

The University of Texas at Austin
Campus Master Plan

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as of May 1999

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Message from the President

by Larry R. Faulkner

*27th President of
The University of Texas at Austin*

The Latin phrase *genius loci*—translated roughly as the guardian spirit of a place—refers to the character that certain locations achieve when the natural, the constructed, and the interaction between the two work in harmony to create a special magic. Many corners of the campus of The University of Texas at Austin possess this spirit. For me, one example is the courtyard of Goldsmith Hall. Go there, see the contrast of light, colors and textures, listen to the music of the fountain and palm fronds blowing in the breeze, and perhaps you will detect its *genius loci*.

UT is home to much great architecture, which plays a large role in the shared experiences, academic rituals, and memories of all members of The University community. The Campus Master Plan will preserve our traditional public spaces and extend that sense of harmony while making sure that The University serves the growing needs of new generations.

We must design every element in a way that serves our architectural heritage, the adjacent environments, the broad goals of The University, and the highly specific demands of our academic and research programs. That is a tall order. Fortunately, some of our most experienced and committed campus representatives, as well as some of the brightest minds in contemporary architecture, have contributed to the Campus Master Plan. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of former President Robert M. Berdahl, an early champion of this project, whose eloquent essay is included in this volume.

I believe the Campus Master Plan will help us design, build, and maintain the campus in ways that will preserve its special character while preparing The University for the next century of service to Texas and the nation.

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