



Penn State Abington: Lions Gate Student Apartments

Winner of the 2018 Montgomery Award for Excellence in Planning and Design

Viridian served as landscape architect to design the first dormitory on the Penn State Abington Campus. Viridian worked with the design team to develop the site to support the needs of the students while harmonizing with adjacent existing commercial and residential uses.

The west side of the site is the 'public' face and acts as the major pedestrian entry point. Pedestrians pass through a small shuttle stop terrace and under a long canopy to the building entrance. The canopy is framed by an allee of trees that becomes a flowering bosque as it moves out into the landscape. A series of terrace rooms set within the garden provide areas for students to study and gather with friends. Linear swaths of planting offer changing seasonal displays and are supported by

an underlying ecological structure that restores the hydrologic cycle. The long garden areas are graded into shallow depressions made to capture 4-6" of rainwater and control small storm events.

The east side of the site is the 'private' retreat and acts as a play and study zone for students. A small terrace at the building overlooks a play lawn and woodland hedgerow beyond. Students can study and socialize right outside the interior lounge space.

Location: Abington, Pennsylvania

Client: Penn State University

Size: 2.8 acres

Cost: \$1 million in Site Work and Landscape

Status: Completed 2017