University of Guelph
MacKinnon Building
Renovations

Diamond Schmitt Architects
why?

to help foster the next generation audience and performer
why?
to build an environment that fosters collaboration and interdisciplinary research
why?
to co-create spaces that support excellence in performance
experience and values
Diamond Schmitt Architects

3 Offices: New York, Toronto, Vancouver

205 employees

18 principals
6 senior associates, 20 associates

34 LEED accredited professionals


One of Canada’s Best Managed Companies 2004 - present

Shakespeare Theater, Washington, D.C.
NATIONAL LEADER IN PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

45+ colleges & universities

110 Academic buildings
32 Performing Arts Facilities

1. La Maison Symphonique Montreal
2. Betty Oliphant Theatre, National Ballet School, Toronto
3. Boettcher Concert Hall, Denver
4. Burlington Performing Arts Centre, Burlington
5. Centre in the Square Master Plan, Kitchener
6. The Citadel Theatre, Edmonton
7. Country Day School Performing Arts Centre, King City
8. Daniels Spectrum, Regent Park, Toronto
9. Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Expansion, Detroit
10. Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto
11. Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford
12. Grand Theatre Renovation, Kingston
13. Harman Center for the Arts, Washington
14. Imperial Theatre, Saint John
15. Jackman Hall, Dramatic Education Facility, University of Windsor
16. Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation, Banff Centre for the Arts
17. The JCC in Manhattan, New York
18. Magnus Theatre and Drama Education Facility
19. Mariinsky II, St. Petersburg, Russia
20. National Arts Centre Feasibility Study, Ottawa
21. National Arts Centre Theatre Renovations, Ottawa
22. Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat
23. Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre, Richmond Hill
25. Salvation Square Theatre, Toronto
26. School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University
27. St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre, St. Catharines
28. St. Elizabeth Performing Arts Centre, Vaughan
29. St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts Feasibility Study, Toronto
30. Tafelmusik Acoustic Study, Trinity St. Paul’s Church, Toronto
31. Theatre and Arts Centre Feasibility Study, Timmins
32. Xiqu Centre Competition, Hong Kong, China
PROJECTS:
- Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, ON
- Sidney Harman Hall, The Harman Center for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre / Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON
- Burlington Performing Arts Centre, Burlington, ON
- Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Richmond Hill, ON
- Jackman Hall, University of Windsor

- Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, ON
- North York Central Library, North York ON.
- Centre for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB.

Consultant Team Experience

- Mechanical/Electrical
  - Crossey Engineering (50+ projects)
- Cost Estimation
  - Turner Townsend (50+ projects)
- Building Codes
  - LMDG Consultants (35+ projects)
- Signage & Wayfinding
  - Entro Communications (20+ projects)
- Geotechnical
  - Dillon Consulting (10+ projects)
- Audio Visual
  - Dave Clark Consulting (10+ projects)
- Structural & Acoustics
  - Thornton Tomasetti (10+ projects)
architectural heritage
Guelph University’s Architectural Heritage

Celebrated and criticized in equal measure, Brutalist Architecture’s aesthetic legacy has had a mixed reaction at best, its ambitions for a functional transparency, unadorned materiality, transparency and openness to nature, being seen as both honest and harsh.

Architect Josep Lluís Sert oversaw the Brutalist buildings on-campus during Guelph’s expansion in the 1960s.

Sert was Dean at Harvard’s School of Architecture at this time, having previously worked under Le Corbusier in his youth, and then later collaborating with the artist Joan Miró. The influence of both plays out with an formal massing, delineated by large windows & sun shades (brise-soleil), along with broad connections to landscape around main circulation ‘streets’ through the building.
Here at University of Guelph’s campus, the few examples that populate the campus (e.g. MacKinnon Building, McLaughlin Library & McNaughton Building) offer a fertile starting point for strategic modification to support new and expanded student amenities. The MacKinnon Building presents such an opportunity through its massing, simplified materials and surrounding landscape spaces – all assets we look to expand upon.

Providing a clear identity for the school to its students and faculty, to the campus at-large and to guests attending events is an underlying objective. How the architecture can reaffirm a relationship to Winegard and Alumni Walks serves as an example of how this may take form.

Josep Lluís Sert - Holyoke Center, Harvard University (1965) & McLaughlin Library, Guelph University (1968)
The MacKinnon Building site offers a number of opportunities with its relationship to the Green, Winegard and Alumni Walks, and the interior street of the central and south buildings.

The play of precast and board-formed cast-in-place concrete volumes with large divided windows and *brise-soleil* offer a rich textural reference.
What follows are two preliminary design options that were used to establish a feasibility report: Could it be done with the support of the existing MacKinnon Hall north, and also within the constraints of a budget? (Yes.)

A principal focus for the schemes presented here is a reworking and upgrade to the Luscombe Theatre and Goldschmidt Room, the development of the ImprovLab with supporting program spaces, improvements to the 103 & 203 Classrooms, improvements to the workshops, and improvements to the associated circulation and support spaces.
MacKinnon Hall
Renovation
Option 06

Level 01 - Main Floor
MacKinnon Building
ImprovLab

- Existing Rooms
- Existing Circulation
- New Circulation
- Building services
- Performance
- Performance Support
- Offices
- Labor / Classrooms
- Facilities
- Amenities
Comparison
Plans
Option 6 L1
Combined L1
examples & precedents
Envelope

As a compliment to both MacKinnon & Johnston Hall’s distinct architectural vocabulary, proposed is an idea to create something that is equal parts performative and immaterial.

A blend of ‘marquee’ and scrim is proposed - the idea being to establish a dynamism that can play on daylight, the landscapes of MacKinnon and Johnston Greens, and the strengths of these two building’s established architecture.
Ryerson Image Centre and School of Image Arts
Circulation & Public Areas

The existing brick-lined and carpeted hallways are generous at between 8’ to 10’ in width, though only 7’-6” in height. To reimagine these as a lighter, taller and acoustically mediated spaces, several material finishes are proposed. Three flooring options: a light epoxy, ceramic or carpet-tile finish coupled with partially wood-clad walls can amplify the daylight and impression of volume these spaces convey. In coordination with proposed upgrades to mechanical/electrical service, areas of the ceiling can be raised by as much as 18” potentially. With seating areas and amenity to support students on laptops and other media devices, circulation can supplement areas around practice rooms. A similarly articulated student lounge/ante-chamber, supplied with daylight, can greatly expand the function of adjacent spaces as well.
Laurentian University project objectives

1. Creating a new front door and Welcome Centre for the campus

- Define and strengthen the campus Identity

- Convert the Parker building breezeway into a Welcome Centre for All

- Cluster student services
2. Improve Student Gathering and Learning Spaces

- 450 new study positions
- Celebrate bilingual and tri-cultural campus by providing inspiring spaces for student interaction and knowledge exchange
- Renovation of over 60 learning spaces: classrooms, seminar rooms, lecture halls, executive boardrooms and science labs
3. Improve Accessibility

• Most campus buildings at LU were built in the 60s and 70s and required significant M&E upgrades and planning upgrades to meet current-day accessibility standards.
Goldschmidt Room

An ambition to transform this space as a premium lecture hall and performance space is balanced with a material palette of simple acoustic wood panels and textiles. That said, the articulation of these wood panels are imagined as a sculpted form of concave ribbon-like slatted panels. Complimented by upgrades in Audio-Visual equipment, both types of uses: Performance and Lectures, are given full support.
Two major architectural & acoustic improvements are seen in the surrounding wood walls and floating ceiling baffle. The walls are developed as a series of uniquely curving flutes within a gridded wood frame. The ceiling is shown with a dark stain to direct focus to the stage area. We have also exposed the raked flooring and mounted fixed seating - shown is one option, though a flip-down seat may offer better clearances. This brings the seat-count up from 99 to approximately 132 seats.
“In any given week the space can be divided to suit simultaneous events with different needs from dance performances, to cinema-style film screenings, to art shows, banquet-style gala fundraisers, and 10-piece band performances.” Seema Jethalal, Facility Manager Daniels Spectrum
versatility

spaces that have identity yet are flexible
collaborative workshop spaces
Brock University

Drama

Digital Lab

Music
Calgary Opera Community Arts Centre

- 48,000 sqf new building
- $18M project
- Location: Calgary Stampede Campus, Alberta
- Project Status: Design Development
Create a state-of-the-art facility for performance, rehearsals and workshops for Calgary Opera

• A flat floor, black-box theatre with retractable seating and tension grid will accommodate full-set rehearsals for Calgary Opera, performances for 400 spectators, master classrooms, and lectures
Connect the Calgary Stampede Youth Campus to the broader Calgary Arts Community

- Performance, rehearsal and workshop spaces in the COCAC will be shared with the Calgary Arts Academy and the broader Calgary Arts Community.

Shared spaces at level 01:
- Shared spaces with community groups
- Private space for Calgary Opera use
- Building service space

Shared spaces at level 02:
Calgary Opera Community Arts Centre

Objectives

Create a state-of-the-art facility for performance, rehearsals and workshops for Calgary Opera

- The new building will provide space for all aspects of opera production to occur under one roof: set construction, costume & prop creation, administrative offices, rehearsal, performance and community education and outreach.
how will we collaborate?

“Diamond Schmitt have been genuinely interested and responsive to our needs. It is wonderful to work with people who will not only listen but will then implement what they have heard.”

Betty Oliphant
Artistic Director, National Ballet School
collaboration

engage
listen
understand
conceptualize
evaluate
resolve
repeat
collaboration

engage
listen
understand
conceptualize
evaluate
resolve
repeat

did we get that right?
workplan
Concept Studies
January/February 2018
• Confirm project requirements
• Verify existing documentation
• Establish project vision and goals
• Confirm Budget and Schedule
• Map Issues, Risks and Opportunities
• Initial Design Concepts
Concept Studies
January 2018

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Schematic Design
February – March 2018

- Design Vision
- Program Refinement
- Identify Preferred Option
- Incorporate expertise from specialist consultants
- Update estimate of construction cost and schedule
- Approval of design, schedule and budget

workplan
Concept Studies
January 2018
• Confirm project requirements
• Verify existing documentation
• Establish project vision and goals
• Confirm budget and schedule
• Map issues, risks and opportunities
• Initial design concepts

Schematic Design
February – March 2018
• Design vision
• Program refinement
• Identify preferred option
• Incorporate expertise from specialist consultants
• Update estimate of construction cost and schedule
• Approval of schematic design and budget

Design Development
April – May 2018
• User group consultation for detailed design requirements
• Building envelope design
• Increased level of detail refinement
• Preview with Authorities Having Jurisdiction
• Review project phasing opportunities
• Incorporate expertise from specialist consultants
• Update estimate of construction cost and schedule
• Approval of design, schedule and budget
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Concept Studies</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
<td>Confirm project requirements, verify existing documentation, establish project vision and goals, confirm budget and schedule, map issues, risks and opportunities.</td>
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<td>Initial Design</td>
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<td>Schematic Design</td>
<td>February – March 2018</td>
<td>Design Vision, program refinement, identify preferred option, incorporate expertise from specialist consultants, update estimate of construction cost and schedule, approval of schematic design and budget.</td>
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<td>Design Development</td>
<td>April – May 2018</td>
<td>User group consultation for detailed design requirements, building envelope design, increased level of detail refinement, preview with AHJ, review project phasing opportunities, incorporate expertise from specialist consultants, update estimate of construction cost and schedule, approval of design, schedule and budget.</td>
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<td>Contract Documents</td>
<td>June – October 2018</td>
<td>Preparation of detailed construction documents, confirmation of compliance with Design Standards, preparation of specifications and bid documents, quality review, incorporate expertise from specialist consultants, update estimates of construction cost and schedule, approval of design, schedule and budget prior to bid.</td>
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In the near future, CoA will be setting up break-out sessions with user groups.

A project webpage has been set up to provide general information:

https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/mcknreno

Questions can be directed to: mcknreno@uoguelph.ca