

ARCHITECTURAL FACT SHEET



Project Description

Columbia Business School's new home spans approximately 492,000 square feet across two buildings that reflect the fast-paced, high-tech, and highly social character of business in the 21st century. The two new facilities, Henry R. Kravis Hall and David Geffen Hall, double the School's current square footage, creating multifunctional spaces that foster a sense of community – spaces where students, faculty, alumni, and practitioners can gather to exchange ideas. The design of both buildings recognizes that creativity, innovation, and communication – skills often nurtured in informal environments – are as crucial to business school pedagogy as the traditional, quantitative skills taught in a classroom. The building organization shuffles alternating floors of faculty offices with student learning spaces in the eleven-story Henry R. Kravis Hall and floors for administrative offices and learning spaces in the eight-story David Geffen Hall. The resultant layer-cake design is expressed in each building's façade with systems tailored to the interior program. The school's internal spaces are organized around intersecting networks of circulation and collaborative learning environments that extend up vertically through each building, linking spaces of teaching, socializing, and studying, to create a continuous space of learning and interaction that remains vibrant 24 hours a day.

Engagement with the city and surrounding West Harlem community is a fundamental aspect of the new Columbia Business School's design. Henry R. Kravis Hall offers 360 degrees of exposure and proximity to the Hudson River. At the same time, David Geffen Hall establishes a strong connection to the urban fabric of the neighborhood and the mid-block pedestrian axis of the Manhattanville master plan. Every classroom provides a view of the city and landscape. The two buildings also welcome in the community, including a new dedicated space on the second floor of David Geffen Hall for the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center that will build on the school's ten-year history of supporting local entrepreneurs. A 40,000 square-foot public park and new retail spaces – including a café featuring local products – also connect Columbia Business School more closely with the surrounding neighborhood.

Location

Columbia Business School is located on Columbia's Manhattanville campus in West Harlem, nine blocks north of Columbia's historic Morningside Heights campus. The 17-acre campus is also home to the Lenfest Center for the Arts, the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, and The Forum, all designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, as well as a public park designed by James Corner Field Operations.

Owner | Client

Columbia University

Architects

Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with FXCollaborative

Milestones

- 2010** Columbia University launches international design competition to design a new home for the Columbia Business School on two sites in Manhattanville.
- 2011** Columbia University selects a team led by Diller Scofidio + Renfro.
- 2016** Construction begins onsite.
- 2019** The structures of both buildings are completed, topping out at their full height.
- 2022** Construction is completed. Henry R. Kravis Hall and David Geffen Hall are opened to students and faculty.

Major Features

The Network: As the connective tissue of the school, the Network links all levels of each building with a generous circulation stair that carves through each building volume, bringing daylight and air into the center of the deep floor plates. The Network links a myriad of intimate lounges, flexible seminar spaces, open-breakout, tiered seating, carrels, and informal hang-out spaces into a new type of academic space that touches every floor. The student networks in each building face each other across The Square, promoting interaction and serendipitous exchange between all members of the Columbia Business School community.

Ground Floors: The ground floors of each building provide a porous connection to the surrounding city streets and the broader Manhattanville campus. Each building meets the ground with a social and event space. These event spaces establish a strong visual and programmatic link across the publicly accessible central Square to create one school from two buildings. A café on the ground level of David Geffen Hall and retail space located on the ground floor of Henry R. Kravis Hall at 12th Avenue establish further connections between Columbia Business School and the surrounding neighborhood.

Level 1, Samberg Commons at Henry R. Kravis Hall: This urban-scale living room for students, faculty, and staff features tiered, undulating seating made of oak that provides an area for multiple group study, breakout meetings, or a place to enjoy lunch. The tiered seating can accommodate 200 with a direct connection to a dining space on Level 2 with an additional capacity of 199.

Level 1, Cooperman Commons in David Geffen Hall: This auditorium space can accommodate 274 and acts as a day-to-day gathering space for student orientations and faculty meetings.

Level 2, Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center in David Geffen Hall: The space provides support resources and services to local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Level 3, Multi-Function Room in David Geffen Hall: This ample enclosed space is sub-divisible into two smaller rooms for functions of different sizes. An adjacent pre-function space serves as a lobby anteroom that can also be used independently. These spaces act as a conference center with the capability to quickly transform to suit different layouts.

Level 4, Student Social Lounge in Henry R. Kravis Hall: The lounge includes a screening room, game room, and casual dining spaces where students can relax and unwind.

Level 10, Dining Room in Henry R. Kravis Hall: Lined with walnut wood paneling, this event space can accommodate 238 and provides a panoramic view toward the George Washington Bridge, with access to an outdoor terrace.

Innovative classrooms: Classroom floors provide natural daylight and views to New York City with the option to calibrate privacy and daylight control. 25-, 50-, 74-, and 150-seat classrooms provide diverse configuration capabilities for use in break-out, negotiation, or experiential learning scenarios. MBA teaching spaces are distributed evenly between David Geffen Hall and Henry R. Kravis Hall. David Geffen Hall also houses the Executive MBA (EMBA) program, and the top floor of Henry R. Kravis Hall houses the Executive Education program.

Quiet Study Rooms: These spaces for serene, comfortable, individual study are outfitted with soft furniture seating approximately 100.

Group Study Rooms: Located throughout both buildings on the classroom floors, a series of similarly sized rooms can accommodate groups of six and are equipped with small conference tables, fixed monitors, marker boards, and web conferencing technology. The study rooms line the network stairs of the building cores and are clustered around 74-seat classrooms, serving a dual function as breakout rooms while classes are in session.

Technical Features

Façade: The building's skin expresses the shuffling of students, faculty, and administrative spaces. Student floors, the Network, and ground floor spaces utilize transparent glass exteriors inset from the edge of the floor plate, while Faculty floors utilize fritted glass. Each building façade features a custom curtainwall system and is regularized based on the geometry of the exterior building form. Geffen Hall's glass envelope is treated with a gradient from opaque to transparent, each panel having a bespoke and carefully calculated frit pattern.

Structure: Structural solutions designed in collaboration with Arup support the architectural concept of both buildings. In Henry R. Kravis Hall, “skip truss” steel framing utilized on alternating faculty floors keeps open student floors with nearly column-free classrooms, as well as the building’s layered, textured form. Spiraling, sculptural circulation stairs in Henry R. Kravis Hall and David Geffen Hall double as vertical elements of the structure while fostering interactions between users and providing panoramic views over the campus and New York City.

Sustainability: Columbia Business School expects to achieve LEED v3 Gold certification. Knowing that students and faculty will spend long hours in the building, a particular emphasis has been placed on the quality of the indoor environment – specifically air, light, thermal comfort, and materials. The use of low-VOC materials, flush-out before occupancy, increased ventilation rates, and outdoor air monitoring ensures high indoor air quality. Materials were specified with high percentages of recycled content from regional sources. Most of the wood was sourced from sustainably managed forests. The building enclosure has been developed to protect against unwanted glare, and the white frit blocks harmful solar heat gain. The cooling and heating systems utilize chilled beam technology for user comfort and reduced energy consumption and low-velocity underfloor distribution in the tiered classrooms. High-efficiency plumbing fixtures are used to reduce potable water demand.

Design Team

Architects: Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with FXCollaborative

Sustainability/ LEED consultant: FXCollaborative

Structural Engineer, Exterior Envelope and Façade Consultant: Arup

Associate Architect (Dedicated Dining, Multi-Function Room): Aaris Design Studios

Mechanical Engineer: Buro Happold

Construction Manager: Turner Construction

Lighting Design: Tillotson Design Associates

Acoustics: Cerami & Associates

Vertical Transportation: Van Deusen and Associates

Civil Engineering: Stantec Consultants

AV: Cerami & Associates, The Clariant Group, Jaffe Holden

IT: The Clariant Group, Jaros Baum & Bolles

Security: DVS Security Consulting and Engineering

Food Services: Romano Gatland

Cost Consulting: Dharam Consulting

Code: Milrose

Graphics and Wayfinding: Pentagram

Landscape Architect: James Corner Field Operations