symbiosis

Interaction between two organisms
A mutually beneficial relationship

Biomimicry should delve deeper than organic shape and natural motif. Collaboration and the balance between give and take are fundamental to the survival of ecosystems in a global community of learning. Fundamental in education and innovation, Next University connects peers with each other and to faculty providing a living and breathing space as organic as its users. This design for Next University encourages user and space to interact while allowing intimate and quiet spaces for personal or small group moments. The proposed solution invites flexibility and supports a multitude of postures and group sizes with digital or analog possibilities. This space belongs to the students and faculty – it is their niche and habitat.
The student cafe is the center for interaction at Next University. There is a wide range of positions, possibilities and technology to study or socialize with peers and advisors. With direct access to the faculty hub, students can easily step away for a private conversation or advising session.

furnishings

wrapp
sw1 table
sw1 lounge
swoop
campfire big tableV

reflective ceiling plan
scale 1/8" = 1'

key
- focal point skylight pendant (led) 36’ white
- focal point skylight pendant (led) 24’ white
- focal point see4 (led) trimless mud-in
- 3m lighted vessel pendant (led) large, black finish
- get lighting led cove lighting

focal point skylight pendant (led)
focal point see4 (led)
3m lighted vessel pendant (led)

ceiling feature
- focal point see4 lighting
- suspended ceiling with cove lighting
- 3m vessels pendant
- focal point skylight
- mediascape mini
- campfire big table & swoop stools

south elevation
scale 1/8"
Symbiotic relationships are mutually beneficial. At Next University, it is just as important for faculty to grow as it is for students. The connection hub allows for faculty to work individually or collaboratively, and also allows for easy access to students and additional meeting space. Technology and analog tools at reach make the space extremely flexible. Lower seating gestures allow for a casual and relaxing atmosphere, further fostering faculty-student connections, while counter height work surfaces enable quick and productive interactions and collaboration. This hub is ready for a multitude of pedagogies.

To develop a culture of collaboration, working together, and innovative education, the space invites the user the opportunity to be productive with others and alone. To establish the desired culture at Next University, a wide range of spaces support a variety of pedagogies (Scott Weber, 2014).

This is accomplished by allowing the students and faculty to design their learning spaces in the way they need them. Movable furniture (such as the round tables and node seating) allow for the function of the space to change with the activity. It is important to provide opportunity for digital and analog tools to maximize the potential modes of learning for different individuals.

Technology as well as connections with others frame successful learning (Flipping the Classroom, 2014).

Although group collaboration is key, individual study time and private group space is also vital for productivity and learning. Individual spaces in the open, or shielded spaces, allow personal work while remaining connected to peers. It is also important to provide completely enclosed areas to allow private collaboration and focused group or individual work (Scott Weber, 2014).

These ideas have been proven to improve student success and are integrated into the design.
The study cave is a shielded space that allows for individual, partner or small group study. The space is private and tucked away from the hall, but gives students a connection to their peers.

The large classroom supports multiple postures by incorporating the circle lounge seating as banquette. It can easily be reconfigured to support a range of pedagogies. A curtain wall divides the space in two, allowing function as a large lecture hall or two active learning classrooms.


