The existing Gant science complex offers many challenges, and many opportunities, for programming and development of exterior spaces. Challenges are immediately apparent.

The main exterior plaza is a vast (over two acres) expanse of concrete paving with numerous dead-end pathways and limited access to building interiors. It is located twenty feet above the adjacent grade on its north, west and southern edges. The only direct access at this level is from the Biology/Physics Building.

The University has established goals to achieve its vision of a science complex fully integrated into the campus landscape. These goals include:

- More visible and dynamic programming and wayfinding to destinations for Gant visitors;
- More connectivity to adjacent campus buildings;
- More sustainable “green” features;
- Incorporation of elements of the University’s Master Plan, including proposed woodland corridors. Link here to Master Plan, http://masterplan.uconn.edu/

The design team has begun to investigate how these goals might be achieved while respecting existing conditions and project budgets. They have identified several areas where attention could be focused and are developing appropriate concepts. Preliminary thoughts include providing new lobby elements at grade, opening plaza level interiors to the exterior plaza and resurfacing large portions of the plaza with plantings. One concept that has proved to be particularly appealing is enclosing the outdoor courtyard at the heart of Gant, establishing a central common space on two levels for building users and visitors.

While the Gant project in still in its infancy, the Pre-Design and Concept Plan phase is the appropriate time to “dream big”, examining project components which can be integrated now or added at a later date. However, the interweaving of Gant with the larger campus fabric remains a driving force for the realization of a newly reimagined and reconstructed Gant science center.

The reconstruction of the Gant science complex actually begins on the south side of campus, where the Monteith Building is being renovated to provide a new home for the Department of Math. When Math moves out of the south tower of Gant, reconstruction will begin at that location.

The Monteith Building and the adjacent Schenker Hall will provide 73,000 square feet of “like new” space for classrooms and faculty offices. Department offices will be located here with collaboration spaces located on each floor. Both lecture halls - Schenker and Monteith - will be completely overhauled, with new seating, finishes and technology. Advanced LED lighting systems and bright colors will animate the interior spaces.

Construction on the Monteith and Schenker buildings began in September 2015, with substantial completion expected July 2016. KBE Building Corporation is the general contractor. KBE is also the Design/Builder constructing the STEM dorm on Alumni Drive. This project has been officially named Next Generation Hall.

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The University of Connecticut.

Edward V. Gant, a beloved professor of civil engineering at UConn, also served the University as acting President in 1969, 1972-73 and 1978-79. He died in 1985.

As an urban environment in a rural setting, the University works hard to control surface runoff from one thousand plus catch basins to maintain water quality in its lakes and streams.

Goody Clancy Architects competed in the recent Canstruction Boston competition winning the Juror’s Favorite award for “Garcia Beanie Bear”. Canstruction educates K-12 students while providing food for area food pantries. Congratulations!

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