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BENNINGTON COLLEGE ARTS CENTER

THE FILM IMAGE AT BENNINGTON

An essential part of the new Arts Center will be related to the facilities used for experimentation and exploration of the film image, both static and cinematic. Provisions for these essential functions were included from the start in the programming for the Arts Center. Photography and the static image relates closely to the many areas of the Visual Arts, particularly the related areas of the graphic arts printed-image facilities. Film and cinematography while relating directly to the Visual Arts program was considered an essential part of the Performing Arts program and particularly the facilities for the drama program. The spaces for both photography and film, because they are so directly related to both the Visual and Performing Arts activities, have been located in the new Arts Center so that the active use of these facilities by students in both programs is possible. The facilities for film include a generous 40' x 50' film and light experimental studio with provisions for complete artificial light control, as well as natural light. Adjacent to this studio is a film projection and seminar room sound-treated to allow the essential operation of projection and sound dubbing from an adjacent projection booth, available for both sound and image editing. These two work spaces lie directly related to both the Visual and Performing Arts offices on the entrance level.

On the meadow level below are located the facilities for photography and for film editing. The film editing studio, 22' x 30', will allow all the essential functions of splicing, editing, synchronization and optical and audio review. There will be the working preparatory space for more finished projections in the film projection and seminar room above. Immediately adjacent to this is the photography studio and darkrooms, 20' x 50', which in turn is located next to the graphic art studio. Photography space will provide three essential kinds of spaces: The preparatory and light-oriented and finishing workroom. Directly related to this will be film darkrooms for processing of the initial film image. Related to these spaces and connected through a light lock will be a complex of printing darkrooms for the projected and printed image with generous facilities subdividable and individual enlarging darkrooms with common space for developing, chemical mixing, with sink and print washing facilities at desirable locations. The arrangement of these

spaces will be such that various choices can be made in the future for rearranging the various particular facilities to match those of student and faculty interests. It is anticipated that some of the existing darkroom facilities in other parts of the campus will remain available for senior work with the photography space in the Arts Center focusing primarily on the introductory students. Because of the great interest in the projected image, both static and moving, the facilities in the film editing space directly across the hall will allow, besides the editing function, the ability to work with the projected images, of both photographic and cinematographic, in work related to the many cross-fertilizing areas of multi-image and light exploration.
