

McMaster University Life Sciences Biology Building and Greenhouse



LOCATION

Hamilton, Ontario

CLIENT

McMaster University

SIZE

11,400 SF

PROJECT TEAM

Carol Phillips, Partner in Charge
Ronen Bauer,
Lead Designer and Project Manager
Boris Pavicevic,
Contract Administrator and
Project Coordinator
Jessica Prescott, Interior Designer
Andrea Janzen,
Renovations Project Manager
Deya Iskandarova, Design Architect
Yohan Jang, Architectural Technologist
Maria Pavlou, Architectural Technologist

Moriyama Teshima Architects have undertaken this significant, four-phase, multi-year phased renovation of McMaster University's Life Science Biology (LSB) Building. Full proposed plans by phase were completed, along with renderings and recommendations for upgrades and initial suggestions for phasing and decanting of building occupants, as well as code and cost review, and design briefs by key consultants.

Phase 1 includes the integration and addition of a new research greenhouse onto the existing building, new limited electrical and mechanical upgrades in Life Science Biology Building, and new lobby and hallway upgrades at the connection to LSB and surrounding landscape. Landscape elements will be integrated with the building, drawing people closer and creating a welcoming outdoor forecourt. This dramatic new entrance experience will bring occupants through the main entry onto a suspended bridge hosting views onto the two-storey greenhouse space below. Environmentally separated from the greenhouse, the glazed bridge will act as an extension of the lobby, integrating wood elements that carry the spatial qualities from the space beyond.

Phases 2-4 involve a comprehensive upgrade to the LSB Building including accessibility upgrades, functional reorganization of the entire building to facilitate better synergies among research departments, new best practice student experience spaces such as breakout spaces and lounges, improved access to daylight, limited new construction and window replacement and significant mechanical and electrical upgrades in keeping with new carbon-neutral standards for the university.

With the site's proximity to the adjacent McMaster University Medical Centre and Hospital, its campus visibility, and its surrounding municipal vehicular routes, the new greenhouse will seize the opportunity to reflect McMaster University's leadership in the study and research of science and natural systems in health and wellness, as well as echo its commitment to growth, health, and sustainability.