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The College of the Holy Cross’s campus is quite the natural wonder if one   
*(“quite the natural wonder” is a bit informal for written work like this)*

takes a close look at it. Fr. Kuzniewski talked of the hard work that was involved in the creation of the marvelous campus that fits perfectly on the north face of Mount St. James. Holy Cross’s campus is obviously not a natural part of the landscape, but the school certainly did a fine job of blending architecture and nature together.

Fr. Kuzniewski’s talk showed that Charles Maginnis, architect of many of the campus’s buildings, really tried to incorporate nature into his architectural plan. A “natural” campus would be one that does not disrupt the flow of the original setting of the campus or one that does not stick out like it does not belong. The campus integrates nature with its buildings and walkways to make a peaceful and almost unforced looking natural setting. As a recognized arboretum, the campus is filled with many different types of trees. Not only do some of these trees have special connections or stories, but also they are a reminder of the beautiful orchard that used to cover the ground that Holy Cross students now walk upon. Holy Cross is really just engulfed with nature; the most obvious example being that nearly all of the buildings are almost covered in ivy, as if the earth actually wants the school to become a part of it. The campus is even more in tune with nature more than ever with the introduction of the “green” Smith Labs, setting the bar for a new and hopefully more environmentally friendly campus.

Maginnis had more than just nature in mind when in his plans for the Holy Cross campus. I believe that overall the campus has a good rhythm. It works well that it is spread across the mountain as well as down it, as not to make the trips from location to location too troublesome. Also, Maginnis was able to design the campus so that the traditionally Jesuit quad could be assembled amongst Fenwick, Alumni, Kimball, and Carlin. Also, as Fr. Kuzniewski pointed out, some of the buildings are shaped like capital I’s. This was done to allow for sufficient space in the buildings, and so that the buildings would fit well into the mountainside. However, I believe that there is more than meets the eye with the I-shaped buildings. Building on the theme that The College of the Holy Cross is a Jesuit institution, I believe that the I-shaped buildings symbolize the founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is a subtle design that one does not really notice unless told, but once Fr. Kuzniewski informed me of that, I immediately associated the capital “I” with St. Ignatius himself. I am not completely certain whether this is accurate, but I think that it fits well with the school and gives the campus a more Jesuit feel. Also, it is quite coincidental that the best way for a building to be made to fit the mountain is also the first letter of our founding father’s name.

Natural is not a word that one uses often when thinking about a college

*split this into two sentences – period after campus:*  
campus, however the College of the Holy Cross does a fine job fusing these two seemingly different ideas together.

*John,*

*This is a very good essay with some excellent observations. There are a couple of small technical points I marked in italics in the body. I don’t know about the “I = Ignatius” connection either, but it is just possible that this was an intentional thing.*

*You are right to say that the college is not completely natural. But of course it does have connections to a natural landscape and things in common with those landscapes. To me, the really striking thing is the difference between the arboretum trees and the way trees would appear in a natural forest. There, trees have to compete with each other and with the undergrowth for space and sunlight. On the campus, the trees are placed and carefully nurtured as memorials. They are nature, molded for human purposes.*