

University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre



LOCATION

Guelph, Ontario

CLIENT

University of Guelph

PROJECT TEAM

Diarmuid Nash,
Veronica Madonna
Olivia Keung
Luis Quezada
Pooya Aledavood

Structural Engineer:
Moses Structural Engineers

Mechanical and Engineers: Integral Group

Civil Engineer: WalterFedy

AV: Integral Group

IT: Integral Group

Landscape Architect:
Forrec Ltd. Landscape Architecture Studio

Code: LMDG Building Code Consultants

Building Envelope: Morrison Hershfield

Exhibition/Discovery: LORD Cultural Services

Sustainability: Integral

WSP: Green Roof Consultant

The new Honey Bee Research Centre (HBRC) at the University of Guelph, Ontario College of Agriculture will be an iconic, state-of-the-art research and event centre dedicated to honey bee health. Focused on research, education, discovery, and learning from one of nature's greatest architects – the honeybees – this mass timber, low carbon project demonstrates sustainability and envisions an architecture of collaboration, ingenuity and efficiency. Supporting flexible research and education for all ages, the HBRC will welcome children, students and scholars from around the world, and will contain a large, multi-functional Discovery and Learning Space, Exhibition Area, Research & Extraction Labs, Classrooms, a Café, and Gift Shop.

The HBRC will enhance connections to both the neighbouring University of Guelph campus, the surrounding natural landscape, and its existing integrated trail system. The new Centre is envisioned as both a productive and social landscape that accommodates diverse programming, research, and events. Balancing the ecological functions of the site with educational programming, the grounds highlight the productivity of the land formally through cultivated agricultural plots and working hives.

The mass timber structure includes a sweeping occupiable roof structure that forms the focal expression of the public space. Roof and landscape are integrated through a trail that rises and leads to the Centre's landmark Interpretive Tower, which doubles as a solar chimney and pollinator friendly habitat, underscoring the HBRC's dedication to the preservation of Pollinator Pathways, honeybees and other pollinator insects.