Flight Projects Building
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

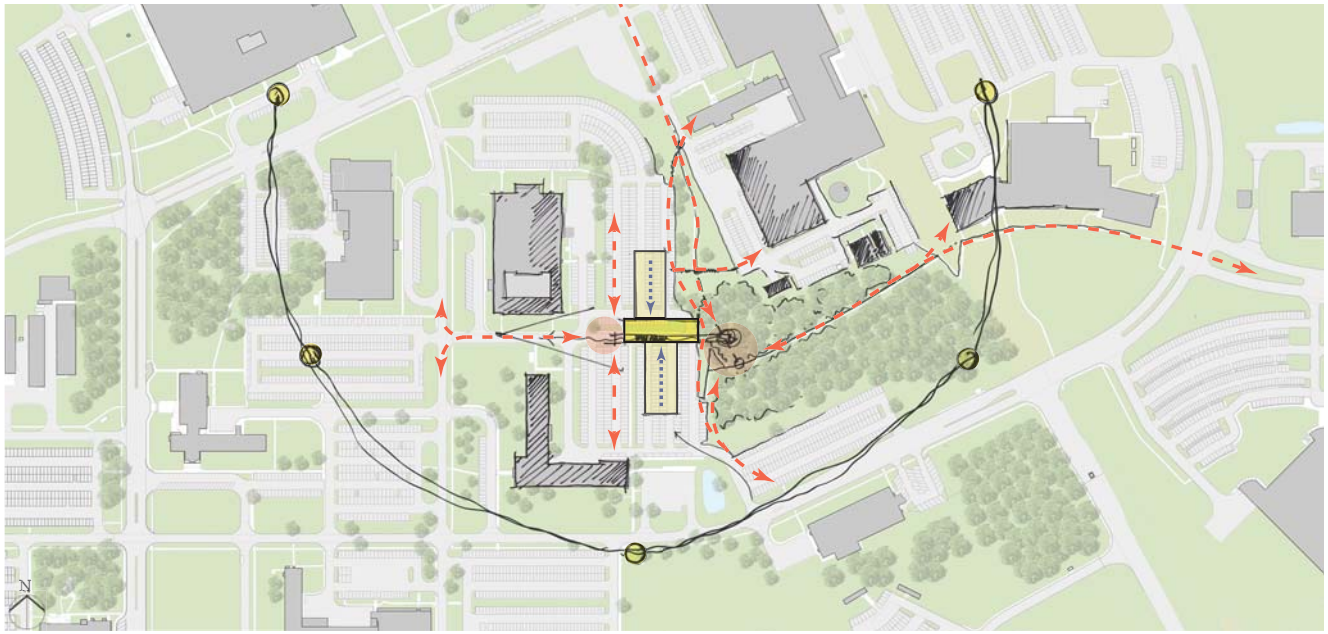
Greenbelt, Maryland
Institutional Architecture

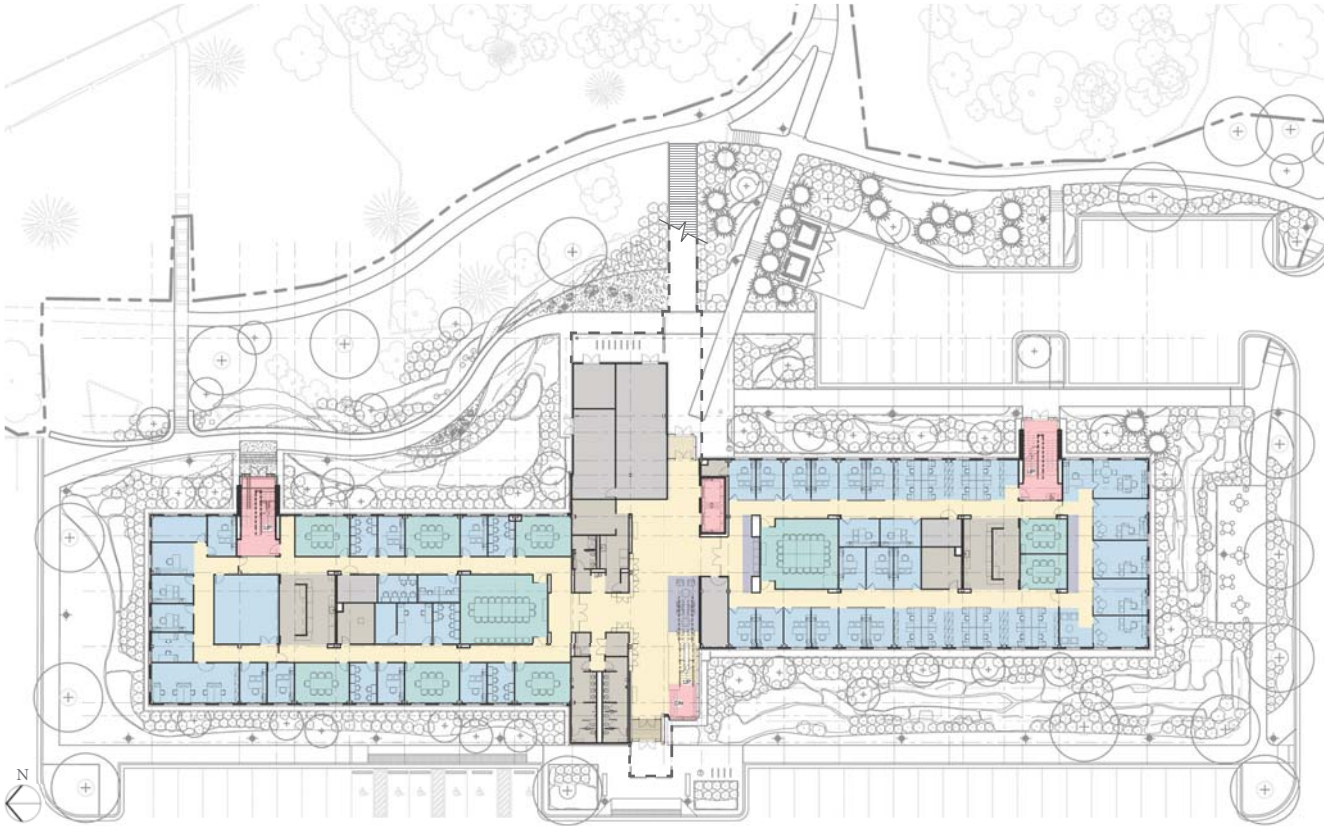
The Flight Projects Building (FPB) is located at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, Maryland. It sits adjacent to a hillside near the campus core on a site previously used for parking. The program includes office and meeting space for the Flight Projects Directorate and the New Opportunities Offices, accommodating approximately 300 people in 115,000 square feet within four stories.

connectivity

GSFC is characterized by wooded green areas, low-rise one- to four-story brick clad buildings, and large metal industrial structures. The new building takes cues from the Center's history, and respects the surrounding built and natural environments without mimicking them.

The building is an off-set bar nestled along the hillside with a glass core, highlighted by an open monumental stair and pedestrian bridge. It is shaped by the site conditions, serving as a literal and figurative bridge to tie the Center's upper and lower portions of campus together. Office wings that flank the central glass core house project management suites. These wings are laid on an efficient grid and module that allow for maximum flexibility and reorganization of staff as missions change. A symposium space, located on the second floor near the pedestrian bridge, is a shared campus amenity. The roof above the symposium incorporates plantings and outdoor seating space, providing a visual connection to the upper campus, wooded hillside, and paths.





Roof Terrace and Pedestrian Bridge

East Facade and Pathway

North Elevation

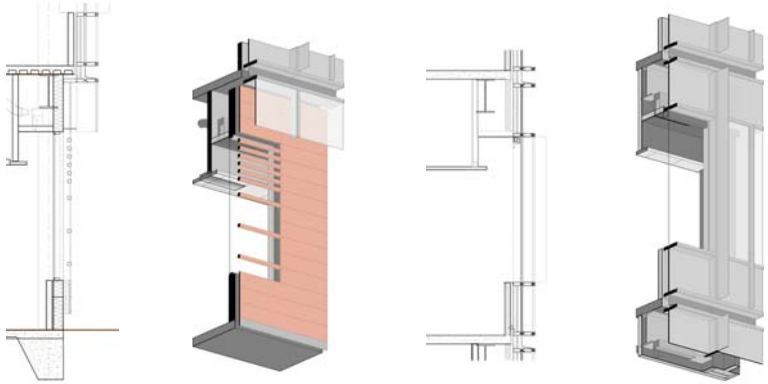
East Elevation

West Elevation

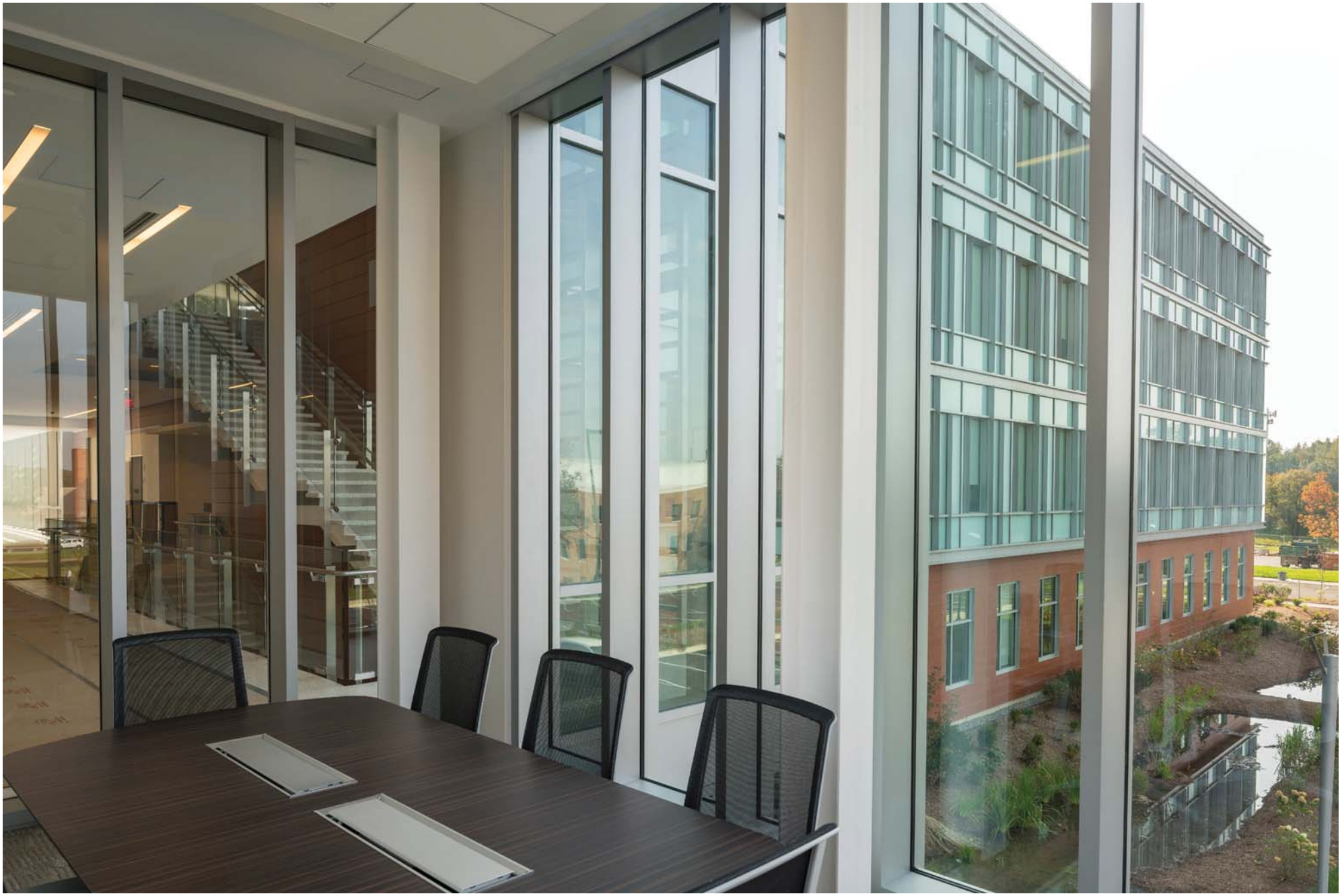
South Elevation

The material composition incorporates terracotta, glass, and metal curtain wall, providing a palette of materials and colors to achieve a harmony and balance with the existing core campus fabric.

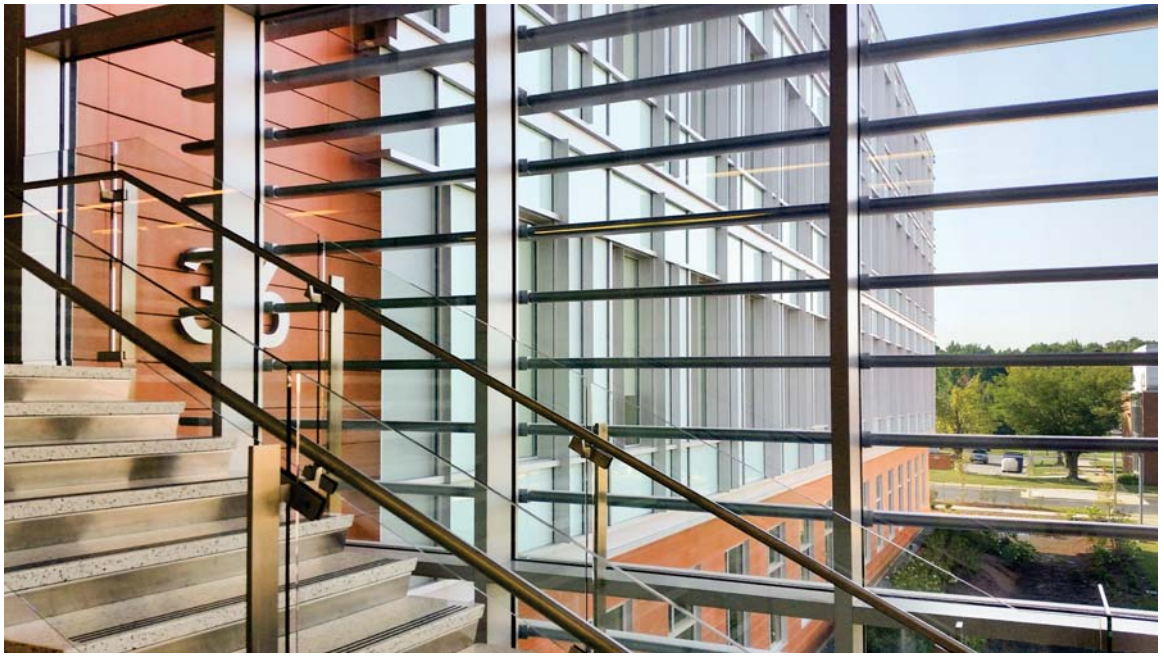
Large expanses of glass in a rhythm of shifting planes of transparent, translucent, and opaque panels, respond to a desire for natural light and surrounding views while connecting the building's occupants to the outside.

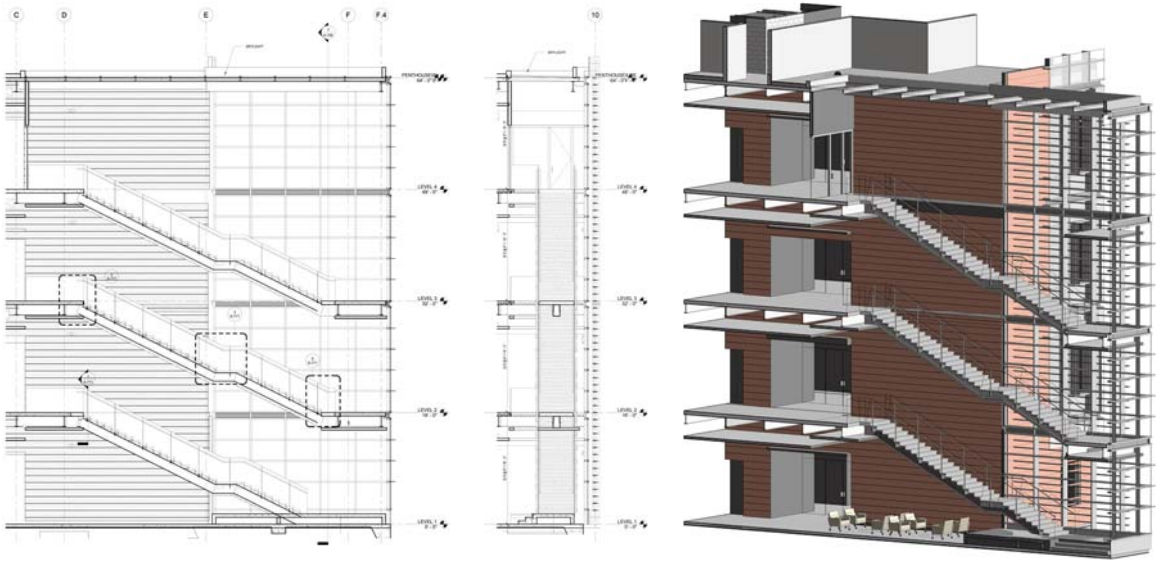


Long metal fins create a mixture of different shadows, enlivening and activating the façade, while controlling daylight and glare at the office spaces. The glazing and shading strategies both contributed to the building's LEED Gold status.



Projecting Conference Rooms at the Center Core Reaching Out to the Landscape





Connecting Monumental Stair at Central Core