The thirty campuses featured in this collection were discussed during a seminar held in conjunction with the symposium on Campus Design at ETH Zurich’s Faculty of Architecture in spring 2006. The selection is representative of the breadth we can observe in the genre today, including both academic and commercial campus developments.

The categorisation into inner-city, greenfield, high-tech, and corporate campus highlights the different yet not unrelated aspects of these various campus typologies. Among inner-city campuses, a major issue seems to be how universities can profit from their urban context and, in return, give stimuli to surrounding city districts. Many greenfield campuses are currently being upgraded into comprehensive mixed-use urban science districts. All high-tech campuses naturally aim to generate knowledge and synergies between science and industry, profiting from the close proximity of the two. Within the corporate campuses there seems to be a conflict between the desire for openness and interaction with the outside world and the self-evident need for keeping top-secret research under wraps. Within each category, the campuses are arranged chronologically in the order in which they were founded; data, photographs and plans help to illustrate their scope and to define their individual qualities.

However, it has to be said that this categorisation is neither irrevocable nor definitive. Many inner-city universities with associated technology parks – such as the University of Cambridge, MIT, IIT, or UPC – can also be described as high-tech campuses. The same is true for many greenfield campuses, which are also increasingly being extended with high-tech clusters – witness the campuses of the universities in Alicante, Amsterdam, Delft, Groningen, Utrecht, and ETH Zurich, with the latter envisioning spin-off and start-up activities on its Hönggerberg campus. And by the same token, the high-tech campuses included here are also integrated into or located near universities. Remarkably, all the high-tech and corporate campuses featured constitute more or less closed compounds located on greenfield or brownfield sites. This in itself is a timely reminder that the origin of the term campus is ‘field’ or ‘open space’ and that the roots of the knowledge society are in industry.

However, no sooner have we classified individual campuses than we find we could equally well classify them quite differently. For example, they could be described according to the methods of their funding, with universities relying on varying levels of state support, not to mention the high-tech and corporate campuses that are driven by market forces. Similarly, there is a new tendency in continental Europe to integrate housing – as at the Bilgi, Uithof, and Zernike campuses, at Berlin Adlershof, Otaniemi Science Park, and adidas Group’s Herzo-Base (outside its headquarters area as a corporate exception), and as is common in Anglo-American and Asian universities. Housing is also currently being planned at ETH Hönggerberg, Science Park Amsterdam and the Zernike Complex.

While most campuses still take the form of concentrated compounds or clusters situated in one main location, there seems to be a tendency to rediscover the qualities of the old model of the collegiate university such as Cambridge or Oxford, where a network of colleges is integrated into the city. Bilgi is organised along similar lines with campuses scattered throughout the city of Istanbul. UPC, the Cambridge Cluster and Benetton’s Group Headquarters constitute an even wider-reaching network of specialised clusters that go beyond the city limits in order to stimulate interaction with and the development of the surrounding regions, Catalonia, Silicon Fen, or the Veneto respectively.

Comparisons of this kind could be continued ad infinitum. But what we can say for sure is that the campus is alive and well, and investments are reaching new heights in terms of funding and with regard to the ingenuity of the strategies being devised to shape new campuses and retrofit older ones. Programme, environments and intentions are being tested in a myriad of different constellations and contexts with varying degrees of success. We very much hope that this collection may in its own way assist or inspire universities, technology parks and corporations seeking to advance and revalue their existing campus grounds.

Legend
Plans: All plans are north-oriented, apart from the plan of Stanford Research Park.
-- Map: without scale
-- Site plans: without scale
-- Figure ground plan: 1:50,000
-- Function plan: 1:12,500

Building uses:
- University or corporate buildings
- Shared services and amenities such as shops, cafés, hotels, leisure, sports and congress facilities
- Start-ups, spin-offs, companies and private research institutions
- Housing

Photos: The captions of the photos are arranged from left to right and top to bottom.

Data: All data were requested from the respective institutions. Where not complete, the data was not available or not released.