

MARLBORO MUSIC

PROJECT NAME Marlboro Music

LOCATION Marlboro, VT

CATEGORY General Design

ABSTRACT

Since 1951, the world's most talented classical musicians have participated in Marlboro Music, a summer festival in Vermont's Green Mountains. With a shortage of rehearsal, residential, and support space for musicians, a rehearsal building and residential hall was planned on a 2.5-acre site within the campus at Marlboro College. The landscape design goal was to establish the festival's place amidst the lush landscape of foothills and streams, and create welcoming outdoor spaces to foster interaction and events. The design thoughtfully considers the scale of the existing campus, a historic farm, and pays respect to the pristine, expansive wilderness that surrounds it.

MARLBORO MUSIC

HISTORY

Since 1951, generations of the world's most talented classical musicians have come together to participate in Marlboro Music, a seven-week summer festival in Vermont's Green Mountains where young musicians collaborate alongside master artists in an environment removed from the pressures of performance. Located on the tiny campus of Marlboro College in the foothills of Vermont's Green Mountains, Marlboro Music encompasses not just music but a whole communal way of living where musicians, staff, their spouses and children share meals, seminars, chores and social events, creating a unique musical community. The New Yorker magazine calls Marlboro Music "the classical world's most coveted retreat" and participants have included such celebrated musicians as cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Pablo Casals, pianist Emanuel Ax and violinist Joshua Bell.

DESIGN INTENT

With a shortage of rehearsal, residential, and support space for musicians, Marlboro Music developed plans for a rehearsal/archive library building (Reich) and residential hall on a 2.5-acre site within the campus at Marlboro College. The design was inspired by Marlboro College's centuries-old farm and the Cape Cod cottage-style buildings, a 400-year old typology derived from 17th century English settler's dwellings in New England. The landscape design goal was to establish Marlboro Music's place amidst the lush Vermont landscape of rolling hills and streams, and create welcoming exterior gatherings areas to foster interaction and events. The design thoughtfully considers the scale of the existing campus as the new Reich Building and Residence Hall are much larger in comparison to other historic farm buildings on the campus. Tucking the building into the hillside so it cascades down the steep, rocky slope allows for a robust building program to visually appear lighter in the landscape. The landscape and the architecture are positioned to meld into one another, creating continuity between the exterior and interior spaces.

The campus being so remote, musicians, students, staff, and visitors must arrive by private vehicle. Once on campus, circulation on foot is all one needs. By minimizing the presence of bituminous paving for vehicles and by using unit pavers for all walking surfaces, the site design aims to match the quaint character of the old farmstead.

STEWARDSHIP OF PLACE

The landscape design was part of a comprehensive vision for sustainability and stewardship of this unique place. Planting materials selected were nearly entirely of native species, and were designed to knit the site back into the dense Green Mountain landscape as if the new buildings always inhabited this space. An apple orchard was established as part of a long-tradition dating back to the original farm that once inhabited the site. The native landscape makes way to create several semi-formal gathering areas that transition from the wild to the built environment. For musicians that participate at Marlboro Music, spending time in the deep wilderness of Vermont is part of the attraction to the festival. To foster this connection to the outdoors, a green roof terrace and central courtyard set the stage for events and casual interactions where music can be practiced together in the open air, meals eaten, or evening happy-hour gatherings can occur.

Coordinating a geothermal well field, designing for low irrigation planting, use of local materials including the site's own excavated ledge rock, and planning for storm water BMPs were central to the landscape design. The stormwater management design was intended to be decentralized, with local bioswales incorporated throughout the site to minimize large, unsightly basins. Site lighting design was thoughtful to preserving the dark-sky as part of the Marlboro experience.

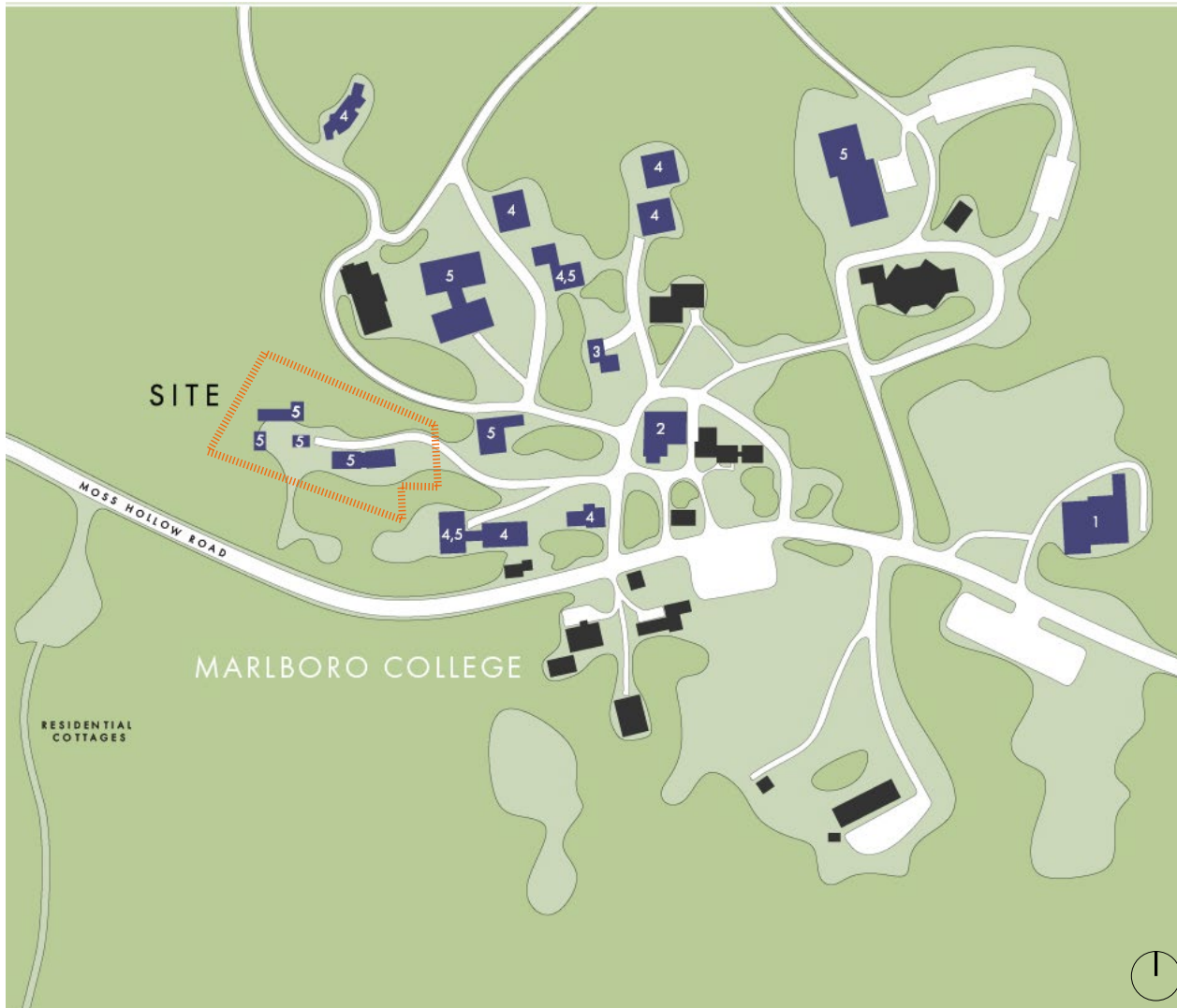
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ROLE

The landscape architect led the site design, collaborated with architects and engineers, tracked sustainability requirements, and engaged with students, staff, and multiple client stakeholder groups.

AWARD MERITS

At times landscape architecture is required to be bold and announce itself while at others its role is to be profound but quiet. The Marlboro Music landscape design shows restraint through timeless design decisions that relates to its stunning context without overpowering it. The design successfully fulfills the client's needs while preserving the pristine wilderness of the site.





CAMPUS PLAN 1| Auditorium 2| Dining Hall 3| Cafe 4| Dormitory 5| Rehearsal Rooms

Marlboro Music leases classroom, auditorium, and dormitory space from Marlboro College for musicians' use. The project design managed both the needs of Marlboro Music and Marlboro College. The campus is comprised of three 19th century farmsteads that were combined in the 1950s during the college's founding. The new buildings were sited to relate to the existing campus and farmstead typology.

Marlboro, Vermont (population 978) is an easy trip from Boston, NYC, and Hartford; it regularly draws visitors from all over New England for events such as the Marlboro Music Festival.



MARLBORO MUSIC CAMPUS



RESIDENCE
HALL

REICH





SITE PROGRAM

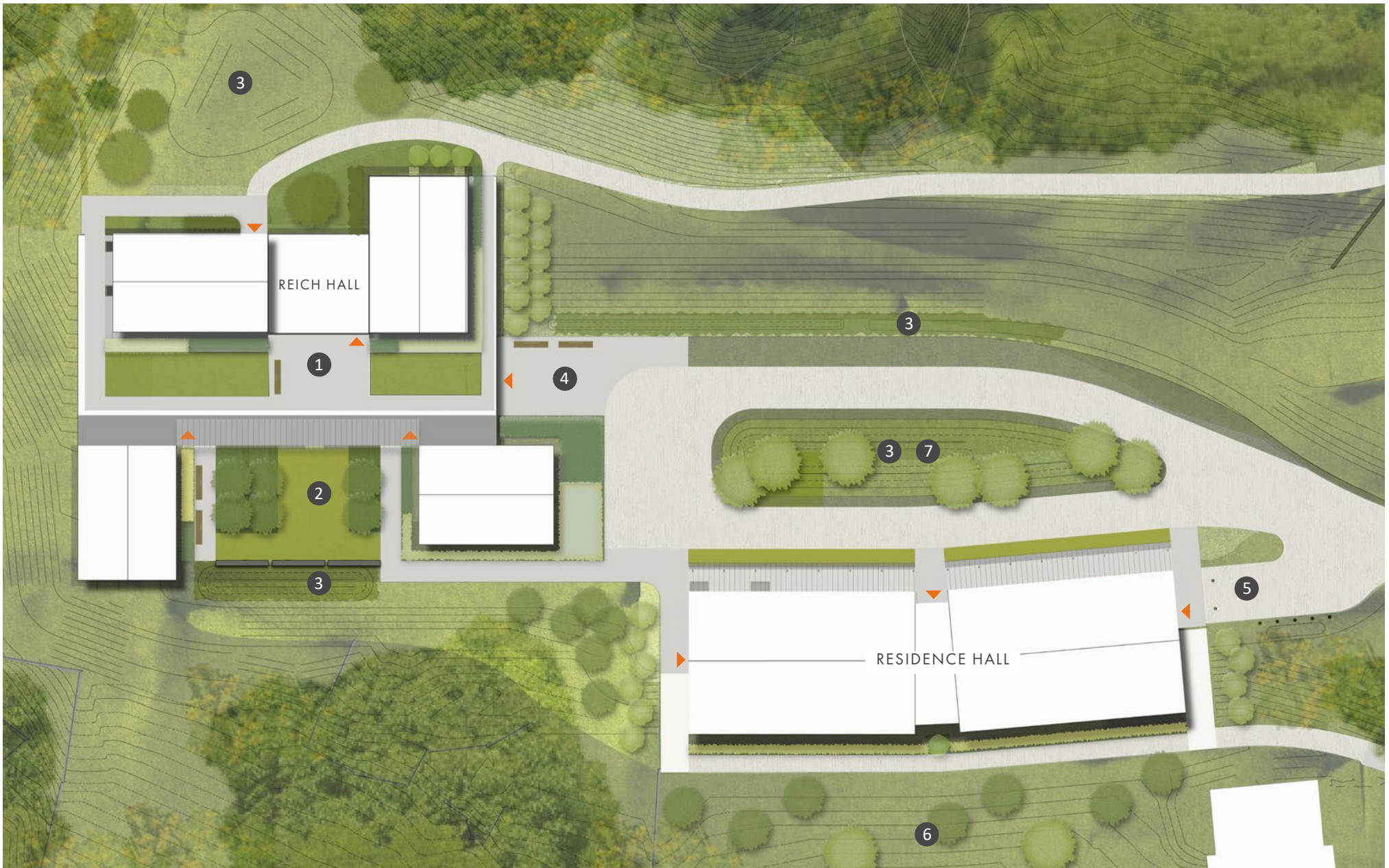
1 | Residence Hall

2 | Reich Hall

3 | Courtyard

4 | Upper Terrace Green Roof

5 | Apple Orchard



SITE PLAN LEGEND

1 | Green Roof/ Terrace

2 | Courtyard

3 | Bioswale

4 | Entry Plaza

5 | ADA parking

6 | Apple Orchard

7 | Geothermal Well Field



ENTRY AND APPROACH



GREEN MOUNTAIN TERRAIN | Ledge rock and mountainous terrain played a significant role in the project. Planting selection for erosion control, infiltration capacity of the subsurface condition for storm water management, the ability to plant new trees, earthwork for foundations, all required design consideration and close communication of on-site conditions during construction.







UPPER TERRACE GREEN ROOF | To foster a connection to the outdoors, the green roof terrace sets a stage for events and casual interactions where musicians can practice together in the open air, eat meals, or have happy-hour gatherings all while taking in views of the surrounding picturesque Green Mountain landscape.



INTERIOR CONNECTIONS TO THE LANDSCAPE



LOWER LEVEL ENTRY



UPPER LEVEL ENTRY

