

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 undertook this significant, four-phase, multi-year phased renovation of McMaster University's Life Sciences Biology (LSB) Building, a historic building located at their primary Hamilton campus.

Phase 1 included the integration and addition of a new research greenhouse onto the existing building, new limited electrical and mechanical upgrades in Life Sciences Biology Building, and new lobby and hallway upgrades at the connection to LSB and surrounding landscape. Landscape elements were integrated with the building, drawing people closer and creating a welcoming outdoor forecourt. This dramatic new entrance experience brings 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 acts as an extension of the lobby, integrating wood elements that carry the spatial qualities from the space beyond.

Phases 2-4 involved 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.

The project was designed to a minimum LEED Silver certification and is to achieve a minimum annual energy consumption saving of 25% when compared with the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB). The new greenhouse seizes 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 echos its commitment to growth, health, and sustainability.