



Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery

Designing a world-class applied research center at McMaster University

Some of the most advanced medical research in Canada is conducted at the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery located at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. NORR's design for this complex five-story building provides a mix of academic and research spaces for 250 scientists and 2,000 students. The ground floor provides six lecture halls, classrooms and a café for undergraduates.

There is also a three-storey glass atrium with water features, an indoor garden and areas for gatherings and special announcements. Moving upward, the floors transition to graduate teaching spaces and specialized research labs for the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine. The building is engineered to provide the infrastructure necessary to accommodate sensitive top-line equipment and state-of-the-art research. It houses an advanced robotic microscope, one of only three in the world, Canada's first university certified vector lab, a high throughput screening lab, with MRI and a stem cell research center. The building's adaptability enables it to constantly evolve in support of the changing needs of the researchers. NORR continues to be an integral part of that process, working almost continuously with McMaster since the building opened.

CLIENT	McMaster University
PORTFOLIO	Science & Research
SIZE	275,000 SF (25,548 SM) 278,775 SF (25,899 SM), Atrium: 3,770 SF (350 SM)
LOCATION	Hamilton, ON, Canada
DATE	Summer 2004, Atrium: Summer 2005
SERVICES	Architecture MEP Engineering Structural Engineering Interior Design

AWARDS

- 2014 20 + 10 + X World Architecture (WA) Community Awards 16th Cycle visitors selection
 - 2010 Ontario Masonry Design Awards Winner, Architectural Design: Institutional
 - 2005 Ontario Concrete Awards (OCA), Cast-in-Place Concrete - Material Development and Innovation Award
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Science & Research

Purpose-driven design of science and research structures is a specialty at NORR. We are uniquely positioned to provide our clients with fully-integrated design services from master planning to architecture and engineering for complex research and development parks and facilities, bio-incubators and state-of-the-art laboratories. This work spans the bioscience, pharmaceutical, nuclear, medical, education and commercial sectors.

Our Design Approach

Our approach to the design of Science and Research buildings is based on a clear understanding of the project brief from the beginning, together with making key decisions at the right time, at briefing stage through concept, detail, technical design and construction. We believe that key to the success of science facilities is the organization and inter-relationship of the elements of the building for their use in the short term and for their continued use over the long. We consider the lifecycle of buildings throughout their lifespan.

Evolving at the Pace of the Sector

NORR's work in the Science and Research sector has been continuous which has allowed us to keep pace with our client's evolving needs. We take our experience and lessons learned forward from one project to the next. In designing Science and Research projects, we manage every detail recognizing that these projects are complex structures that are:

- Highly serviced
- High energy users and can therefore be expensive to run
- Required to house delicate and expensive instruments
- Potentially hazardous work places
- Extremely liable to change and must therefore be flexible and adaptable

CONTACT

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