Influences

The works of earlier architects influenced the design and ideas of the Urban Graduate Center. The English colleges of Cambridge and Oxford, in the fourteenth to nineteenth centuries, formed buildings around enclosed quadrangles. The enclosed quadrangular form was influenced by monastic structures that had a similar program to colleges. The enclosed quadrangular form made the best use of small urban lots. Access into the courtyard could be carefully controlled at a few gate points. Le Corbusier’s design of the monastery, La Tourette, expressed the individual and the collective through friars’ cells, the refectory and the church. Alvar Aalto’s Civic Center illustrated movement through and within a courtyard. The “Academical Village” at the University of Virginia depicts architectural elements and forms as giving meaning and purpose to a space. All four of these projects formed the basis of this proposal for an Urban Graduate Center.