



ELON UNIVERSITY

Design Guidelines

May 2023



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Introduction

Elon University's Campus is distinguished by a unified architectural vocabulary, mature tree canopy, and iconic open spaces. These guidelines outline the design elements that have served the campus well and make recommendations for potential future campus development. They are meant to sustain the Campus Master Plan's intentions by preserving and enhancing special qualities and characteristics of the campus.

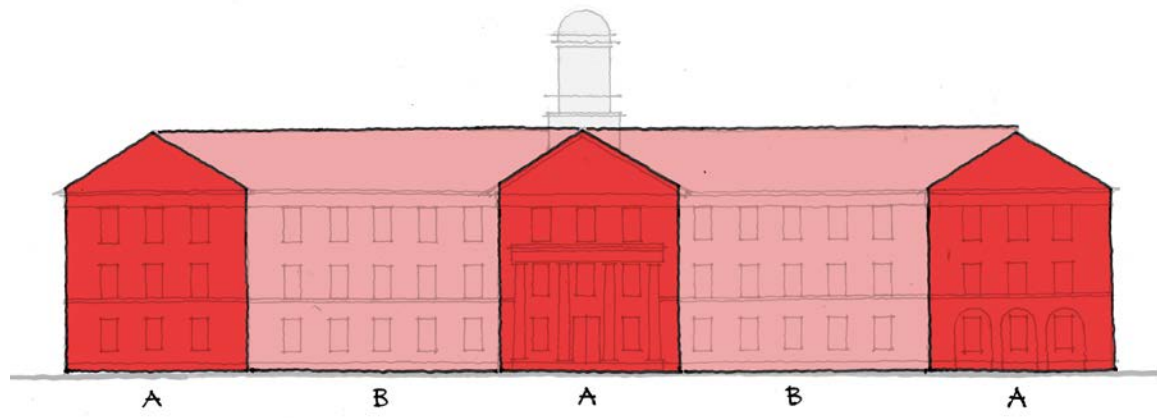


Architectural Character

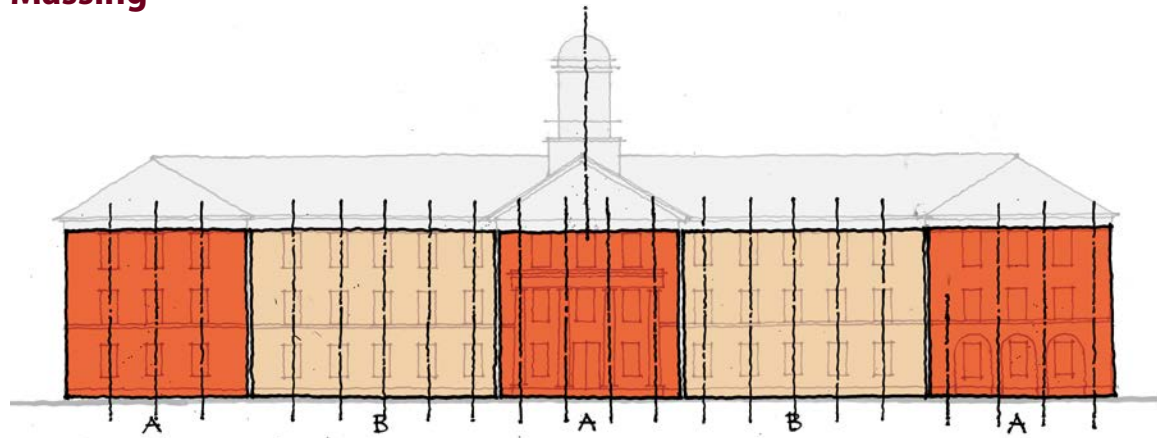
A consistent design vocabulary has been critical to guiding Elon's growth by relating new facilities to its nearly century old campus core. New construction should strive to preserve and strengthen Elon's architectural heritage by following principles that promote compatible building forms, fenestration patterns, material palettes, and architectural embellishments.

The ground level of buildings should incorporate a mixture of public uses, using colonnades and hardscape areas to relate interior functions to major campus open spaces.

The intention of these guidelines is to support the proposed open space framework by ensuring that each new building helps define and enhance the overall campus environment.



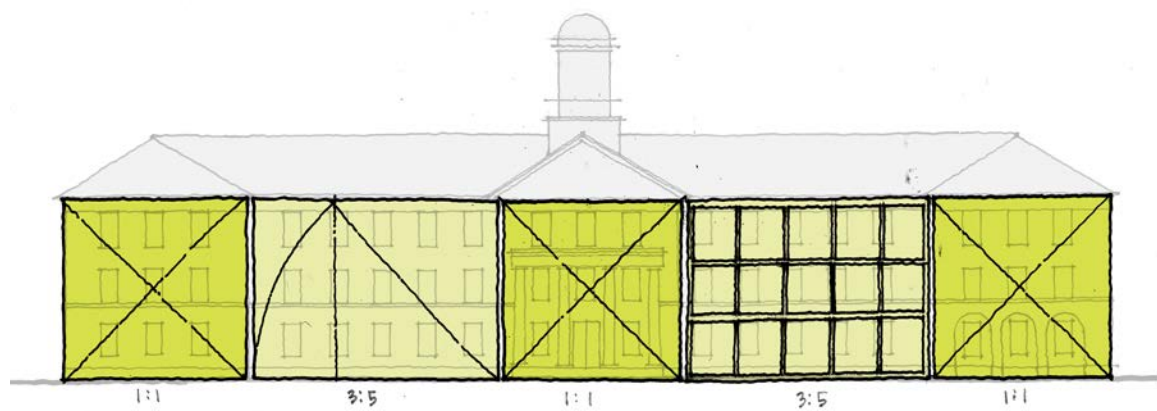
Massing



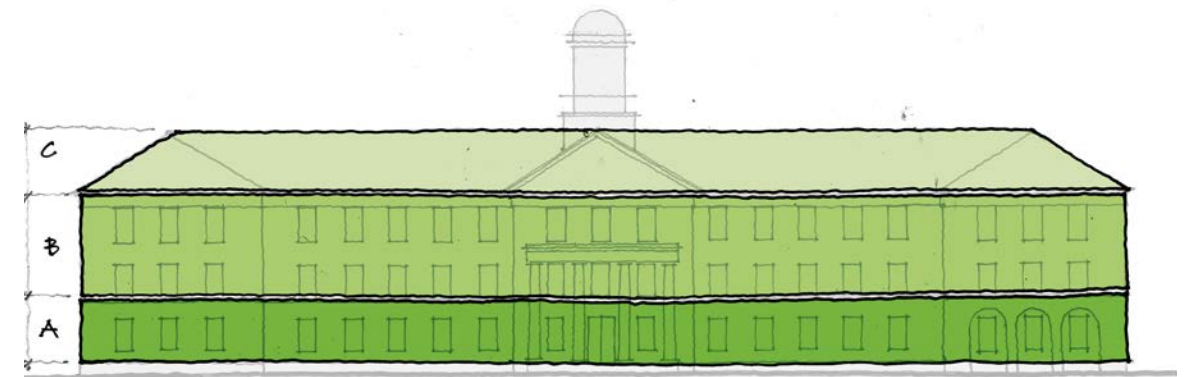
Rhythm



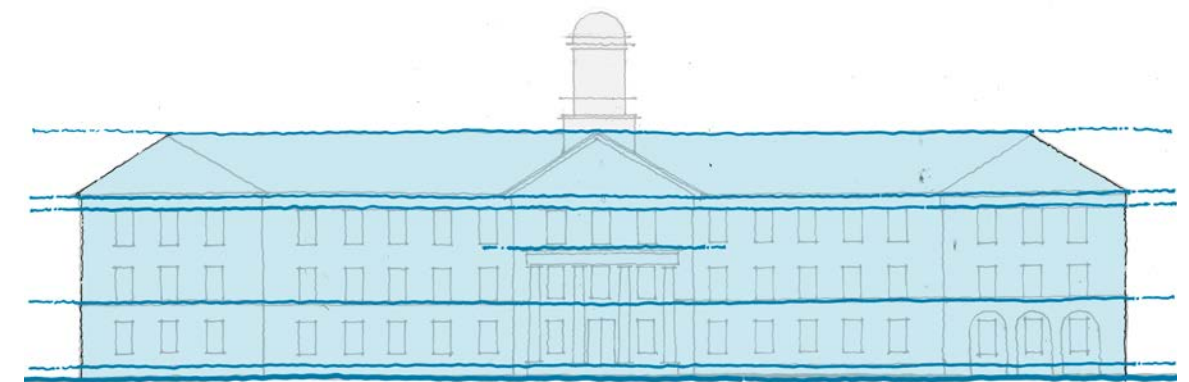
Fenestration



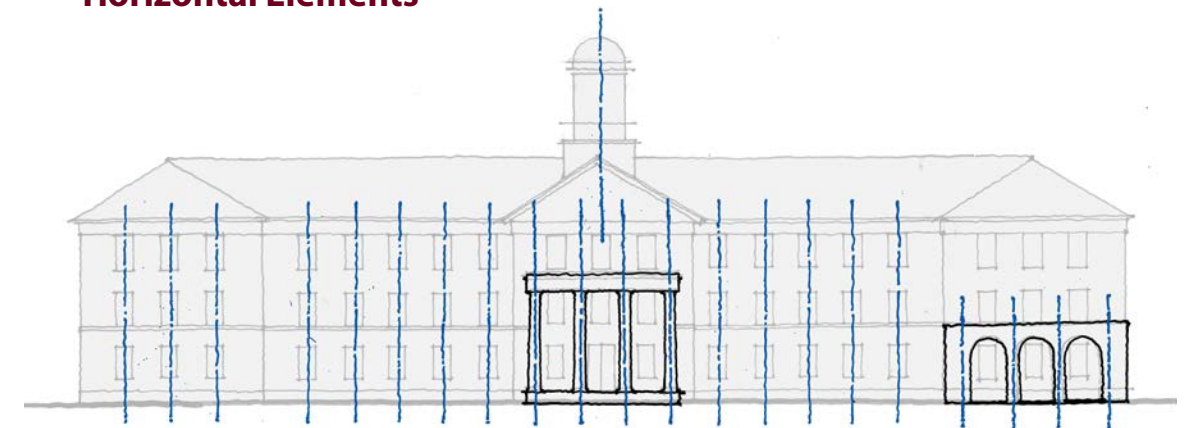
Proportion



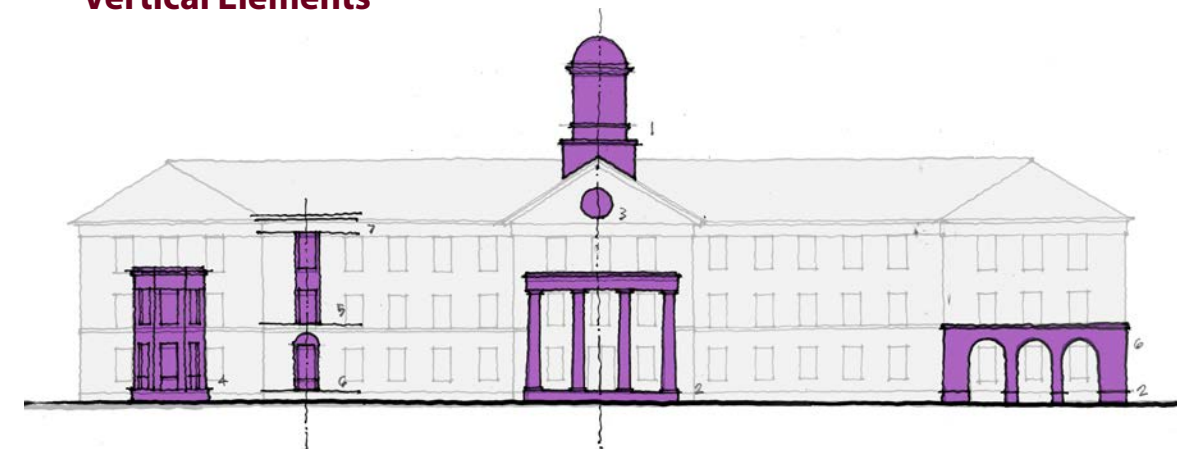
Tripartite Division



Horizontal Elements



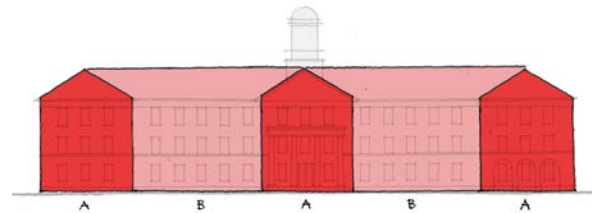
Vertical Elements



Architectural Embellishments

Massing

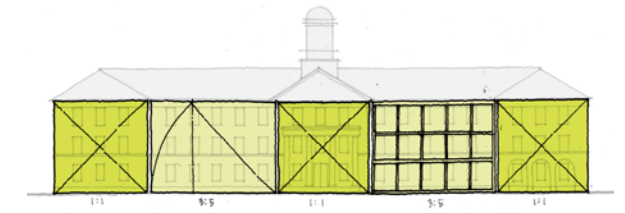
Elon University's architecture exhibits the influence of Palladian and Georgian architectural forms. The proposed disposition and massing of buildings defines campus open spaces. The massing of new buildings should relate to the scale and axes set by existing buildings and the campus master plan. Building should have a hierarchy of elements that reinforce symmetry, focal points and major entrances. Heroic, pavilion-like elements and loggias mark primary entries and centerlines of major building facades. Secondary portions of the facade should define building ends, respond to the campus context or highlight key interior spaces.



Alumni Fieldhouse (above left)
McMichael Science Center (above right)
Inman Admissions Center (below)

Proportion

While each building is composed of different parts, these elements should relate to one another through shared proportionality. Each building should be developed from a standard module, whether it be the square (1:1) or the golden ratio (approximately 3:5).



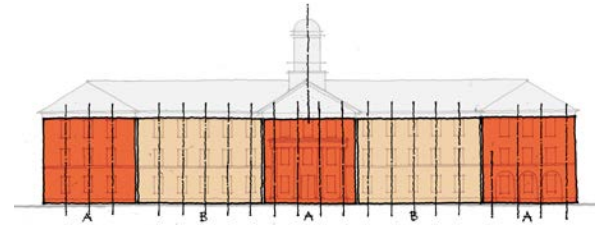
Adopting consistent proportions not only relates architectural elements within a facade to one another, but also often relate to naturally occurring modules and forms. This proportionality lends an overall feeling of harmony between the building, its parts, and the surrounding environment.



Common Proportions at Moseley Center

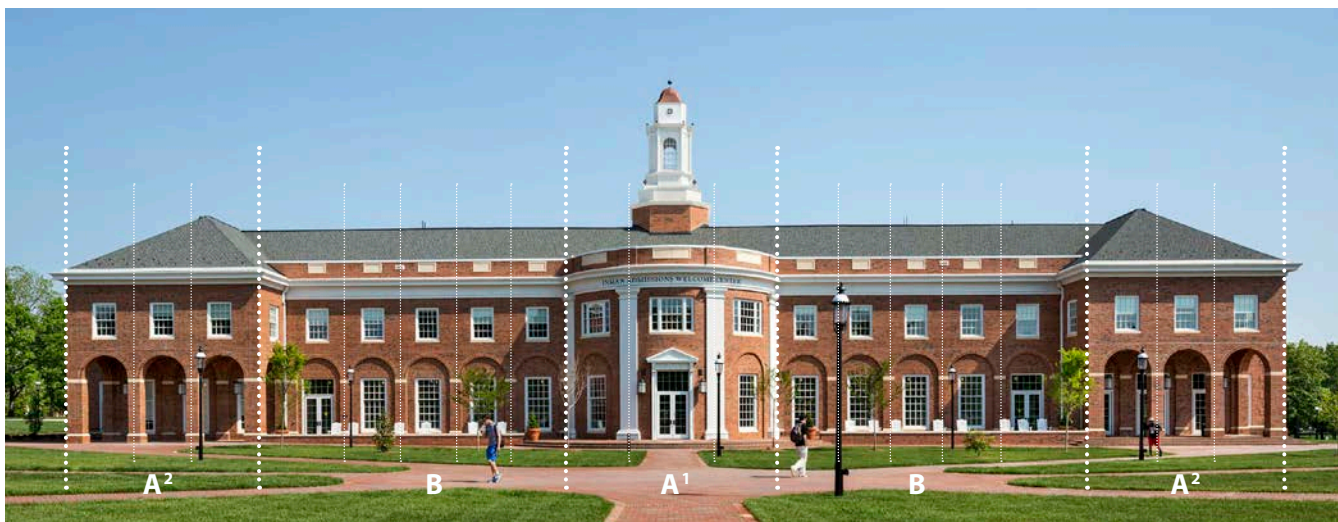
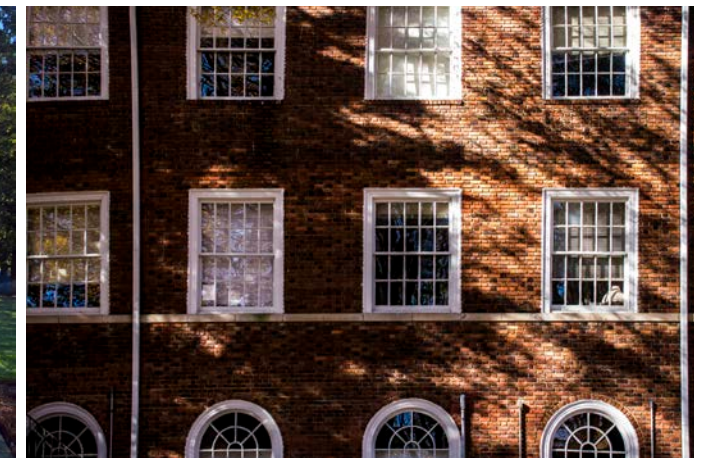
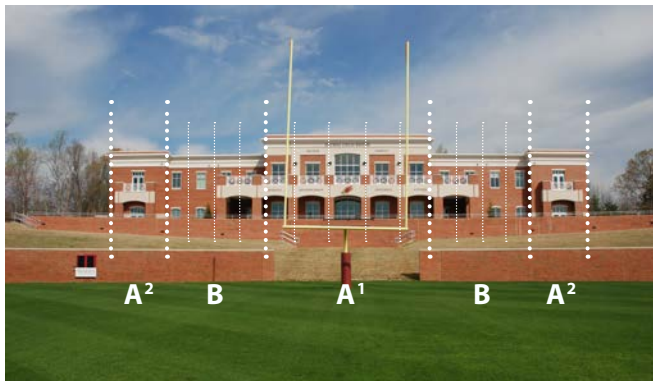
Rhythm

Many of Elon's buildings are linear in nature, creating discernible edges to campus open spaces. Elongated volumes, however, can appear monolithic when not appropriately modulated. In addition to the hierarchical massing of a facade, establishing a rhythm of primary bays gives a building harmony, scale and structure.



Fenestration

Fenestration should reinforce the massing, rhythm and proportion of a building. Because brick serves as the predominant building material across campus, most facades are dominated by punched openings with double-hung windows. Where possible buildings should build relationships between public interior functions and exterior open spaces through increased glazing. This is particularly effective at ground level public functions or facades with high-visibility. These larger glass openings should be designed to integrate and accentuate the predominantly Georgian campus architecture. Buildings should aim to achieve an efficient window-to-wall ratio of 30%-40%.

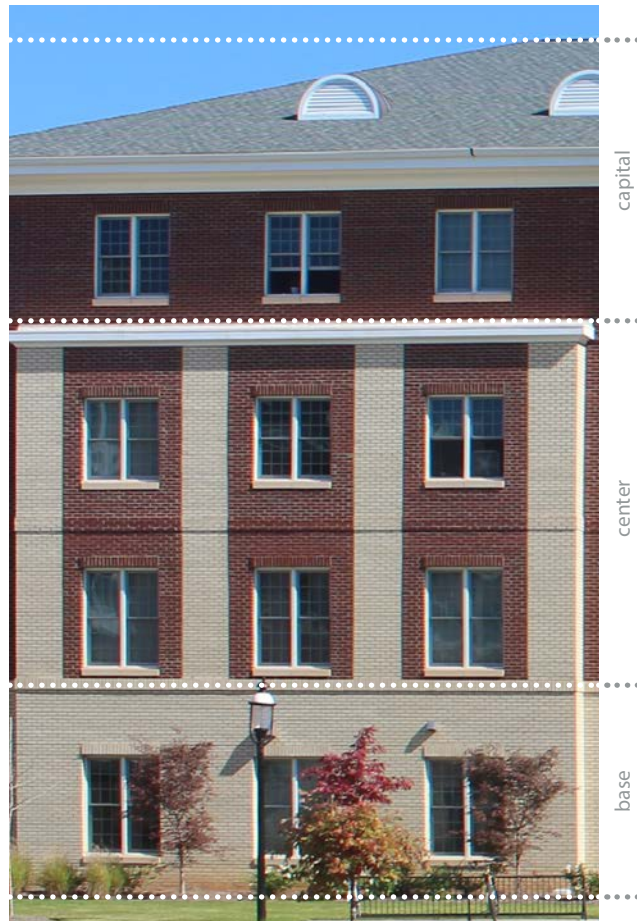
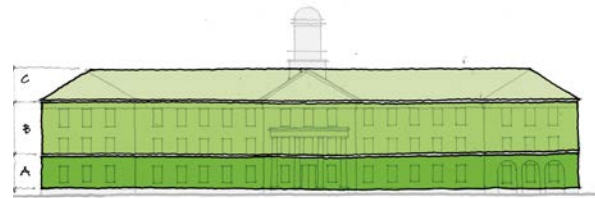


Alumni Fieldhouse (above left)
Koury Business Center (above right)
Inman Admissions (below)

McEwen Hall Expansion (upper left) and Powell Building (upper right)
Numen Lumen Pavilion (lower left) and Moseley Center (lower right)

Tripartite Division

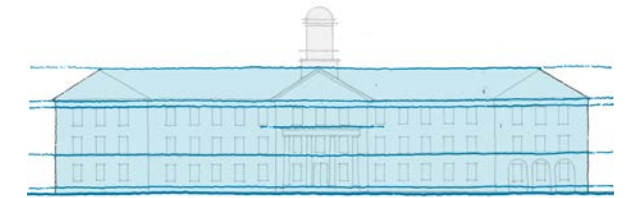
A building's facade should be characterized by three principle divisions: the base, center, and capital. The base should consist of the lowest portion of the building and be expressed with weighty materials such as natural stone, precast concrete, or a brick water table. The center should be of brick with a subtle emphasis on vertical proportions through fenestration, columns, or pilasters to draw the viewer's eyes towards the capital. The capital is made up of the roof, cornice, and potentially an attic story. This portion should appear the lightest in visual weight.



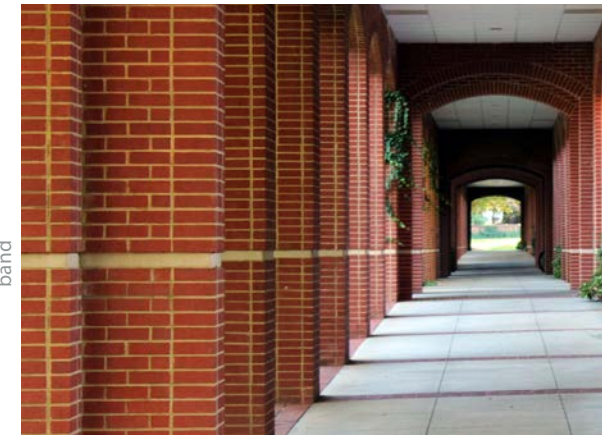
Global Neighborhood (left)
Inman Admissions (right)

Horizontal Elements

Horizontal architectural elements define a building's tripartite composition. A belt course - a continuous row of stone, precast concrete, or brick set within a facade - provides horizontal division by making the line of window sills more prominent. The cornice - a horizontal, projecting decorative molding at the top of a facade - visually separates the primary building mass and roof or attic story. A frieze - an ornamental band just below the cornice - may provide further relief between the primary mass and attic story. Finally, arcades and colonnades add horizontal definition through linear massing and material details.



cornice
frieze



precast
band



cornice

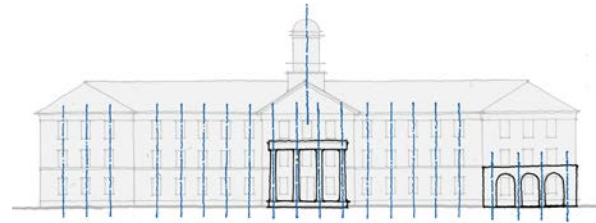


belt
course

Inman Admissions (above left), Koury Athletic Center (above right)
Inman Admissions (below left), Alamance Building (above right)

Vertical Elements

While the linear nature of many of Elon's buildings demands an emphasis on horizontality, vertical order is just as important. Windows should stack in an orderly fashion across the facade. Ground floor arcades and colonnades are appropriate adjacent to major open spaces and should align with the overall rhythm of fenestration. Double-height vertical elements such as loggias or engaged columns can distinguish key building entrances. These elements draw the eye upwards to distinguishing roof-top architectural embellishments such as cupolas, steeples, and domes.



Architectural Embellishments

Architectural embellishments, such as domes, cupolas and towers, should be used to reinforce the composition of a building. There should be a variety of these elements and care should be taken to limit their use to building focal points. While there are no specific recommendations to height limits, future buildings should respect the height and presence of the original cupola on the Alamance Building.



Alamance Building (above left), Colonnades (above right)
Cannon Pavilion (below left), Colonnades (below right)



Alamance Building (left), Alan J. White Belltower (center), Lindner Hall (right)

Architectural Kit of Parts

Materials and components should be selected for the compatibility with the existing architectural palette of Elon University. Campus buildings are predominantly constructed of red brick with white-painted trim and share a common kit of parts. It is recommended that new construction match these properties. If an architect proposes a deviation for a programmatic need or design intention it should be justified to and approved by the University Architect.

Windows

- Punched openings should have vertical or square proportions and have operable, double-hung sash windows.
- Clear, non-reflective glass is preferred, with mullions to break down the scale of large areas of glass.
- Frames should be wood or metal painted white.
- Tops of windows could be a lintel or an arch.
- Special windows (square, arch, round, etc) may appear in the base or attic story.
- Historical renovations may require special exceptions.

Entries

- Primary entries to major buildings should be marked with terraces, porches, or other transitional devices.
- Main entrances should be proportional to the entire facade.
- Use loggias or porticoes at major building entries to provide overhead cover.
- Highlight arrival areas in front of building entries with landscaping and paving.
- Doors should be wood or metal and should include glazing.
- Primary entries must accommodate access for the handicapped.

Brick

- Campus standard brick is manufactured by Hanson Company; “Old Mecklenberg” tumbled texture type.
- Any variety in colors should be subtle.
- A mix of bonds (Flemish, running, etc) is encouraged, particularly near the campus core where there is already more variation.

Detailing

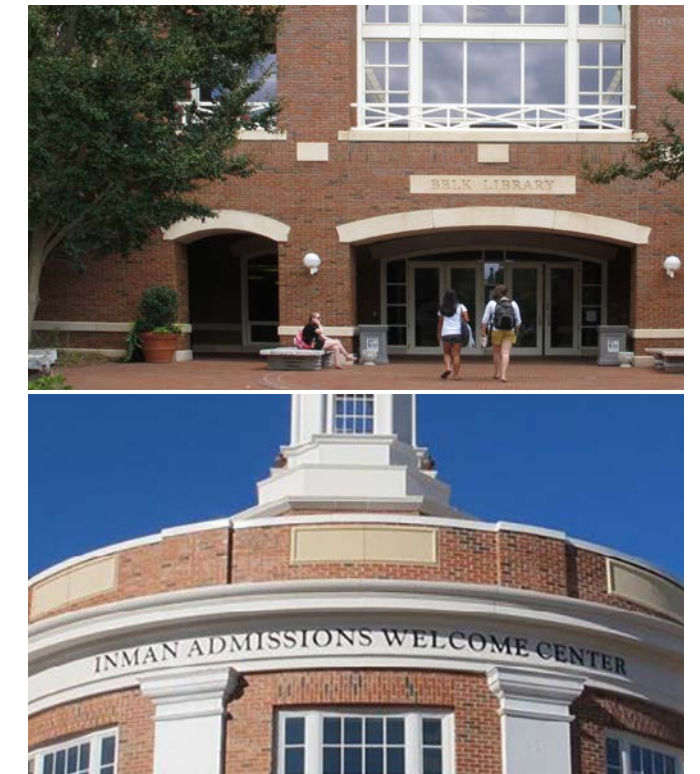
- Projecting architectural details such as lintels, sills, and banding should be precast concrete or brick at the middle and base of the building
- Fascia boards, soffits, pediments, and frieze boards should be wood and painted white to match trim elements across campus.



Punched Opening Windows at Global Neighborhood (left), Lindner Hall Entry (right)



Flemish Bond (upper left), Stretcher Bond (lower left), Belk Library Detailing (upper right), and Inman Admissions Detailing (lower right)



Columns

- Columns should be of the Doric order.
- Precast or brick columns are preferable but fiberglass or glass fiber reinforced concrete shell columns may be used for cost savings and ease of maintenance.
- All columns should be painted white to match other trim elements on campus.

Arcades / Colonnades

- Relate all arcades and colonnades to the architecture of adjacent buildings.
 - Use colonnades with columns if there are columns incorporated elsewhere on the building exterior
 - If there are not columns incorporated elsewhere on the exterior, consider an arcade instead.
- Architectural details such as brick patterns, brick and precast banding, and water tables should be included in arcades.

Roof

- Pitched roof forms, both hip and gable, are preferred.
- The campus standard shingle is manufactured by Owens Corning; “Architectural” Onyx Black the former type (discontinued). Consider using “TruDefinition Duration” Onyx Black for future projects on campus.

Cupolas and Domes

- Domes and cupolas should be used to terminate important visual axis or emphasize significant buildings.
- Cupolas should be finished in white painted wood, incorporating windows as possible to provide natural daylighting to interior spaces during the day and emit light during the evening.
- Limit the number of cupolas on any one open space so as to provide clear visual hierarchy.



Doric Columns at Colonnades Neighborhood (left), Alamance Hall Arcade (right)



Mixed Gable and Hip Roof Form, Lindner Hall (upper left), Hip Roof Form, Inmand Admissions (lower left), and Schar Hall Cupola (right)

