



Figure 8.62 A bird's eye view of the massing of the SUNY at Purchase.

Terminating the axis at one end is a gymnasium and at the other is the Performing Arts Center (see Figure 8.63). In between are a rectangular meadow, the Great Court and the library. Perpendicular to the platform and at regular intervals are 30-foot (9-metre) wide pedestrian streets. Between them are the academic buildings. The buildings are partially connected by 'colonnades' lined by trees. Thus in the plan their sites were defined by the circulation network provided by the colonnades that some critics find akin to those of Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia.

The design guidelines allowed each building to be designed as an individual commission. They had, however, to front the colonnades for the distance between streets (i.e. 130 feet; 40 metres). The main design control was in limiting the exteriors of the buildings to three materials and colours: grey-brown brick, grey-tinted glass and dark grey anodized aluminium. The last was, at that time, the material of modernity.

The architects were given complete freedom to create any geometric form they desired providing the programmatic requirements were met. The overall result is that the site has the rigidity of Mies van der Rohe's Illinois Institute of Technology but not its rigidity of building forms.

The major building on the campus is the Performing Arts Center designed by Barnes. It has a cluster of four theatres with fly towers rising above the campus. They are a Concert Hall (seating capacity of 1372), the PepsiCo Theater (seating capacity of 713; designed by Ming Cho Lee), the Recital Hall (seating capacity of 680), the Abbott Kaplan Theater (seating capacity of 500) and the Organ Room (seating capacity of 225). The complex hosts about 600 performances a year attracting 125,000 visitors. The list of architects who designed the other buildings is impressive. The Humanities and Social Sciences Building (1974) was designed by Robert Venturi of Venturi and Rauch. Paul Rudolph designed