The West Quad Project

This summer, Brooklyn College will begin construction on the West Quad Project. The project is being financed by state funds that have been allocated for construction purposes only. The West Quad Project, which is part of the Brooklyn College 1995 Master Plan and draws inspiration from the original 1937 architectural design of the campus, offers Brooklyn College an opportunity to substantially improve its student services, academic programs, and infrastructure. A new West Quad building will consolidate under one roof our student services—admissions, financial aid, scholarships, registration, and the bursar. The building will also house a state-of-the-art physical education and athletics facility with a swimming pool and high-diving board, competition and practice gymnasiums, a dance studio, racquetball courts, a fitness center, and teaching and research labs.

The estimated timeline for the project is as follows:

- **Summer 2003** — Demolition of the Bedford Avenue overpass.
- **January 2004 to December 2004** — Relocation of selected departments and student clubs from Plaza Building to Roosevelt Hall, James Hall, and the Field Building.
- **January 2005** — Demolition of Plaza Building, followed by restoration of the façades of Roosevelt Hall and James Hall.
- **July 2005** — Construction of the West Quad Building begins.
- **December 2007** — Construction completed.

The project’s distinguished architect, Rafael Viñoly, has a long history of designing private and public works and has strong ties to the City University of New York. His renovation of John Jay College of Criminal Justice won him the esteemed Bard Award and the Municipal Art Society Award. He recently designed the Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia and was a finalist for the redesign of the World Trade Center site.
West Quad Project Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What environmental, health, and safety precautions will the college take?
A: We will make every effort to schedule noisy activities generated by demolition and construction equipment at times that will not disturb school and community activities. The overpass demolition, for example, which requires the use of compressors and air-driven hammers, will take place during the summer.

Dust suppression will be controlled by the application of water mist, which minimizes airborne particles. An examination of the overpass revealed no presence of asbestos. If asbestos is present in Plaza Building, it will be abated in full accordance with New York City and State codes.

An exterminator will develop and maintain a plan for pest control.

Q: Will traffic and buses be re-routed during the demolition?
A: The need for re-routing traffic during the overpass demolition will be determined once the contract is awarded. For a limited period of time, perhaps a few weekends this summer, traffic on Bedford Avenue may be limited to one lane in each direction.

Q: At what hours will the construction start and finish?
A: Work will normally be conducted Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For any work beyond these hours, as, for example, on weekends, notification will be provided in advance.

Q: Will there be access to the Upper Quad once the overpass is removed?
A: No. Plaza Building, Roosevelt Hall, and James Hall will be accessible only from the ground-level entrances on Bedford Avenue. While construction is under way, interim signs and maps posted throughout the campus will instruct pedestrians how to gain access to Plaza Building, Roosevelt Hall, and James Hall.

Q: What offices and services will be relocated before the demolition phase?
A: Most offices in Plaza Building and a few in James Hall will move to the Field Building; some will be relocated within James Hall. The offices affected will be informed of their new location well in advance of their move. Relocations are tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2004 and to be completed by December 2004.

Q: How will I get to the Field Building?
A: When construction begins on the West Quad Building, you will be able to get to the Field Building through Roosevelt Hall. Access from Ocean Avenue and Avenue H will remain unchanged.

Q: Will the swimming pool and racquetball courts be available during the demolition of Plaza Building?
A: The pool and six squash and racquetball courts will be open until the end of 2004. Beginning 2005, two temporary racquetball courts will be open in Roosevelt Hall. The pool will be closed.

Q: Will the athletic field still be open for use during construction? How will I get to the field and the running track?
A: The athletic field will be open but will be reduced to half its size. The tennis courts will remain open. Maps that show entrances and routes will be created for each stage of the project.

Q: Will local residents be permitted to use the recreational facilities in the new building?
A: Yes. Residential recreational passes will continue to be available at the Recreation Office, 125 Roosevelt Hall, 951-5366.

Q: During this project, will the West Gate at Avenue H and Ocean Avenue continue to be accessible?
A: Yes. This entrance to the athletic field will not be affected.

Q: What will happen to the monk parakeets?
A: The parrots and their nests will be unaffected by the project.

Q: Whom do I contact if I have questions or concerns?
A: Send an e-mail to westquadproject@brooklyn.cuny.edu.