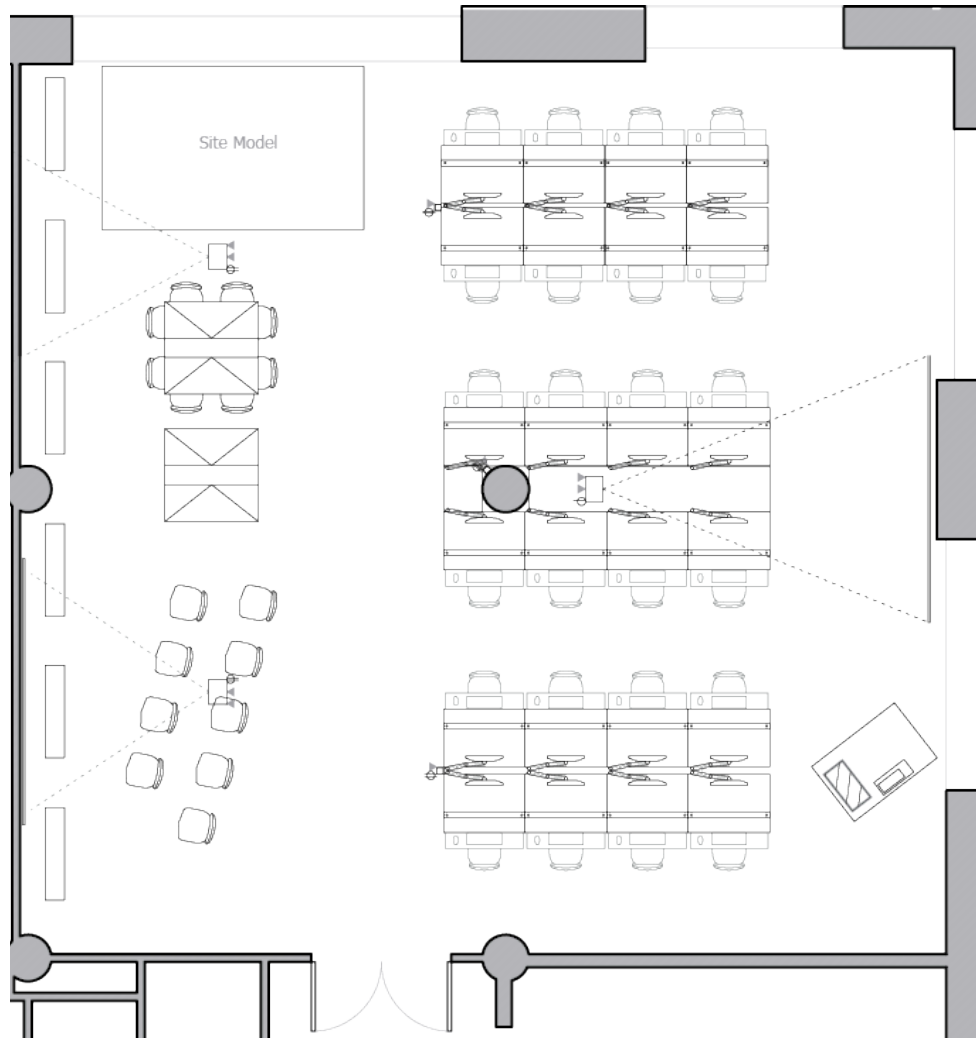
Room V814 has been used as a case study for the application of the above principles to a studio space. This study utilizes our current "hybrid" studio tables that facilitate hand drafting w/ parallel rules, sketching, desk critique overlays as well as digital drafting and modeling along with general internet based research and use of graphic and technical software tools. In addition, portable foldaway tables and stacking chairs with casters are easily moveable and can be configured to support multiple modes of learning. These furniture elements can also be stored in a small area when maximum open floor space is required.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUITE
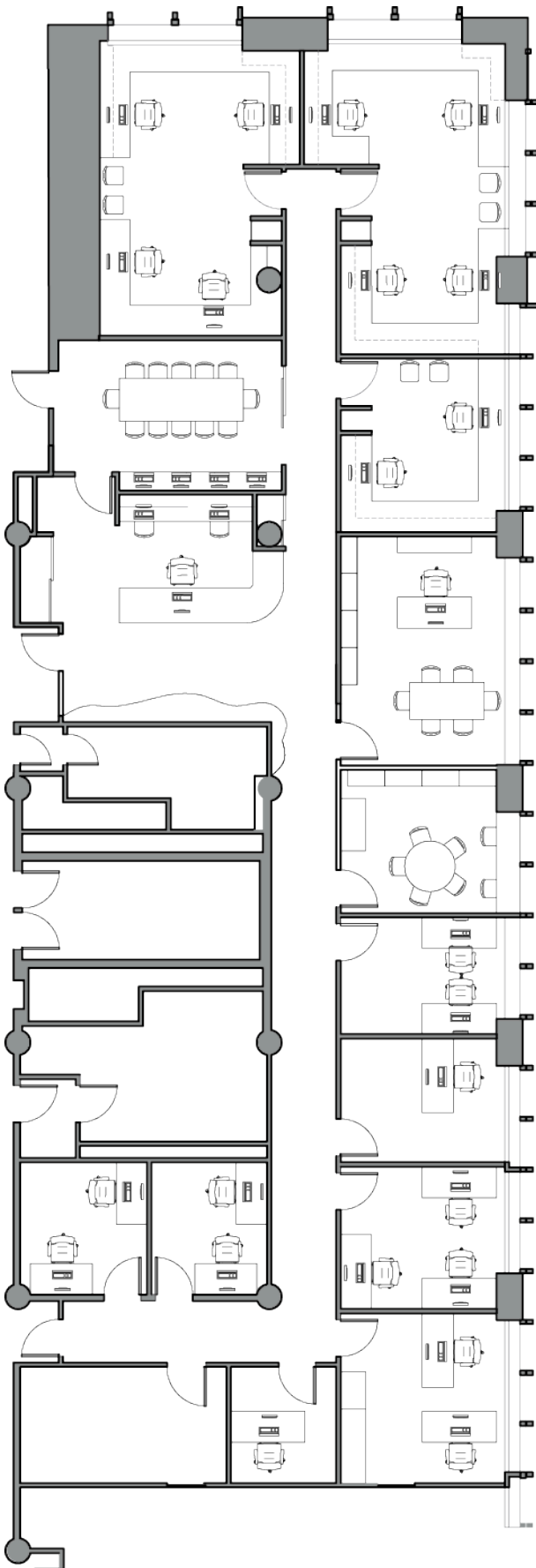
The committee is activity studying the 8th floor layout of the department administrative area. This study shows an expansion of the suite into the existing corner classroom V817. This allows for the addition of 3 new shared faculty offices accommodating the ten full-time faculty members that currently have office cubicles on the second floor in a single large room. These new offices are shown with full height partitions and lockable doors for privacy and security. Also added to the suite are a conference area and an expanded and formalized reception area more suitable to the scale of the department's population.

EXISTING 8th Floor
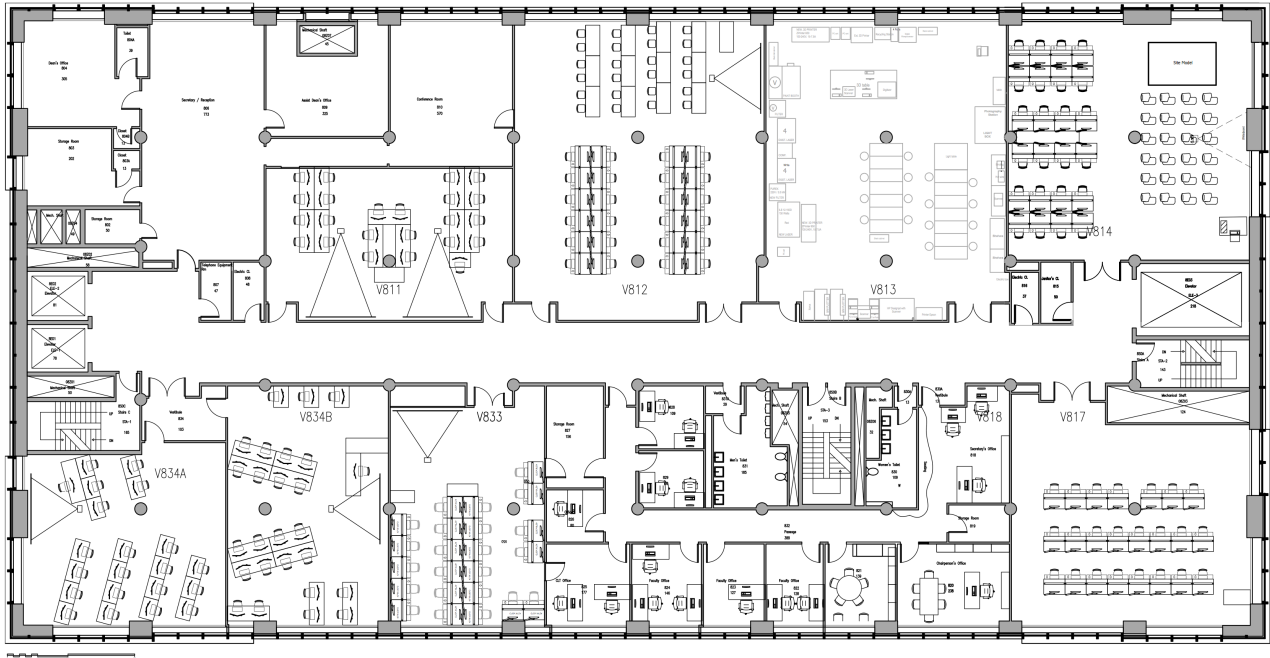
PLAN STUDY 8th Floor
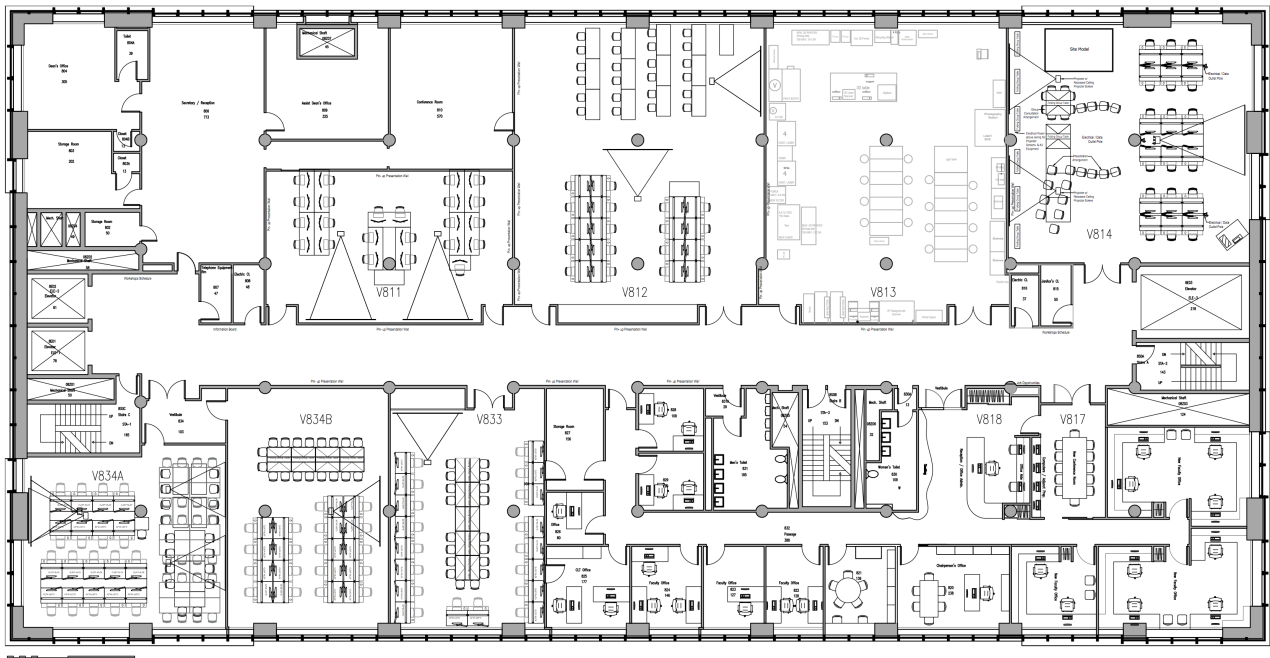
In this study, existing computer labs are converted to studios by reducing the overall seating count of each room to allow for the layout of hybrid tables along with the additional space for furniture for layout, group work, model making, and presentations with large wall areas of pin-up boards.

CONCLUSION:

The department will continue to refine this study and prepare an overall department master plan that includes the replacement of spaces repurposed on the 8th floor for the expansion of the administrative suite as well as the additional studios required for the new degree program as noted in our 2017 APR and our Plan for Achieving Initial Accreditation. This master plan will provide us with the basis for the next steps in our dialogue with the Dean and the College Administration to finalize the scope, budget, and schedule for these renovations to our existing facilities.

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