

Case Western Reserve University Tinkham Veale University Center

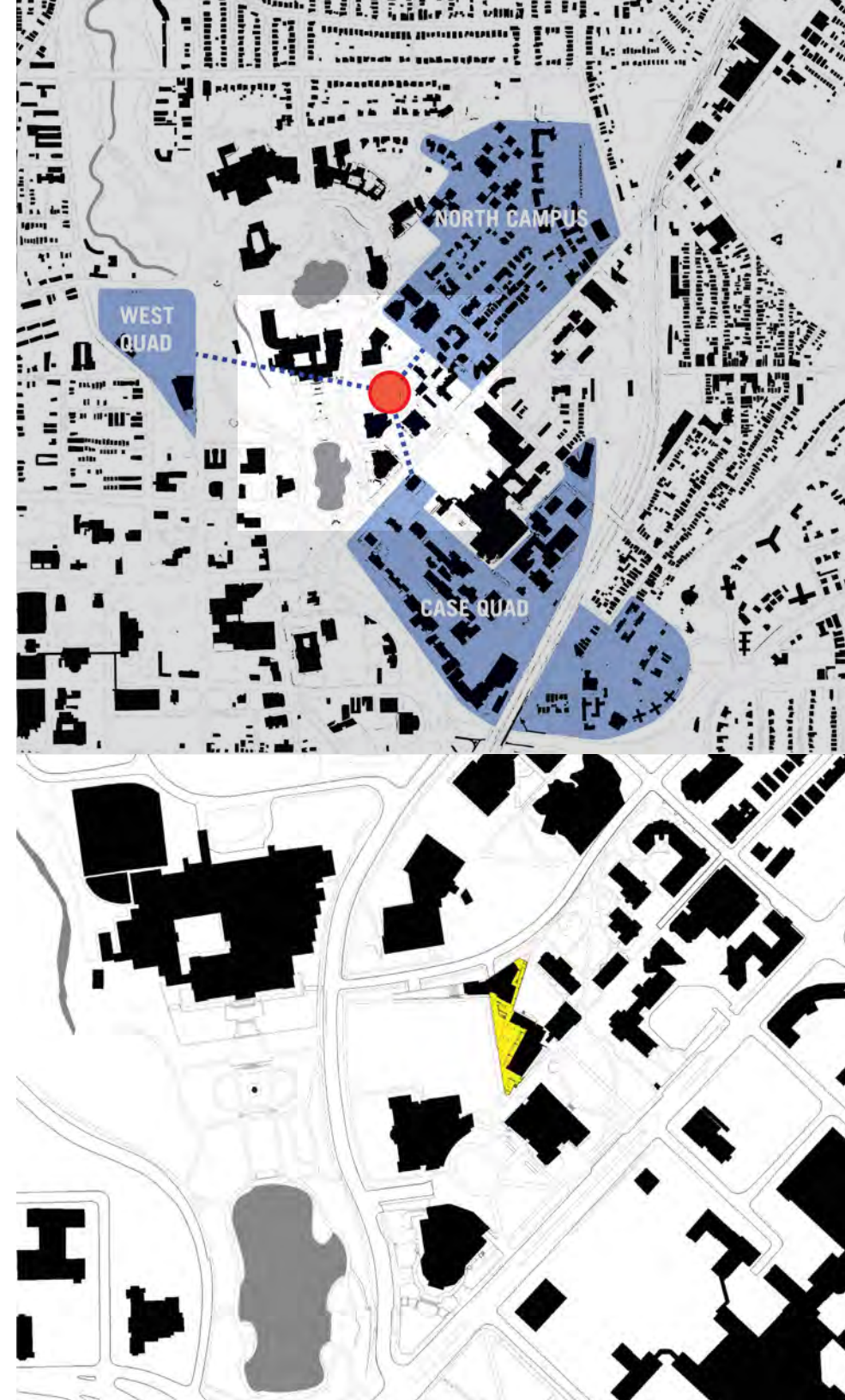
Cleveland, Ohio

Completion Date: 2014

Square Footage: 89,000

Case Western Reserve University's primary objective was to create a new University Center to bridge the physical and psychological boundaries that existed between two historical campuses. The selected site was a sliver of open space located in a prime location between campuses, easily accessible from the Case Quad, North Residential Village, South Campus and the future West Quad. The site was also adjacent to several existing student activity and engagement buildings including Kelvin Smith Library and the Thwing Center building which houses several student and staff organizations. The building location also had the distinction of being part of the University Circle District, home of several cultural institutions such as the Cleveland Museum of Art and Severance Symphony Hall.

With all the sites' benefits, the central campus location also posed challenges due to the aging infrastructure. These included a two-story below grade parking structure, steam tunnel system, below grade electrical distribution, and service and parking ramps. The parking facility had to remain fully operational during construction, and there were significant limitations in modifying the post-tensioned cast-in-place concrete structure. The most difficult of the challenges was that the new building could not add any additional structural load to the existing parking structure.



Community Engagement

Incorporating the input of students, staff and faculty began at project inception. The design team facilitated a series of work sessions throughout the design process as a means to elicit input and receive feedback. Meetings were scheduled at a variety of different times of day in order to reach the largest student population. The input from the work sessions were both aspirational and prescriptive, and the design team developed solutions based on this comprehensive input.

Creating Confluence

The design solution bundles 89,000 square feet in a two-story building that borders the east and north sides of the existing parking structure while creating a series of new student collaboration courtyards between the Gilford House-Mather Gym and the Thwing Center-Mather House. The design engages Freiburger Field by creating a new University porch

that reaches out west towards the parks and lagoons of University Circle. The building minimizes its encroachment into the existing University amenities while creating a system of pathways and courtyards that connect building to building and indoors to outdoors. The building program satisfies various University needs that previously were spread throughout the campus.

The “always open,” 24/7 hours for the University Center also made it essential to provide a variety of public spaces that would attract the surrounding community. The building is designed to accommodate multiple public facilities that are organized into three distinct categories: 1. Social and Cultural 2. Meeting and Event 3. Food and Beverage.

The social and cultural component includes a commons space, a variety of lounges, an immersion and entertainment zone, and a media/technology area.

The commons is a large 2-story event space with a monumental staircase that also functions as seating. Its location provides visual connections to the student engagement spaces, dining, pre-function areas and the outdoors. Lounges sprinkled throughout provide informal gathering and collaboration spaces for the students and staff, and enhance the circulation experience. The immersion / entertainment zone is a social and technological space for gaming, relaxation and socialization. An interactive touch screen, designed by a local interactive art company, streams dynamic information about campus and University Circle events.

The meeting and event component includes a wide variety of flexible, large and small event spaces. The largest event space is approximately 9,000 SF and can accommodate 500 persons for a sit down meal and 900 in theater style seating. The adjacent pre-function space provides overflow space that allows



AVOID UNBUILDABLE GARAGE ZONE



REDEFINE OPEN SPACES



ENERGIZE CIRCULATION PATTERNS

for larger events when necessary. An additional large event space on the second level can be divided into three smaller rooms, and connects to a landscaped terrace and the adjacent Arts courtyard. All the meeting spaces are serviced from centralized catering and kitchen areas.

The third major public amenity is the extensive food and beverage component that occurs mostly on the ground floor at the south end of the building. The large main dining area offers casual dining and is adjacent to three smaller dining options, each with a unique identity and storefront presence. To appeal to the graduate and professional students, the building houses a 60 person sit-down bar/restaurant with an upscale menu. Lastly there is a separate large meeting / private dining area for catered events that can be opened to the public.

Supporting Student Life

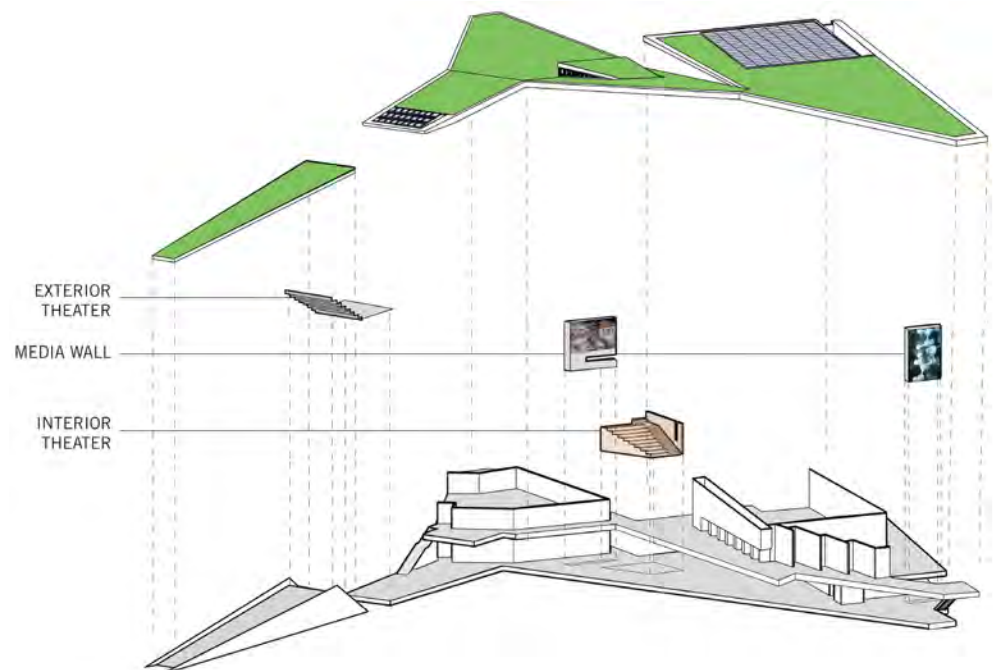
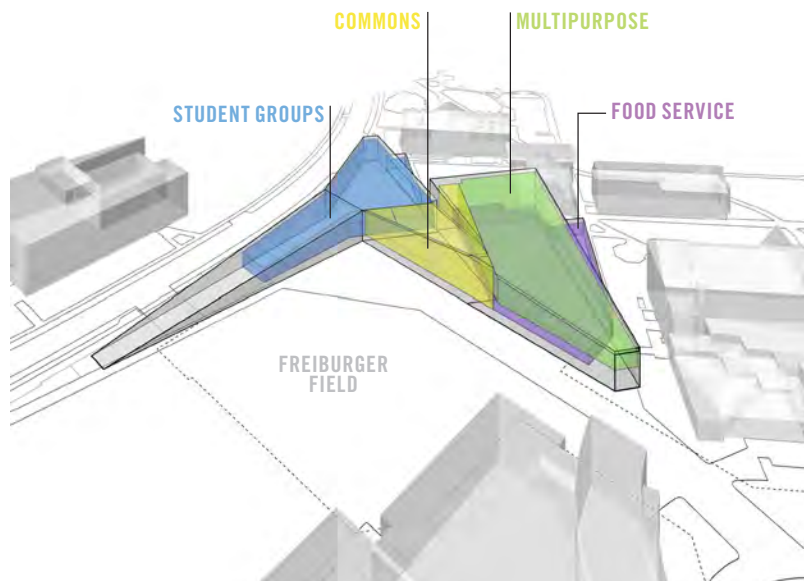
The northern wing of the facility was designed to enhance and support student engagement, organizations and student government. The professional student office and organization workspaces occupy the ground level of the facility allowing for greater interaction and collaboration. The second level is home to several student engagement entities including the Mather Women's Center and the Inamori Center for Ethics, who provide support, education and events for both students and the public.

Promoting Sustainability

The new student center is a model of environmental stewardship through its design, construction and operation. The project exceeds LEED silver standards through the development of the site, water and energy efficiency, use of sustainable materials, and indoor environmental quality. It utilizes renewable energy

strategies, daylight harvesting, natural ventilation, radiant heating and cooling, and chilled beam systems. An innovative glass curtain wall addresses solar heat-gain, and a sloping green roof, including photovoltaic panels, integrates the building with nature both visually and physically. Through the use of advanced techniques, enhanced system design and application of current technology and design thinking, the design minimizes the facilities impact on the local and global community.

Steven Litt of the The Cleveland Plain Dealer said it best, "When you walk through the building, you get a sense of lightness and frictionless flow. The architecture also tempts you with cozy nooks for studying, and with more public areas for eating and people-watching... where students can perch to see and be seen above the river of classmates..."









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Based on input from students, the design kept in tact and engages Freiburger Field, creating a new University porch that reaches out west towards the parks and lagoons of adjacent University Circle.



The design promotes openness, transparency and interactivity, and maximizes its connection to the rest of the University with pathways and courtyards. The building minimizes its encroachment into the existing University amenities while creating a system of pathways and courtyards that connect building to building and indoors to outdoors.



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The immersion / entertainment zone is a social and technological space for gaming, relaxation and socialization. An interactive touch screen, designed by a local interactive art company, streams dynamic information about campus and University Circle events.



The meeting and event component includes a wide variety of flexible, large and small event spaces that connect to daylight and views, adjacent courtyards, breakout areas, and centralized catering and kitchen areas.



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Extensive studies and testing were conducted before making the final decision to utilize a double-skin façade, which composed of a monolithic glass exterior plane, insulated glass interior plane, mechanical ventilation, 3'-0" wide cavity, and sun-controlled operable roller shades.



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