

# Duke Kunshan University

Kunshan, China • Project Category: Institutional Architecture

*Understanding that the world we now live in is multi-centric, globally interdependent, and always changing, Duke University is expanding the traditional boundaries of education with a vibrant master plan and innovative facility in Kunshan, China.*

Just north of Shanghai, the six-building, 750,000 square foot complex will accommodate 1,000 Chinese and international students. The 201-acre master plan and 40 Acre phase I development reflects local architectural and cultural context. Man made canals and waterways, typical of the Yangtze River Delta, have been incorporated into the design.

The campus's use of daylight, solar shading, passive cooling, and natural flood control benefits from centuries of experience dealing with the opportunities and challenges of Kunshan's climate and terrain. Equipped with two LEED NC Gold and three LEED NC Silver buildings, DKU is the first LEED certified campus in China.

The recently completed first phase of the campus holds the main academic building; student dormitory; faculty residence; conference center and hotel, and administrative building. Housing facilities include a 20-unit faculty residence with four live/work lofts and a three-story, 200-bed student residence with suites that emulate the Unité model of Le Corbusier. The faculty residence, clustered around a private courtyard, supports planted roofs, solar panels and expansive glazing for natural light.

The design of the campus is rooted in Duke's teaching principles, which recognize that learning occurs everywhere, knows no borders, and never stops. DKU seeks to attract and support creative minds, fostering discovery through every aspect of the university experience.

For the DKU student, learning begins in large-scale classroom environments, but is then broken down into smaller teams and focus groups for more in-depth and discussion-based study. This theme of macro to micro-level learning is translated into DKU's campus, from the overarching master plan, down to the architecture of each building.

The sweeping East cable wall and soaring roof of the Academic Building is a grand gesture of macro-level learning, while the saw-tooth water quad and facing team rooms are micro-level environments.

Both macro and micro-level gestures sit atop a pool of water that reflects the Kunshan's natural wetland environment.

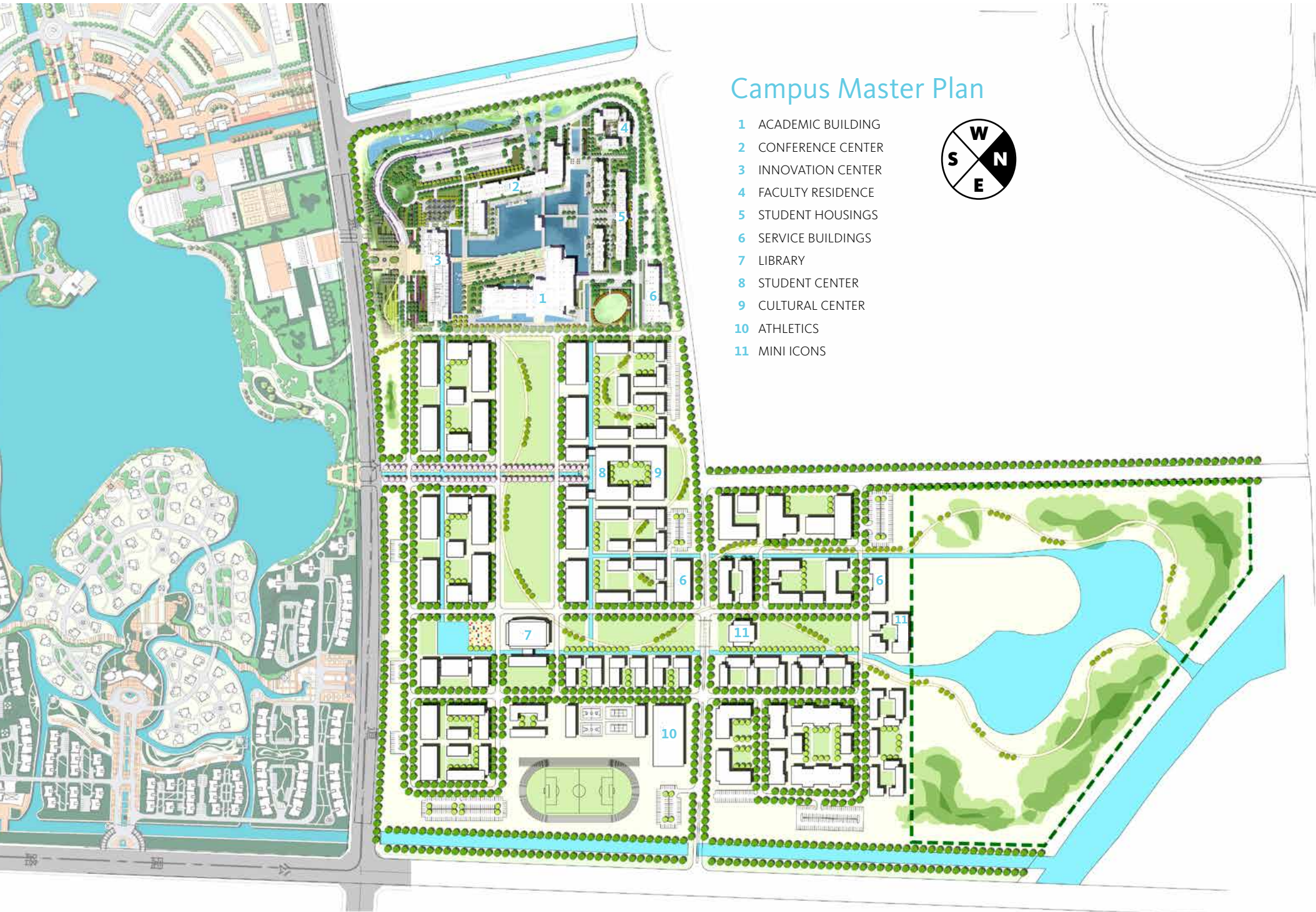
The campus buildings form the edge of the water quad, anchored at its center by the glass pavilion, equipped with multipurpose gathering space. Each major gathering space, whether it's the living room of the academic building, the dormitory atrium, or the dining hall, all face the water quad and each other. This sense of visual and physical connection holds the campus together and encourages collaboration.

The outdoor environment is a significant contributor to facilitating connection across campus. Areas have been sculpted to create different scales of gathering - from the grand plazas and recreational fields to the intimate parks for focused study.

The campus is planned to stimulate moments of personal exchange, which can spark innovation, by bringing living and learning together in one place.

# Campus Master Plan

- 1 ACADEMIC BUILDING
- 2 CONFERENCE CENTER
- 3 INNOVATION CENTER
- 4 FACULTY RESIDENCE
- 5 STUDENT HOUSINGS
- 6 SERVICE BUILDINGS
- 7 LIBRARY
- 8 STUDENT CENTER
- 9 CULTURAL CENTER
- 10 ATHLETICS
- 11 MINI ICONS



*Academic Building*



*Academic Building*



Academic Building



*Academic Building*



*Academic Building & Water Pavilion*



*Conference Center*





*Student and Faculty Apartments*



*Administrative Building*

