

Humber College Welcome Centre 2 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive

September 30, 2014



CONSTRUCTION LEADERS

About the Project

PCL Constructors Canada Inc. is proud to be Humber College's Design-Build partner for the new Welcome Centre, which will be constructed at 2 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive in Toronto, Ontario. The new Centre will consist of a 3-storey building encompassing approximately 43,000 square feet of program space. The new Centre will be designed with Toronto Green Building standards. The lower roof on the north side will be covered with a green roof system designed to help control water runoff from the building. The building is being designed and constructed with a targeted LEED Silver rating upon completion.

The Site

Nestled in a large, green park at the northern edge of Humber's Lakeshore Campus, the Welcome Centre acts as a beacon and gateway into the college. While the building footprint is recessed from the street, an exterior forecourt extends outward into the park to the east, attracting students, visitors and the community into the building through an interpretative landscape that mediates between the public street and the college's Welcome Centre.



FIGURE 1 – THE SITE

The Building

The Welcome Centre's gradual entrance sequence creates a meaningful procession into the building and the campus beyond, while engaging the landscape and framing the unique open space. This forecourt into the building brings activity to and from Lakeshore Blvd. and Samuel Smith, reinforcing their urban objectives.

As the centerpiece of student life and activity, the new Welcome Centre is a lifeline. The compact three-story (plus penthouse) structure houses 43,000 gross square feet of space in a compact, rectangular-shaped footprint. The building includes student services, cultural facilities and wellness programs.

Walking through the welcoming forecourt, a serene and secure space for gathering, study or contemplation, the user reaches the main entrance on the east elevation where a glazed façade allows views into the building's interior activities. Through the doors, one enters into a double height space that spans the full width of the building. This glass and wood atrium is a theatrical entrance, befitting a major college Welcome Centre. This space encourages interaction, enables interior views, promotes a vibrant sense of community, exposes the students to the activities of their peers, brings light into the depths of the building.



FIGURE 2 – ELEVATION LOOKING EAST ALONG LAKESHORE

In keeping with the prescribed functional plan, most of the public/outreach programs (such as the Academic Success Centre and Lounges) are located along the northern axis of the building in relation to Lake Shore Blvd. and the more private/discrete programs (such as Registration Services and Health, Counseling and Disability) are located on the opposite side in relation to the interior campus along the southern face. The main circulation spine runs along the middle of the building and elegantly negotiates between highly public/active/vibrant spaces and private/quiet/contemplative functions.

The ground floor program includes Reception, Recruitment and Career Counseling along the northern edge and Enrollment, Financial Aid, administrative spaces and support spaces along the south side.

Ascending the grand staircase, which is a generously sized consolidation of the Feature Stair and the Exit Stair, the user catches glimpses of the Interpretive Centre and the Atrium below. The Interpretive Centre will be a focal point used to showcase historical artifacts important to the site, the community and the college.

The second floor includes student life, lounges, meeting room, conference room and the Multi-Faith Centre along the northern edge, and Health, Counseling and Disability services along the more private and discrete southern edge.

The lounge spaces present an opportunity for students to access power for their devices and social interacting. These practical amenities recognize the need for convenient access to information and outreach.

The lounges have multiple sizes and character; facilitating quiet activity, group activity or the opportunity to people watch and/or engage in the community, making it comfortable for the students to be either participant or observer, or both. In a campus with such a high number of commuter students, it is imperative that each individual feels at home, and has the opportunity to take care of themselves socially, academically, spiritually and physically in a comfortable and accessible “home away from home”.

Variety is crucial, in both the social spaces as well as the discrete/individual spaces. The design for the Welcome Centre provides a multiplicity of choices for different kinds of interaction, study and contemplation. The variety of needs that the students have outside of the classroom vary significantly from one person to the next, and evolve as they go through their education at Humber.

The Multi-Faith Centre/Meditation Space incorporates design elements that are important and sacred to all faiths and have broad meaning across many cultures and beliefs. This part of the facility conveys a deep sense of calm and quiet contemplation.

The third floor is comprised mostly of meeting, testing and support spaces, the Principal’s office, Human Resources offices and the Aboriginal Resource Centre. The Aboriginal Resource Centre, featuring open areas for student activities, display areas and work stations will have panoramic views overlooking the green roof and the south-east portion of the landscaped site.

The penthouse includes the Data Centre, Chiller, Boiler and Cooling. This floor is not accessible to the public.

Finally, the underground parking includes approximately 52 spaces with a 2-way traffic loop.

Elevations

The material choices for the building envelope were selected for their timeless quality and their overall durability. A simple palette of materials - a combination of glass and aluminum rods on the east and north facades, charcoal-coloured grey masonry and punched windows along the southern and western facades, all of which complement the palette and proportions of the built and natural context.



FIGURE 3 – EAST AND WEST ELEVATIONS

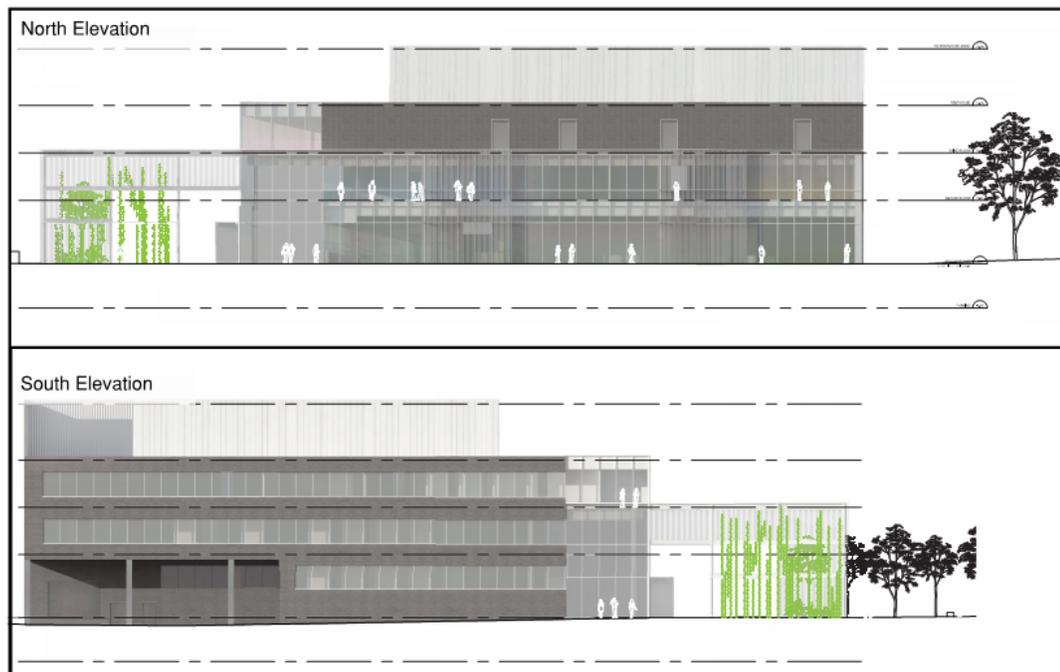


FIGURE 4 – NORTH AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS

Sections

Looking at a cross section of the building in the east-west direction, programming requirements are achieved over 3 levels.

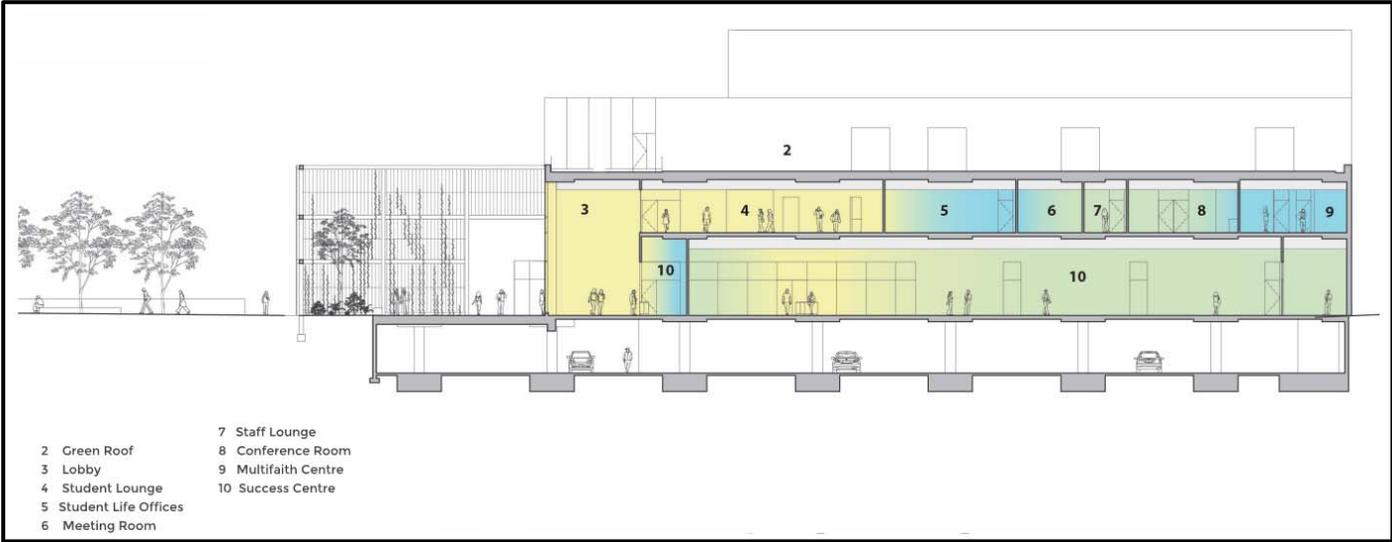


FIGURE 5- EAST WEST BUILDING SECTION