

OMA

Milstein Hall Project Text and Credits

Status: Commission 2006, Ground breaking 2009, Completion October 2011

Client: Cornell University, College of Architecture, Art and Planning (AAP)

Location: Ithaca, New York, USA

Site: Northern edge of campus between the Arts Quad and the Gorge, adjacent to three historic campus buildings - Rand Hall, Sibley Hall and the Foundry

Program: 47,000 sq.ft. addition to the College of Architecture, Art and Planning - Studios, Critique spaces, Auditorium, Gallery, Exterior Workspace and Plaza.

Partners-in-Charge: Rem Koolhaas, Shohei Shigematsu

Associate-in-Charge: Ziad Shehab

Team: Jason Long, Michael Smith, Troy Schaum, Charles Berman, Amparo Casani, Noah Shepherd

Architect of Record: KHA Architects, LLC

Team: Laurence Burns AIA, Jim Bash AIA, Brandon Beal, Michael Ta, Stephen Heptig AIA, Sharon Giles AIA

Structural Engineer: Robert Silman Associates, P.C.

MEP/FP: Plus Group Consulting Engineers PLLC

Civil Engineer – Site Utilities: GIE Niagara Engineering Inc. P.C.

Civil Engineer – Site and Grading: T.G. Miller P.C.

Acoustical Consultant: DHV V.B.

Façade Design and Engineering Consultant: Front, Inc.

Lighting Consultant: Tillotson Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architect: Scape Landscape Architecture PLLC

Curtain Design: Inside Outside, Petra Blaisse

Graphic Design: 2x4, Inc.

Audio/Visual Consultant: Acentech

Roofing Consultant: BPD Roof Consulting, Inc.

Elevator Consultant: Persohn/Hahn Associates, Inc.

IT/Data/Security Consultant: Archi-Technology

Sustainability Consultant: BVM Engineering

Models: OMA, Made by Mistake, Situ Studio

Photography: Philippe Ruault, Cornell University, Frans Parthesius, Jack Pottle

Renderings: OMA, ESKQ

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AAP (College of Architecture Art and Planning)

Milstein Hall is the first new building in over 100 years for the renowned College of Architecture, Art and Planning (AAP) at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Rather than creating a new free-standing building Milstein Hall is an addition to the AAP buildings creating a unified complex with continuous levels of indoor and outdoor interconnected spaces. Milstein Hall provides 47,000 additional square feet adding much-needed space for studios, gallery space, critique space and the first auditorium solely dedicated to the AAP.

The existing AAP was housed in four separate buildings at the northern edge of the campus, forming the 'back-side' of the Arts Quad—detached from its atmosphere yet disengaged from the Falls Creek Gorge to the north. Despite the proliferation of architectural styles, the four buildings share a single typology—the linear, corridor building—segregating the AAP's activities behind a labyrinth of security codes and dead ends. Milstein Hall offered an opportunity to simultaneously rethink the neglected north side of the Arts Quad and provide a space where the AAP's interdisciplinary potential could finally be exploited.

Milstein Hall

Milstein Hall connects the second levels of Sibley and Rand Halls with a large horizontal plate. Typically, the box—modern architecture's typology par excellence—stands in isolation. Here, it acts as a connector, linking Rand and Sibley and extending over University Avenue to establish an urban relationship to the Foundry. Released from its iconic solitude, it creates one system of buildings that are so coordinated they form a single complex.

Within the box, the building provides a typology entirely absent from the campus: a vast horizontal expanse that provides 25,000 sf. of studio space and flexibility over time. Enclosed by floor-to-ceiling glass and a green roof with 41 skylights, this "upper plate" cantilevers almost 50 feet over University Avenue to establish a relationship with the Foundry, a third existing AAP facility. The cantilever is supported by five exposed hybrid trusses designed to balance structural efficiency and maintain open circulation within the large open plan.

Lifted, the building leaves the figure-ground of the AAP campus intact. Rather than occupying the north side of campus, further obstructing the relationship to the gorge, the building facilitates an open public center for the AAP.

Beneath the lifted box, a half-submerged "lower plate" contains a cluster of public programs—a 253-seat auditorium, gallery space and a 5,000 sf. circular critique spaces—that serve the entire AAP. The roof of the lower plate rises to form a dome, a single manipulation that simultaneously supports the raked auditorium seating, becomes the stairs leading up to the studio plate above, and is the artificial ground for an array of custom fabricated exterior seating pods. The materiality of the lower level, constructed of exposed cast-in-place concrete, adds a contrast to the upper plate's glass and steel character. However both spaces create frameworks of raw spaces to serve as a pedagogical platform for the AAP to generate new interaction driven by the students' and faculty's ambitions and explorations.

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Milstein Hall Facts and Figures

- Milstein Hall is the new two-story, 47,000 sq. foot (4,400 sq. meters) building for Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning in Ithaca, New York.
- Milstein Hall includes 25,000 sq. feet (2,300 sq. m) of flexible studio space which will be home to approximately 16 architectural (200 students) studios each semester.
- Milstein Hall features a 253-seat auditorium, which also includes special seating for use by Cornell University trustees, and will be the central events location for the college.
- Milstein Hall was designed and has been constructed with the goal of achieving a LEED certification. The LEED construction application is close to being finalized with the building tracking well into Silver certification.
- Milstein Hall's green roof is planted in sedum, and has 41 skylights to bring natural lighting into the studios.
- Milstein Hall uses Cornell University's lake-source cooling system via chilled beams to provide air conditioning. Radiant floor tubing provides heating for the building.
- Nearly 1,200 tons of steel are used to frame Milstein Hall and support its two cantilevers. One of the cantilevers spans 48 feet (14.6 meters) for 150 feet (45.7 meters) over University Avenue.
- Milstein Hall's dome has nearly 5,200 sq. feet (480 sq. meters) of surface area and weighs approximately 900,000 pounds (408,000 kilograms). It was cast in a single, nearly 12-hour concrete pour.
- Milstein Hall was designed by the New York City office of the Rotterdam-based OMA, led by partners-in-charge Shohei Shigematsu and Rem Koolhaas and associate-in-charge Ziad Shehab.
- KHA Architects LLC of Houston, Texas is the Architect of Record.
- Construction for Milstein Hall began in July 2009.
- Construction management for Milstein Hall has been handled by Welliver, of Montour Falls, New York.
- Planning for Milstein Hall began in 1999 when a financial gift was made by the Milstein family.
- The design and planning phases were lengthened when previous designs by two other architects were abandoned. Despite the U.S. economic crisis Cornell University and AAP embarked on the construction of this significant project at a time when many other capital works across the U.S. had been put on hold.

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About OMA

OMA is a leading international partnership practicing architecture, urbanism, and cultural analysis. OMA is led by seven partners and sustains an international practice with offices in Rotterdam, New York, Beijing, and Hong Kong. The office has a staff of over 300 architects, theorists and designers in offices on three continents with projects in over 30 countries worldwide. OMA's think tank AMO operates in areas beyond the traditional boundaries of architecture, including media, politics, sociology, renewable energy, technology, fashion, curating, publishing, art consultancy, branding, product and graphic design.

Responsible for projects in the Americas, OMA New York has overseen the completion of several buildings since it was established in 2001— including the Seattle Public Library and the Prada Epicenter in Los Angeles, the IIT Campus Center in Chicago, and Prada Epicenter in New York. Under the direction of partner Shohei Shigematsu, the New York office has completed design commissions for several towers in Latin America and New York, as well as competition designs for SFMoMA and the Broad Foundation. The New York office also designed the award winning entry for the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, OMA's first building in Canada.

About Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP)

The College of Architecture, Art and Planning (AAP) at Cornell University is one of the preeminent such colleges in the United States. Known for its rigorous studio pedagogy and important contributions to urban theory and design, AAP is home to the consistently top-ranked architecture program in the country. The university's architecture program was founded in 1876 with visual arts and city and regional planning added later and establishing the college as it is known today. AAP attracts international students and scholars of art and design, and offers studio programs in Rome and New York City in addition to its Ithaca campus. Currently home to nearly 500 undergraduate and 280 graduate students, many of its alumni have assumed pivotal roles in architecture and design worldwide. Milstein Hall is the latest addition to Cornell's campus of notable buildings designed by renowned architects, including Pritzker winners like Cornell alumnus Richard Meier, James Stirling, and I. M. Pei. A new building designed by Thom Mayne will break ground within the year. Other prominent architecture alumni include Nathaniel Owings (B.Arch. '27), Peter Eisenman (B.Arch. '55) and Arthur Gensler (B.Arch. '58).