



University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law

Salt Lake City, Utah

Category: Institutional Architecture

Completed in Fall 2015, the University of Utah's new S.J. Quinney College of Law building supports the College's innovative pedagogical objectives by providing the ultimate collaborative environment. The facility is an entirely new development in legal education. By inventively allocating and configuring space, conventional compartmentalized plans are broken down resulting in research, instructional, experiential learning, and clinical spaces being distributed throughout the building. The design reinforces the College's core values, including the commitment to high-quality legal scholarship and community-engaged learning and public service. The new College of Law is targeting LEED Platinum certification with energy cost savings of 65%. The design is characterized by the themes of innovation and impact, reflecting the activities of students, faculty, and staff.

Site

The building occupies a prominent site and forms the initial gateway impression of the University of Utah campus, consistent with the Campus Master Plan objectives. The site is directly across from the light rail connection to downtown Salt Lake City. A large-scale forecourt welcomes the many pedestrians who enter campus through the building itself, or through a series of gracefully stepped gardens, an accessible route that traverses the 28-foot grade change. The dynamic, hospitable interior accommodates building occupants, and the many members of the University community who simply pass through and stop for coffee along their route to other campus destinations.

Program and Solution

The law is based on tradition and precedent, yet it is ever changing. The new College of Law building is a part of the University campus, emblematic of its history and legacy, while the programmatic organization and resultant pedagogy are innovative and groundbreaking.

The building's exterior facade is a play on balance: expressive with materials and form, the dualities inherent in the program. Earthen materials—brick and terracotta—extend from the ground, elemental in nature, evocative of longevity, monumentality, gravity. They house and frame boxes of glass and metal—by design articulating those parts of the program most suggestive of innovation, momentum, and outreach.

Community space is elevated to the sixth floor, including an exterior terrace. The surrounding environment and views are brought to a vantage unlike any other on campus: a celebrated space for public events, discourse, and debate. The law library's open stacks form a bridge across the west facade, putting knowledge and information resources on display. The books form a portal for the building and the campus.

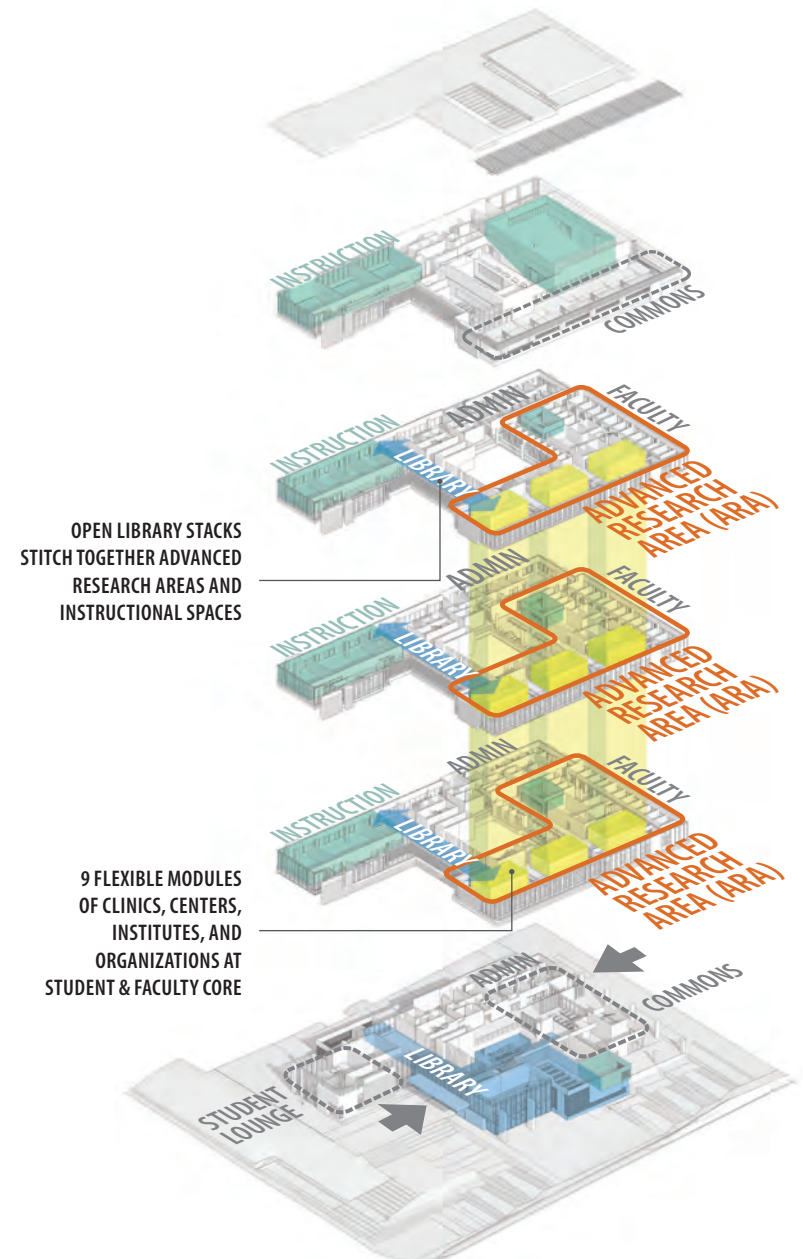
The building presents a bold facade toward the south, working in concert with the stadium across the street to form a gateway moment at the edge of campus.



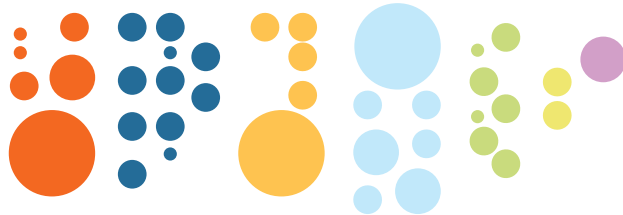


Building Organization

The law library is a visual focus of the new College of Law building, distributed vertically over several floors overlooking the atrium to showcase the dignified traditions of the law, and faculty and student research work spaces are located in close proximity to research materials.



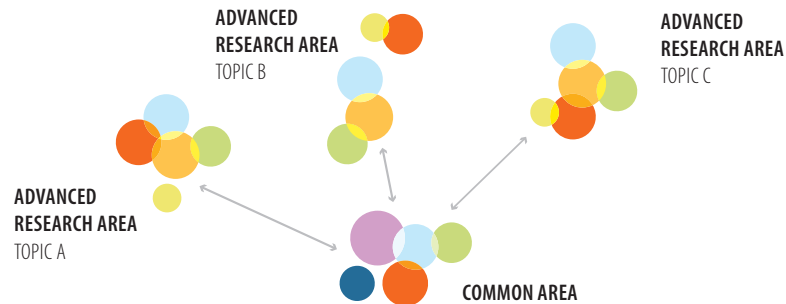
TRADITIONAL LAW SCHOOL PROGRAM



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- INSTRUCTIONAL
- ADMINISTRATION
- FACULTY/CENTERS
- LIBRARY
- STUDENTS
- CLINIC
- RECEPTION/EXHIBITION

REDISTRIBUTED PROGRAM: S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

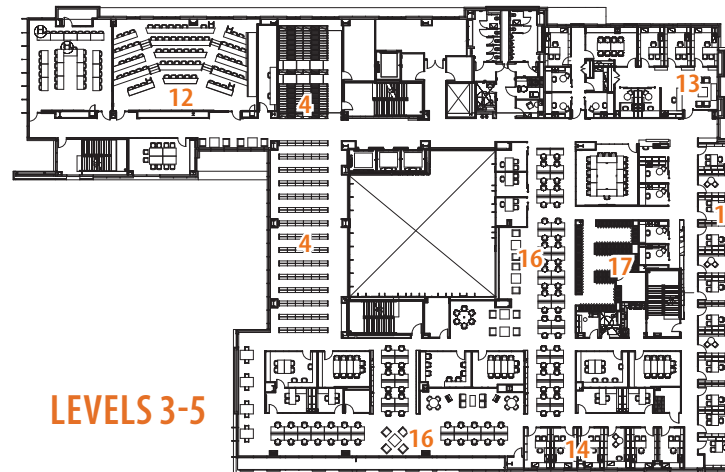
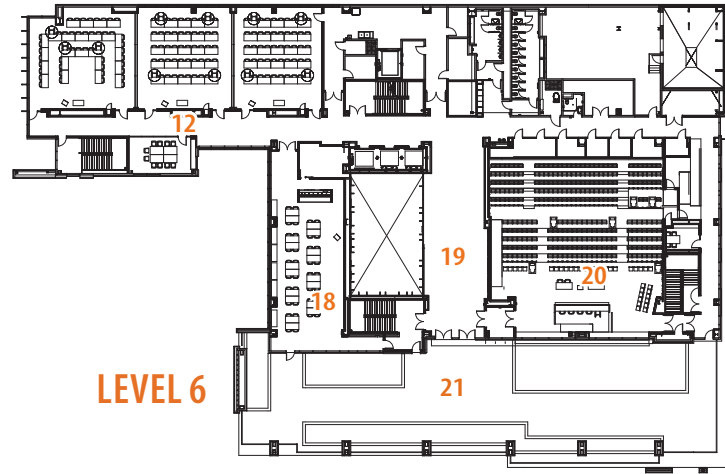
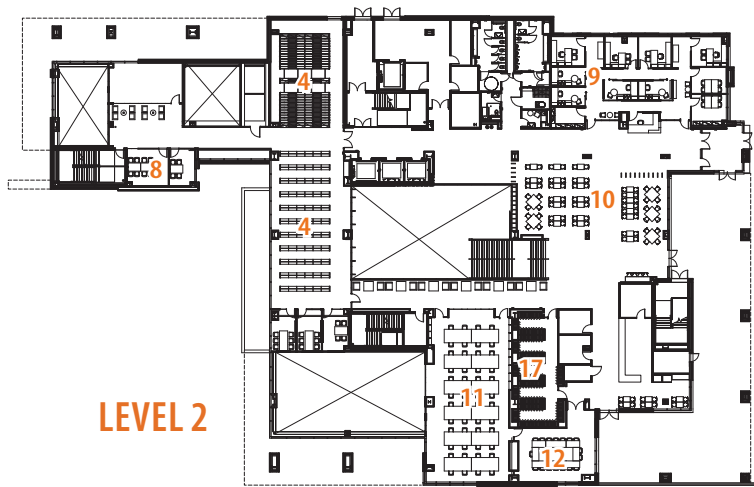


Program Innovation

Because collaboration is a central pillar of the College of Law's pedagogy, the design creates a dynamic atmosphere that spurs group discussion and one-on-one engagement. Multi-use spaces reflect the College's mission: all spaces are at once learning, research, and service areas. The Advanced Research Areas allow the College community to form issue-based project teams in which students, faculty, librarians, and staff participate in outcome-based, collaborative research.







- 1 Student lounge
- 2 Greywater treatment room
- 3 Well water storage tank
- 4 Library stacks
- 5 Atrium commons
- 6 Public reading room
- 7 Library administrative suite
- 8 Group study room
- 9 Administrative suite
- 10 Student dining/cafe
- 11 Quiet reading room
- 12 Classroom
- 13 Administrative suite
- 14 Faculty offices
- 15 Advanced Research Area: research module
- 16 Advanced Research Area: student workstations
- 17 Lockers
- 18 Faculty workshop/meeting room
- 19 Pre-function
- 20 Auditorium/courtroom
- 21 Roof terrace



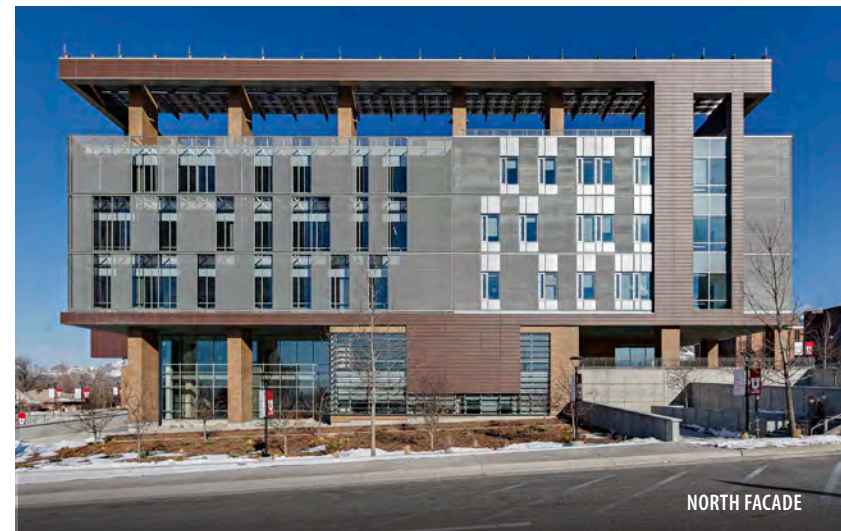
RIGHT A MULTI-PURPOSE
ROOFTOP TERRACE SUPPORTS
COLLABORATION.



LEFT CLASSROOMS ARE
POSITIONED TO PROVIDE
IMPRESSIONS TO NATURE.



WEST FACADE





"It will be a living learning laboratory. Not only will this project contribute a vision for future buildings by reducing energy and water consumption, it will lead a broader conversation about institutional transformation."

—Myron Willson, Director, University of Utah Office of Sustainability



Sustainable Strategies

