Creating a Sustainable Home: Batten House Renewal Project
Marian Bechtel ‘16

What is Batten House?
Batten House is an intentional community of Bryn Mawr students dedicated to living sustainably and engaging with the broader community (at Bryn Mawr and beyond) in social and environmental justice work. Rich with significant historical architecture, the house was purchased by the college in 1959.

Project Goals
Batten provides an important space and community for students interested in sustainability, and because of the old, worn condition of the house now, it needs work for that space and community to be maintained in the future. Working with Facilities, we came up with several general goals for a renovation plan:
- Maximizing communal space
- Increasing capacity
- Making the first floor ADA accessible
- Making the house more energy-efficient and sustainable to reflect the values of the community (and save money in the long run)

What I did...
- Provided architectural design input
- Convened meetings with house to build consensus around renovation plans
- Participated in efforts to balance project goals and residents’ needs/desires with capabilities and constraints
- Spoke with past and present Batten alums about the significance of Batten to their Bryn Mawr experience
- Presented final plans to stakeholders and decision-makers

What I learned...
- Learned about design principles and trade-offs regarding sustainable design and energy-saving options
- Learned how to prioritize and make informed decisions quickly and efficiently
- Expanded communication, mediation, and presentation skills
- Gained a deeper appreciation for Batten’s architectural and social history

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