

# MIT Graduate Student Housing

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

YEAR 2020–2024

SIZE 1.3 acres (landscape scope)

USE Community gathering space, lawns, multi-use platform, walking paths, bike paths, events, courtyards

THEMES Strengthen Campus Community

Regional and Adaptive Planting

Campus Clarity + Cohesion

The new MIT Graduate Student Housing on Vassar Street features an outdoor multimodal connection between two new residence halls, central gathering space for pedestrians and bikers, and a multi-use platform with an open lawn area that could be used for community events. Gathering space for students abound in courtyards to the east and west sides of the area and stoops for units on the north side. The north side of the residence building also contains private, gated amenity areas.



- + The project site borders a rail line and the historic Fort Washington Park district. The buildings are connected through a Center Plaza to Fort Washington Park by using a distinctive paving pattern and an urban grove comprised of honeylocust trees.
- + Along Vassar Street, courtyards for informal student gatherings feature a raingarden system, breaking down the long facades of the buildings while still meeting streetscape standards.
- + The solution navigates the larger scale of this edge of campus, while balancing public thruways with spaces intended for students.
- + By integrating the street edges with a lush interior environment, a distinct and stronger sense of place is established for both residents and the community alike.

