

Grimshaw selected for pre-design phase of Smith College's Reimagining Lyman project

Press Release



21 March 2023

Grimshaw is working with Smith College in the programming phase of the project to identify a new vision and program for the Lyman Plant House and Conservatory – a building at the heart of the College's historic Botanic Garden, set within their campus in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Rooted in the Garden's mission to *"foster environmental and social justice through teaching and learning about plants, people, and place,"* the Reimagining Lyman project is a key part of the College's strategic plan to position the site as a dynamic place for scientific and personal discovery for their diverse community of faculty, students, alumnae, and stakeholders.

Through a highly collaborative process, Grimshaw, alongside Brightspot and Montgomery Smith Inc., is working with the College to create a vision that celebrates the Garden's rich 125-year history as a site of botanical science, establishes its future as a "Botanical Garden for the Liberal Arts," and positions Lyman as a biophilic classroom for the entire Smith College community.

"On behalf of the programming committee, we are thrilled to be partnering with Grimshaw as Smith College looks to update a beloved structure to meet the pedagogical needs of today," said Tim Johnson, Director of the Botanic Garden of Smith College. "The programming committee envisions a building that is welcoming, that celebrates learners of all ages, and that honors our planet with an eco-friendly design that helps the College reach its commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030."

"We are pleased to partner with Smith College on this captivating transformation of the Lyman Plant House," said Vincent Chang, Deputy Chairman at Grimshaw. "Already considered a jewel of the campus, this project will honor the building's legacy while also creating a 21st-century learning center and high-caliber cultural asset."

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Client: Smith College

Architect: Grimshaw

Learning Programming: Brightspot Strategy

Green House Specialist: Montgomery Smith Inc.

About Smith College

Founded in 1871, Smith College opened in 1875 with 14 students. Today, it is one of the largest women's liberal arts colleges in the United States, educating women of promise for lives of distinction and purpose. Smith enrolls more than 2,900 students from nearly every state and more than 75 other countries to cultivate leaders able to address the complex, urgent problems of today. As a global community of scholars, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, activists and humanitarians, Smith is pushing the world forward. More information at smith.edu.

About Grimshaw

Grimshaw is an international architectural practice delivering buildings, infrastructure and places that are underpinned by the principles of humane, enduring, sustainable design. With offices in New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Dubai, Melbourne and Sydney, Grimshaw employs over 600 staff. The practice's international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 200 international design awards.

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