

2016 AIA OHIO DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

Description Page

Each submission must include a concise description of the project; a statement of the problem; a description of the site and environs; and the design intentions and distinguishing factors of the work on a separate sheet. The description should focus on how the project successfully responds to one or more of AIA's 10 Principles of Livable Communities.

The new Science and Nursing Building at Kent State University Stark County campus provides innovative classrooms and labs, a variety of formal and informal collaboration spaces, faculty offices, and research suites for nursing, physics, geology, biology, and chemistry. The project also included the renovation of spaces within the adjacent academic building for new chemistry teaching labs and support spaces.

Sustainability was one of the major drivers for the design, and operation of the building. The facility is an academic "enviro-space" for the 21st century, a teaching tool about sustainability. Sustainable features such as rain gardens, green roof, solar hot water heating system, wind turbine, and high efficiency MEP systems, are integrated and celebrated throughout the building, either via visual connection and access, or via graphic displays. The building is LEED Gold certified.

The building takes advantage of the sloping hillside to create panoramic views of the surrounding campus and landscape. Transparency and openness enhance the connections to the outdoors. Access to natural light and views was carefully planned throughout the building. Every classroom and corridor has direct views to the exterior and access to natural light, while ceilings in classrooms and labs are sloped to allow greater amount of natural light inside.

'Inspiring and engaging students' was another design driver for this project. Transparency, flexibility, natural day lighting, and a variety of formal and informal collaboration zones all contributed to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Work surfaces and benches enable informal collaboration in the "space between". Transparency between labs and common areas allow for interconnectivity and visibility of the activities taking place, putting science on display.

The Science and Nursing building is designed to encourage active learning with the integration of pedagogy, technology and space. Flexibility in furniture and room configuration allows the learning environment to adapt to a variety of teaching modes, encourage collaboration, and enhance student engagement.