



(a)



(b)

Figure 8.64 The architecture of the Purchase campus. (a) The Natural Sciences Building and (b) the Social Sciences Building, both seen from one of the colonnades.

chosen because of the desire to reduce upfront costs have proven to be a burden on operating expenses (Figure 8.64).

Whether or not universities should be located on greenfield sites poorly related to an urban area is another question. They are certainly easier to build and it is certainly easier to provide parking for cars in such locations than on an urban site. They can be designed to be spacious and SUNY Purchase certainly is. It also provides outstanding educational programmes but it can be a dull place to be. It stands aloof from its immediate surroundings. Is that a worthwhile educational objective?

In 1998, a second master plan was developed. It reflected changes that had taken place since the first one was produced 30 years earlier. Kevin Horn and Andrew Goldman, architects, designed it. This plan was drawn up through much greater consultation with department heads and teaching staff than the original one and is more flexible

than it. It appears to have little relationship to the original plan's central ideas. Instead, in rather a Modernist fashion, it will fill in open spaces with display buildings. The new plan has, however, to deal with the changing economic conditions in the provision of higher education. The university is under increasing pressure to become financially independent. The implications for its future development and design are unclear. What is clear is that the design philosophy behind the Barnes scheme has set a precedent for other universities to follow (e.g. the University of Miami in Coral Gables). Purchase itself is not one of them. Short-run capital costs and donors' wishes will dominate the physical development of the university.

Major references

- Dober, Richard P. (1992). *Campus Planning*. New York: John Wiley, 120–1, 130–1.
Goldberger, Paul (1997). *The Architecture of Purchase College*. Purchase, NY: Neuberger Museum of Art.