UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
A UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTER
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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Professor A. E. Palmer
Abstract

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CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Professional adult education has become increasingly more and more important in our world today. Likewise the need for adequate facilities to accommodate programs in this field are equally important. The conference center is a relatively new building type. Therefore, it is the purpose of this design thesis to research, define, develop, and resolve the proposed Center of Continuing Education at the University of Louisville.

Justification for this proposed building would include the following:

① the expressed desire by the client for the expansion and relocation of present facilities used by the University.

② an investigative and analytical look at this relatively new building type.

③ my personal desire to develop a working and logical design process through a somewhat diversified building type and site context.

The functions of the Center for Continuing Education will be educationally as well as socially simulating to its participants and users. In addition, it will be the purpose of this design thesis to maintain a philosophy which will enable the design to respond to its context and role within the campus and city. Finally, I see this thesis as the culmination of my formal architectural education and, thus, it can be viewed as a personal starting point in my professional career.
Throughout the design process, a philosophical attitude of producing a building which is a contextual response to its existing city fabric will be maintained.
The major goal of this thesis project is to establish on the University of Louisville Belknap Campus a facility for conferences and continuing education programs in an environment that is conducive toward educational and social interaction.

This building facility shall promote both a degree casualness, informality, and social interaction as well as allowing for a more rigid, formal, and organized learning atmosphere.

Another important goal in the design of this center will be to stress the value and importance of continued adult and professional education, and to reflect the needs of those who attend its programs in such a way as not to hinder their acquisition of that education.

An additional goal this Center for Continuing Education will be to incorporate this building and its programs within the university and the student body framework, and not disorient its users from that framework of higher education.

This thesis will also respect existing and proposed constraints, additions, relocations, and alterations to the present campus structure. These goals for the Center for Continuing Education have been obtained primarily through two methods: University of Louisville policies and expectations, and my personal desires and objectives.
I would like to acknowledge at this point those participants both professionally and academically that helped make this thesis design possible. These people aided in the gaining of research information and design critique. They are as follows:

A. E. Palmer; professor & studio critic/Ball State CAP
Art Schaller; professor & critic/Ball State CAP
Henry Thoeben; architect, department of Facilities Management, Univ. of Louisville
Gilbert W. Campbell, AIA; architect/Louisville
C. Daniel Woodfin; professor/BSU-CAP
Patricia Barnett; secretary at Minnetrista Conference Center
Roxie Wagner; secretary at Minnetrista Conference Center
The following is an outline and description of the user and their particular roles as they pertain to the organization, operation, and participation of this building facility and its programs and functions.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Director** - administrator and coordinator of facility to University and outside sources and organizations

**Assistant Director** - administrative aide to director while responsible for coordinating other administrators

**Program Coordinator** - responsible for reviewing and planning the program calendar and maintaining group scheduling

**Assistant Program Coordinator** - aids Program Coordinator and maintains group control and orientation

**Director of Curriculum Services** - responsible organization and development of programs and classes

**Assistant Director** - responsible for curriculum organization and execution

**Resource Personnel** - responsible for library and research materials, film and television equipment, and audio-visual aids
Consulting Staff — consulting personnel who specialize in specific areas or programs

Director of Regional Administration — coordinator of regional and special programs

Assistant Director (Regional Research) — responsible for research and development of regional programs

Financial Planner — responsible for proper accounting and financial control of this facility

Office Manager — responsible for secretary supervision and scheduling as well as maintaining reproduction facilities

Secretaries & Clerical Staff — clerical responsibilities and office work as well as reception and registration of participants

Building Manager — responsible for staff supervision and scheduling as well as building operations

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

General Description — adults and professionals varying group sizes attending workshops, lectures, classes, seminars, etc. emphasizing continuing education. Typical groups would include: accountants, architects, lawyers, doctors, dentists, nurses, managers, and engineers. Participants will attend their specifically outlined program(s) which is provided by this facility.
Types — Local — groups that would commute from the immediate Louisville metropolitan area, and from the University itself, i.e. administrators and faculty. These groups would use the facility for meetings and conferences as well as continuing education programs.

Regional — participants from the midwestern United States (Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Illinois) staying usually one to several nights.

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**BUILDING STAFF**

**Custodial** — responsible for building upkeep and maintenance

**Audio-visual and Exhibition** — responsible for arranging chairs, desks, tables, and setting up projectors, film screens, podiums, and exhibition materials

**Dining Room Attendants** — responsible for preparation and serving catered meals to conference participants; and kitchen and dining room maintenance

**Maids** — responsible for changing linen, cleaning and maintaining overnight rooms.
Illustrated below is the system of organization for the Center for Continuing Education.
During the research and analysis phase of this thesis, a detailed building program of space requirements for the Center for Continuing Education was developed. Below is a summarized list of those spaces according to the major functional groups of the design.*

Administrative — Offices, reception, clerical work areas, conference rooms, and reproduction — 3653 sq. ft.

Educational Areas — classrooms, lecture auditorium, seminar rooms, library and resource room, and instruction materials — 5968 sq. ft.

Exhibition — area for various exhibitions, product display, and public presentations or demonstrations — 3500 sq. ft.

Participant Facilities — overnight lodging, lounges, dining room, bar, and gameroom — 24,210 sq. ft.

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*A complete detailed space requirement analysis is found in the Appendix*
In order to become more familiar with the organizational alternatives in this building type, an analysis of existing works was performed. The results of these studies will aid the designer in recognizing the major organizing issues for each project investigated. Therefore, a clearer understanding of the proposed building type is achieved.

This analysis was based on the following issues of design: organizational concept or parti, functional correlations, major circulation, structural order, and unique building features.

The three projects selected for this analysis are the following:

1. Scanticon Conference Center — Aarhus, Denmark. Friis and Moltke Architects.

SCANTICON

This center which was designed in the late 1960's, has been described as a prototype of conference centers. Its design and organization are well thought out and clear.
Concept/Parti — The building parti can be considered as a wall moulding itself to the site. The building mass is played down by stepping the structure along a hill.

Correlation — The organization and relationship of the spaces work very well and respond to the building program in a realistic and functional manner. Proper space relationships are established in the design. Each functional subgroup is well defined.
Circulation — The movement of people has played an important role in this design. The patterns, flow, and intensity of people gathering or moving are clearly defined by the circulation system. It is also very ordered both horizontally and vertically.

Structure — The structural placement in building reflects very strongly the design module used in organizing the spaces. It also accommodates the separate functions very appropriately. However, it does not allow for a great deal of internal flexibility or adaptability.

Unique Features — The building design makes use of a staggered section in the location and placement of its spaces. This allows better views and more natural light to enter these spaces. The building also reflects the sloping topography of the site, and the building makes an overall formal gesture in its styling.
LODGE FOR UNICOI

This lodge is the continuing education center for the Unicoi Outdoor Recreation Station for the state of Georgia. The profiles of the structures—a two-story Conference Center and three residential lodges—echo the rise and fall of the surrounding hills, and the cedar siding is weathering to a silvery gray.

Concept/Part 1—Basically the building parti of this complex can be considered as a fragmented type both in the individual units as well as the entire complex. Individuality and uniqueness are very prominent in the design. The overall style captures the local vernacular. The footprint is much like a cluster of buildings focusing inward to a lake.
Correlation — A strong separation of overnight lodges creates an individual function for these spaces. Within the conference building the spaces work well, however, the dining area is a bit secluded on the upper floor.

Circulation — The patterns and location are well placed and organized. Overall, the circulation could be categorized as three types: (1) lodge, (2) conference, (3) connecting external loop. These define very precisely private and public areas as well as developing obvious nodal points along circulation paths. Vertical circulation is worked well into the building form.

Structure — The structural system of the lodges is ordered, clear, and reflects the organization of those spaces within. Unfortunately the structural system for the conference center is less ordered and not as logically defined. It does allow for more flexibility, however.
Unique Features — A list of unique design features for the Unicoi Lodge includes:
- clerestories for natural light
- clustered site layout
- commons areas in lodges
- integration of buildings with site
- terrace dining
- volumetric nodal spaces, i.e. lobby

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING/CHRIST’S COLLEGE

This residential building located on the northern edge of the Christ's College campus forms a boundary between town and school. It also serves as a transition between these two elements. A stepped-back section of staggered units depicts the overall integrity of the building's functions.

1. Entry
2. Lecture
3. Classroom
4. Reading
5. Dining
6. Dormitory room
7. Terrace
8. Lavatories
9. Stores
Concept/Parti — The layout of this building forms a wall screening the campus from Kings Street while directing all views south toward the College. The staggered building section helps to diminish its profile and thus its scale.

Correlation — Functionally, the building contains three major zones which act fairly separately of each other. These zones are the study-dorm rooms, the fellows flats or lounge/classroom areas, and the parking and commercial areas. Each of these subgroups function well within the overall building.

Circulation — The major circulation is organized on two schemes. At the ground level there is one main arterial path through the center of the building. On the upper levels there are two major circulation paths which divide the study rooms into smaller clusters of six rooms each.
Structure — Using the width of the study rooms as the basic organizing module, the building contains a very rational structural pattern. However, there are some conflicts in the system at the fellows flats areas where wider spans are required. A definite rhythm is established by this ordered system.

Unique Features — A list of unique building features would include:

- a staggered overall form
- pre-cast, in-situ concrete structure
- roof terrace at level two
- parking integrated into building form
- views and southern exposure for rooms
Location — The Belknap or main campus for the University of Louisville is located approximately 2½ miles south of the city's central downtown area. Directly east of the campus is I-65 which provides immediate access to the campus as well as providing a quick route to other parts of the city.
Site Selection — Selection of the site for the Center for Continuing Education was aided a great deal by the 1975 Long Range Optimum Plan for the University of Louisville. The site chosen is in an area of the campus which was to grow considerably in the next 20 years. More importantly, the site is near many amenities which could be used by the participants. Most importantly, this site is located at the juncture of the campus northwest edge and the southern boundary of the Old Louisville Preservation District. Therefore, I felt there existed a strong potential of expressing this connection of city and university through my thesis design.
Local Context — The site is located only a very short distance from many university and community services and amenities. These offer additional benefits to those attending the Center for Continuing Education. Listed below is a description of those services and amenities.

Pedestrian Corridors — Several major pedestrian paths make their through and along this site. Most of the people will be students moving from housing to academic and commercial facilities.

1. Masterson's Restaurant
2. Drug Store
3. Shopping Center
4. Belknap Playhouse Theatre
5. School of Theatre & Fine Art
6. Music School
7. Speed Art Museum
8. Planetarium
9. Library
10. Triangle Park
Auto Circulation — The Belknap Campus is surrounded by several major circulation routes. The proposed site is bordered by the relocated Third St. connector which will be one way north. Avery Ave. will become the major northern arterial link from campus to I-65. Second St., Third St., and Fourth St. are major one way boulevards which connect the campus and proposed site to the downtown area.

Utilities — The existing campus is served with water, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, gas, electricity, television, and telephone systems. Heating and cooling systems vary. Some systems get heating and cooling from the central plant, some have individual heating and/or cooling systems, and some have no cooling systems at all. The water supply system is provided by the Louisville Water Co. The proposed site will be serviced by the existing campus utility tunnel system.
Once the initial research and analysis was completed the initial conceptual design began. From the information gathered, certain images and ideas about the building and its overall design were conceived.

Wall & Enclosing Focus

Building as a Monument
Replacing a Monument

Wall with gate

city

Boundary & link
campus
A series of houses on Third St. facade

Historic House

Solar exposure maximized

Wind Response

Greenhouse interior
Various design elements—parti, circulation, structure, program, enclosure, and site response—were reviewed, analyzed and developed in laying the groundwork for the form and solution of the design problem.

**PART I**

- **Hard edge with enclosing**
- **Focus toward campus**

- **Wall is further detached**

- **Edge becomes detached wall**

- **Definition**
Program

Functional Relationships

Spatial Relationships

Three Dimensional Zoning

Expression of Program Elements
CIRCULATION

Intersection of site patterns

Strong internal patterns

Shift caused by program relationship

Definition
STRUCTURE

Radial Pattern

Bearing System for Rooms With Open Elsewhere

Complete Bearing System Too Restrictive

Open Flexible System

Hybrid of Systems
ENCLOSURE

Enclosure of program
Pieces

Courtyard is introduced

Definition of entries
and form

Defined Enclosure
After establishing design concepts and ideas, an extensive design evolution and development process was undertaken with an overall attempt to solve the design problem. Changes and adjustments were constantly made in the various parts of the design i.e. footprint, space definition, structural and mechanical, form, facades, landscape, etc. All of this development eventually led to the final design form.
Third & Fourth Levels
View Looking North
Birdseye View
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<th>Educational</th>
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<td>144</td>
<td>Classrooms (4)</td>
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<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>Seminar Rooms (4)</td>
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<td>Assistant Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Director of Curriculum Services</td>
<td>192</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant director</td>
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<td>Participant Facilities</td>
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<td>Director of Regional Adm.</td>
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<td>Overnight Rooms (60)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lounge, Bar, &amp; Gameroom</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibition</td>
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space: Director's Office (4 total)  total square footage: 192 ea.

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Office work with private conferences with several people

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Fixed space with moveable furniture

SPACE STANDARDS
2'-6" minimum clearance for furniture and 3'-0" clearance for passage

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Double pedestal desk with swivel chair, three large office chairs, fixed bookcase, sofa, planter, and wastebasket

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General room lighting, task lighting at desk, proper HVAC, natural light and good room acoustics for privacy

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Private, quiet and intimate—a sociopetal space
space: Administrator Offices (4 total)  total square footage: 144 ea.

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Desk and paper work with some small conferences — in and out of office much of the time

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Fixed space — standard office type

SPACE STANDARDS
Standard clearances around desk & furniture

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
One pedestal with chair — one large office chair, two smaller chairs, files, and storage cabinet

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General & task office lighting — proper office hvac

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Working space, personal and with a good view
space: **Staff Offices** (6 total) total square footage: 96 ea.

**ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE**
General purpose office use and activities — used by different administrators and consulting staff

**SPACE PERFORMANCE**
Fixed office space

**SPACE STANDARDS**
Standard office furniture clearances — 2'-6" for chairs and 3'-0" passage

**FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT**
One single pedestal desk and chair, two smaller chairs, bookcase, and file cabinet

**ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**
General and task office lighting, natural lighting and proper office hvac

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**
Static office space
space: Conference Room (3 total) total square footage: 128 ea.

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Grouped discussion, seated comfortably at a large conference table or tables

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Fixed space able to have presentations and slide shows

SPACE STANDARDS
Minimum of 2'-6" circulation around table

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Large conference table with 10 chairs, tackboards, and projector screen

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General lighting with some controllable natural light — proper HVAC for office space

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
A somewhat formal and intimate space with a low-key atmosphere
space: Reception and Waiting (2 total)  total square footage: 320

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
General clerical work at desks—internal circulation, registration occurs at one of the two spaces

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Fixed internally with freedom of movement

SPACE STANDARDS
Standard office furniture clearances—2'-6" for chairs & desks, and 3'-0" passage

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Two standard secretaries desks with chairs, office furniture for waiting, registration counter, files

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General & task office lighting, proper office HVAC, natural light in waiting lobby

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Working atmosphere for secretaries, formal organization—registration & waiting lobby should be open, spacious, and comfortable—a sociopetal space
space: Secretarial & Reproduction

activity performance
General clerical & reproduction work, typing, filing, dictation, and office work

space performance
Fixed spaces; 4 secretaries, 1 reproduction room

space standards
3'-0" passage minimum — 2'-0" furniture clearance

furniture & equipment
4 standard secretarial desks, chairs, files, duplicator, Xerox, storage cabinets, set-up tables & counters

environmental requirements
General & task office lighting, proper office hvac

environmental performance
Working atmosphere, formal, functional
space: Lecture Auditorium (120 seats) total square footage: 1400

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Large lecture groups – demonstrations, films, lectures, and presentations – note taking – movement for lecturer

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Rigid space with varying lighting & audio conditions

SPACE STANDARDS
3'-0" minimum aisle & crossover clearance – two exits, 7.5 sq. ft./seat, 200 sq. ft. projector room – 150 sq. ft./storage

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
120 pivoting seats with a continuous counter for note taking, public address system, projector, screen, lectern

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General auditorium lighting, task light for lectern, no natural light, quiet hvac, good visual scope for seated people for viewing

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Educational space, conducive toward listening & viewing, neutral colors & forms
space: **Classrooms** (4 @ 40 capacity) total square footage: 750 ea.

**ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE**
Lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations

**SPACE PERFORMANCE**
Flexible & diverseable space, changing seating & presentation conditions and arrangements

**SPACE STANDARDS**
Two exits - 3'-0' minimum aisles on each side

**FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT**
40 desks, projector, screen, tackboard, chalkboard, lecterns, demonstration tables, storage cabinets

**ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**
General lighting with down lighting for note-taking - some controlled natural light, quiet hvac, good acoustical design

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**
Learning, listening, studying atmosphere, cool & natural colors
space: Seminar rooms (4 total) total square footage: 192 ea.

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Classroom or grouped seating around tables, discussion and conversation

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Flexible seating & moveable seating and tables

SPACE STANDARDS
9½' maximum ceiling, 3'-0" side aisles

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Tables with chairs, desks, chalkboards, tackboards, storage cabinet

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General lighting at desk level, proper HVAC

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Quiet atmosphere, accessible, good natural light & views
space: Library and Resource Center   total square footage: 800

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Seated, private and semi-private reading in a quiet atmosphere

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Fixed space with moveable seating & stacks

SPACE STANDARDS
3'-8" circulation around furniture and between book stacks

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Several large reading chairs, tables, stacks for periodicals & reference books; carrels for private study

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
General & reading lighting, some reading lamps; quiet hvac

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Quiet and informal atmosphere, a sociofugal space with warm colors and good views of exterior landscape
space: Overnight Rooms — 60 units

total square footage: 336 ea.

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE
Accommodation for sleep, rest, privacy, study, changing, phone calls, and personal hygiene

SPACE PERFORMANCE
Fixed double occupancy

SPACE STANDARDS
Clothes closet min. 1'-11" inside — minimum bathroom: 5'-0" x 6'-9"

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Two single beds, night table and lamp, reading tables with chairs & lamps, dresser, shower, sink, and water closet

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
lamps for reading & room light — abundant natural light & good room ventilation — unit hvac — proper Sound Transmission Class between rooms

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
Sociofugal space with privacy and an intimate human scale — a remote environment with good views
Space: Dining Room (120 capacity)  

**Activity Performance**
Group dining—banquet or cafeteria style—eating and conversation—social interaction

**Space Performance**
Flexible and open—able to divide into smaller dining rooms

**Space Standards**
Allow 12.5 sq. ft. per seat for comfortable dining—allow 30% of total area for terrace dining

**Furniture & Equipment**
30 tables with 4 seats at each—warming & coffee counter

**Environmental Requirements**
General room lighting, good natural light, and good ventilation

**Environmental Performance**
Pleasant and appealing eating space with good views and cool, neutral colors

Table spacing
space: Lounge, Bar, and Gameroom

**ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE**
Social interaction, seated & standing conversation.
Games - billiards & table tennis - seating at wet bar

**SPACE PERFORMANCE**
Open and spacious for movement and clustering of people

**SPACE STANDARDS**
Proper number of exits and sufficient clearances

**FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT**
Bar & stools, back bar & storage, lounge seating & chairs, 4 billiard tables, 2 table tennis tables, barroom tables & chairs

**ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**
Controllable general lighting, task lighting over game tables, good ventilation, and proper hvac

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**
Sociopetal space, informal atmosphere, community space and active
Function — The internal function of this center is very important, and a careful look must be taken at each space, its relationship to other spaces, and its overall significance in the building context. Some spaces such as classrooms and dining rooms will have to be flexible and divisible whereas others such as overnight rooms and administrative offices are relatively fixed in their role, size, and location.

Interior Flexibility — Several of the required spaces such as classrooms, dining room, and exhibition need to be flexible and easily changed from program to program.

Interior Circulation — The movement and gathering of people attending the various programs is very critical to the successful operation of this facility. Lobbies and corridors have to be designed to accommodate large groups, and at the same time be directional and give the users accurate orientation throughout the facility.

Building Expansion — Presently this facility will accommodate the needed functions desired by the client.

Other Building Criteria — Since this particular building type lends itself toward a linear scheme or fragmented scheme, a central building core of service will not be necessary. There is no special code requirements other than those in BOCA or the National Building Code. Building security should comply to the standard outlined by the University for its Facilities.
The climate of Louisville, while continental in type, is of a variable nature because of its position geographically. As a whole, winters are moderately cold and summer is quite warm. Temperatures of 100°F or more in summer and 0°F or less in winter are rare. Thunderstorms with high intensities of rainfall are common during spring and summer. As a result, precipitation in Louisville is nonseasonal and varies from year to year. Snowfall, while seldom heavy, is a usual occurrence during the months of November through March. Relative humidity remains rather high the summer. Cloud cover is about equally distributed throughout the year with a slight increase in the winter months. The percentage of possible sunshine at Louisville varies also from month to month. The prevailing wind direction has a southerly component and the velocity averages less than 10 mph. A range of low hills about five miles northwest of the city, on the Indiana side of the Ohio River, present a partial barrier to arctic blasts during the winter.
# PROGRAM

The Long Range Optimum Plan for the University of Louisville, 1975  

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## BUILDING TYPE ANALYSIS

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<td>October 1971, April 1975</td>
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<td>Interiors</td>
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<td>June 1971, July 1973</td>
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<td>Architectural Forum</td>
<td>March 1973</td>
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<td>Baumeister</td>
<td>January 1976</td>
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## SITE ANALYSIS

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<th>Long Range Optimum Plan</th>
<th>Johnson, Johnson &amp; Roy, 1975</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Climatological Data</td>
<td>National Climate Center, 1978</td>
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