

# St. Mary's College of Maryland Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's City, Maryland

## Project Category: Institutional Architecture

Anne Arundel Hall provides new archaeology research and conservation labs, faculty offices, student project rooms, general classrooms, meeting rooms, and informal collaboration areas both inside and out. The academic building houses St. Mary's College of Maryland's programs that relate most directly to the cultural, civic, and anthropological legacies of Maryland's first capital—the fourth permanent settlement in North America—including faculty from anthropology, history, archaeology, museum studies, and international languages and cultures. A fourth building - the Maryland Heritage Interpretive Center - will complete the complex in a subsequent phase, displaying significant artifacts from the Colonial city.

By clustering the programmatic elements around a courtyard, the design addresses the site's historic development and organization, significant tree retention, avoidance of archaeologically sensitive areas, programmatic adjacencies, and viewsheds. The project site is extremely complex: archaeological remains are prevalent and the precinct is an important point of connection between the College's historic academic core campus and its new north campus, which now contains an equal distribution of academic functions.

Buildings are organized in a pinwheel configuration, centered on the courtyard, with four axes drawings visitors into the complex. Middle Street, one of four major axes that connected important public buildings to the Historic St. Mary's City's once thriving Town Center, bisects the project site, connecting the new buildings to the historic core of the city. The pinwheel concept also resolves the geometry to provide new axes that connect the site back to the College's mid-1800's historic academic core campus, its new north campus,

and the reconstructed Historic Statehouse. At the center of the pinwheel concept lies a new courtyard, building on the College's legacy of open space features and quadrangles that interplay with the adjacent buildings, creating settings for outdoor teaching and informal gatherings.

Materials and forms of the new buildings are rooted in the dichotomy between 17th century Institutional precedents (formal, symmetrical, brick) and Domestic precedents (simple, asymmetrical, wood), reinterpreted to create a cohesive and contemporary complex.

Design strategies reinforce the site's connection to the St. Mary's River and Chesapeake Bay, creating a sequence of indoor and outdoor spaces that relate to the environmental experience. The major outdoor space, an enclosed courtyard quietly juxtaposed with more traditional building forms, gathers seating and interaction area around a rainwater management feature and bio-retention garden on axis with views of the river beyond. Rainwater captured from building roofs and the courtyard is stored in a 10,000 gallon cistern where it is reused for toilet flushing and irrigation. The project consumes 84.7% less water than a code compliant building. Interior spaces incorporate natural ventilation and passive solar strategies, reducing energy consumption, enhancing biophilic design, and quietly commenting on orientation and site features. These passive design approaches, when coupled with active systems including geothermal wells and heat pumps, and a 19.2 kW photovoltaic array, result in a 70% improvement in energy use over an average building. The project achieved LEED Gold certification.



*"For the first time in the museum's 50-year existence, we will be able to care for the irreplaceable artifacts from Maryland's first colonial capital. These collections include materials that span thousands of years of human habitation in the region. They are a resource for understanding our past to tell us where we came from and how we became who we are today. The new facility is an invaluable resource to support our mission of research and a place to preserve more than 5 million artifacts from St. Mary's City, as we hold them in trust for current and future generations to study."*

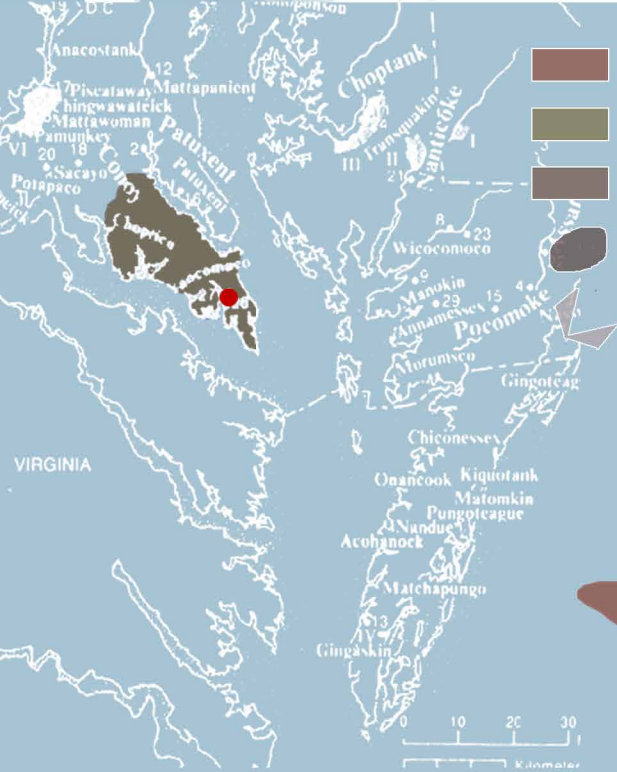
**Regina Faden, Executive Director, Historic St. Mary's City**







Environmental and Archaeological Context



Colonial Settlement of St. Mary's City



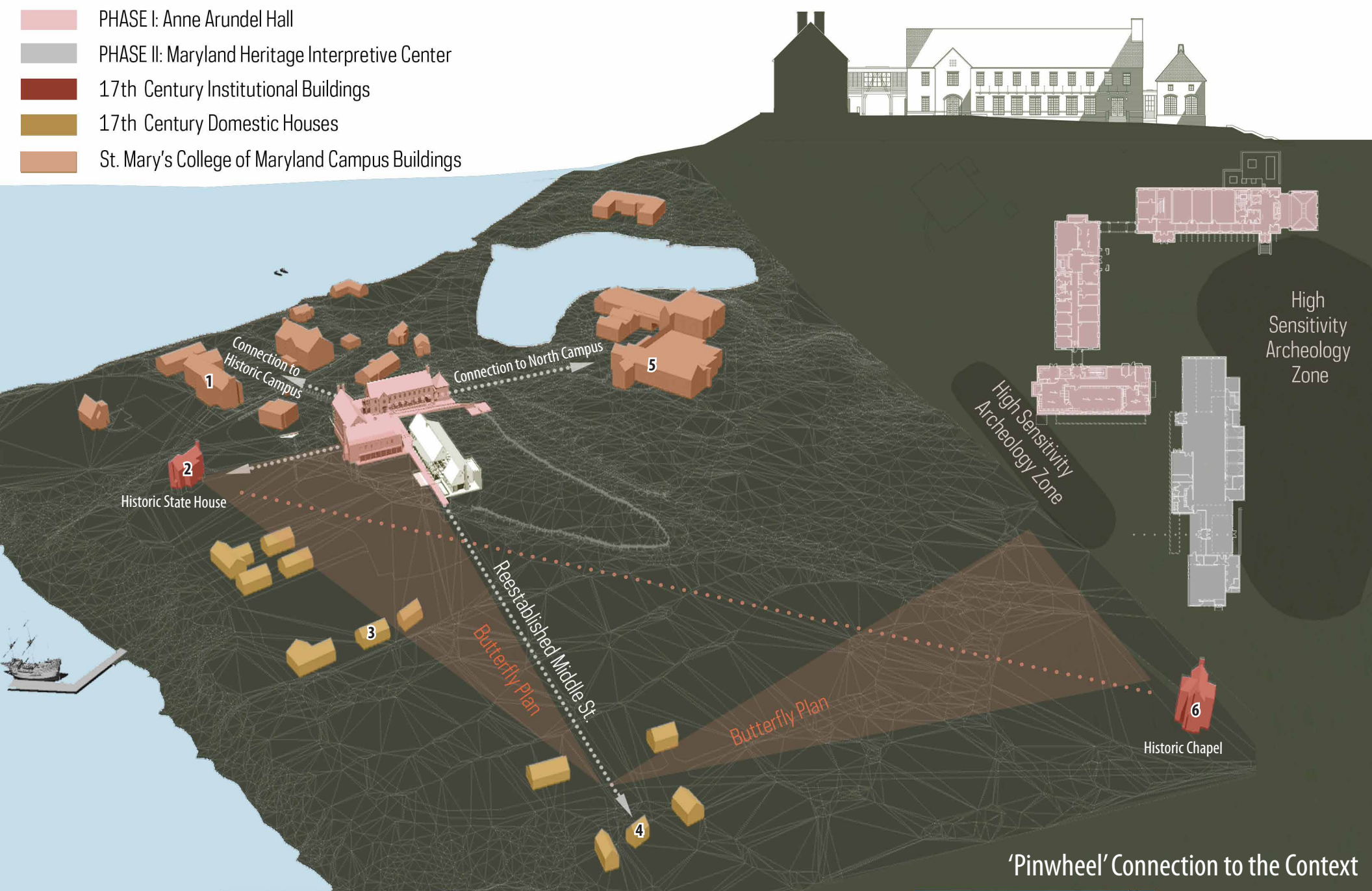
17th Century St. Mary's City Baroque Butterfly Plan

- Historic Campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland
- North Campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Historic St. Mary's City
- Archaeology Sensitivity Area
- Historic St. Mary's City Butterfly Plan



Site Sensitivity Diagram

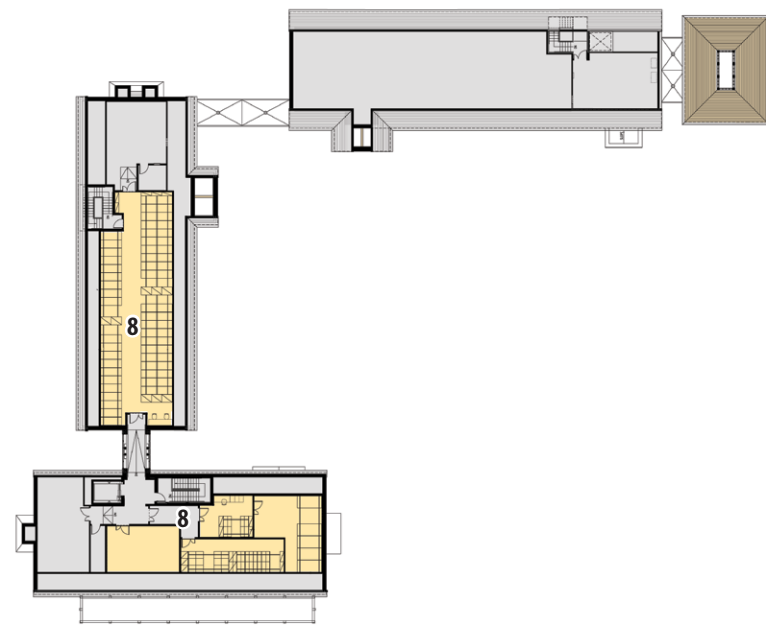




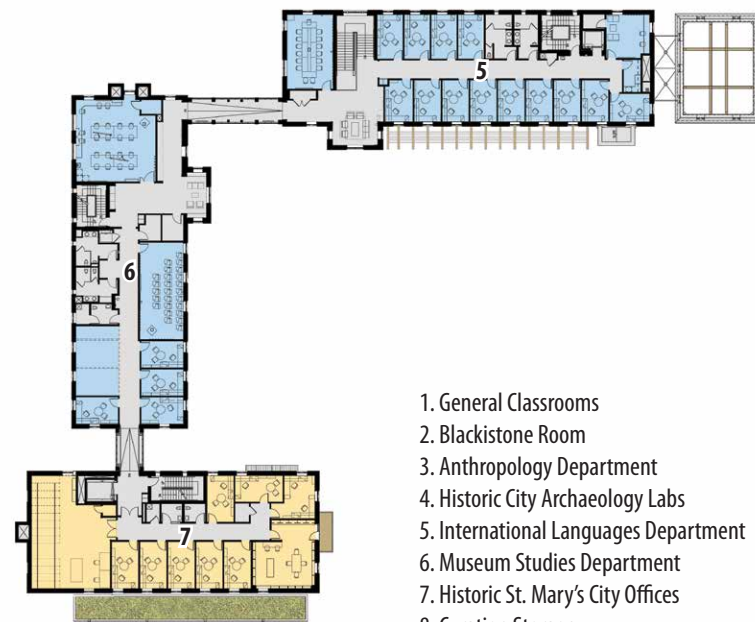




Site Plan/Ground Floor



Attic Floor



Second Floor

- 1. General Classrooms
- 2. Blackstone Room
- 3. Anthropology Department
- 4. Historic City Archaeology Labs
- 5. International Languages Department
- 6. Museum Studies Department
- 7. Historic St. Mary's City Offices
- 8. Curation Storage
- 9. Town Spring
- 10. Cistern Fountain





View along the Middle Street axis towards the courtyard.



View from the North Campus axis towards the courtyard.





View from the West wing entry towards the North Campus. The well head in the foreground gives clues to the rainwater collection cistern below.





A commemorative slate plaque and ornamental water feature mark the site of the original town spring that provided fresh water to 17th century settlers. The Blackistone Room wing faces the campus entry.



The Blackistone Room interior features tidewater architectural elements - vaulted ceilings, ornamental lighting, wooden shutters, decorative rugs, and plaster walls. The room functions as a lounge, seminar room, and event space, concealing sophisticated audio-visual technology within its traditional appearance.





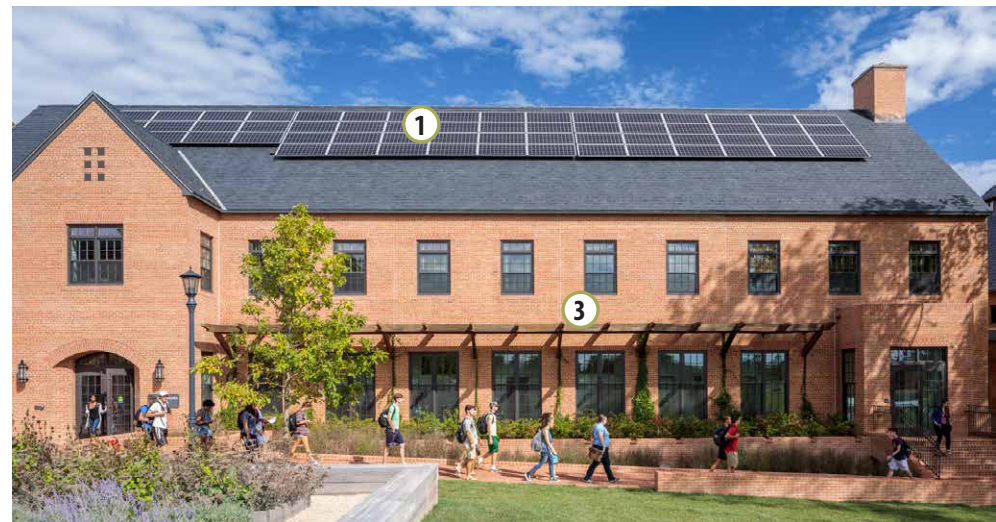
Each of the buildings that form the complex are connected with timber bridges that create gateways to and from the central courtyard. Informal study areas are found inside and out - in the courtyard, inside bridges, and along circulation paths.





The Historic St. Mary's City's state-of-the-art archaeology labs document and preserve Maryland's priceless artifacts. Gabled attics provide ideal settings for storage of artifacts. Co-locating the College's museum studies and anthropology labs offers opportunities for applied research and collaboration with the Historic City.





## Sustainable Design Features

1. 19.2 kW Photovoltaic Array.
2. A porch with a vegetated roof shades the south façade of the South wing.
3. A timber trellis shades the south façade on the North wing.
4. Stately trees were carefully preserved.
5. A terraced rain garden with weirs promote stormwater infiltration.
6. A 10,000 gallon rainwater cistern collects roof and courtyard runoff.

**4 acres**

Meadow and native vegetation

**58**

Geothermal wells

**84.7%**

Reduction in potable water use

**22%**

Recycled content in building materials

**41.8%**

Local materials

**62.2%**

New wood FSC certified

**70%**

Less energy than average similar buildings

**78.5%**

Regularly occupied space with sufficient daylight

**98.6%**

Regularly occupied space with outside views