

# Faculty Lounge Network: Online Campus Tools for the Vassar Community

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Course: ART 375, Architectural Design III

Timeline: Fall 2010 / Spring 2011

## DESCRIPTION

The Faculty Lounge Network began as a research project by John McCartin '11 and William Mann '12 for Professor Armbrorst's Art 375. The class as a whole was tasked with addressing the spatial dimension to the perceived lack of community amongst faculty. The authors began by studying the primary facilities that have the potential to incubate informal faculty interaction: faculty and departmental lounges. **These spaces are decentralized, distributed through the campus, and often underutilized.** The twenty-first century faculty is on the go. We need a more effective way of bringing faculty together. The Faculty Lounge Network is an attempt to use the available resources (faculty lounges) and make them extra-attractive for a short burst of time by bringing in coffee and faculty-generated activity.

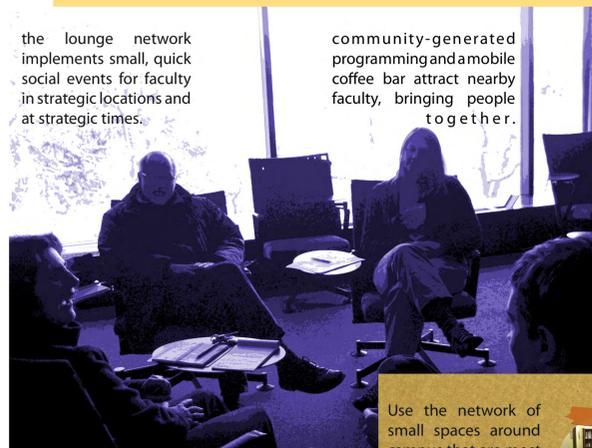
When presented in Professor Armbrorst's class, the Faculty Lounge Network was implemented as a brochure and an interactive 'Lounge Explorer.' The brochure was designed for the average faculty member to read and easily grasp the problem, the proposed Faculty Lounge Network, its logistics, and how they could sign up. The Lounge Explorer was an interactive website with which interested faculty could look into the many spaces around campus, discover which suited their proposed events.

## GOALS

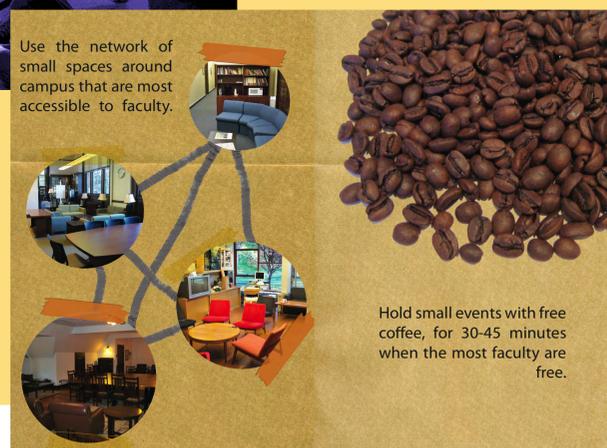
The Faculty Lounge Network aims to develop the necessary tools for Vassar Faculty to explore and reserve lounge spaces around campus in order to implement, small, quick social events for faculty in strategic locations at strategic times. This means the program, and the tools that make it work, must have a low threshold of usability, both in their technicalities and required attention. That is, the Faculty Lounge Network should require the least possible commitment from faculty, since they are marvelously busy. **The ultimate goal is to ameliorate the apparently deteriorating informal faculty community, and to do this by building a culture of decentralized, interdepartmental, faculty interactions.**

the lounge network implements small, quick social events for faculty in strategic locations and at strategic times.

community-generated programming and a mobile coffee bar attract nearby faculty, bringing people together.



Use the network of small spaces around campus that are most accessible to faculty.



## OUTCOMES

The project culminates in interactive website that directly engages Vassar faculty and provides them with a tactful and direct interface with which they can explore Vassar's many lounges and directly reserve a given space for community-generated, programmed events.

The website consists of four parts:

- The base of the website was built using the WordPress Content Management System. Its custom design was built as a child theme using the open source WP-Folio theme as its parent.
- The Lounge Explorer was built using Adobe Flash and Adobe Illustrator.
- The brochure was designed on Adobe InDesign. It is presented on the website using Issuu, a free online publishing service.
- The events calendar and scheduling system integrates Vassar's all-campus calendar and scheduling software, EMS.

The parts will soon be transferred into Vassar's system, and be the primary face for the initiative.

