

New JHU School of Nursing Connects with the Community & Wellness

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View of the Pinkard Building addition at the corner of Wolfe Street and McElderry Street.

KEY FINDINGS:

- Traditional closed-door, private offices are only occupied 20-30% of the time
- Optimizing exposure to daylight increases speed of learning by 20-26%, improves attendance by 3.5 days a year, and raises test scores by 5-14%.
- The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing program has grown dramatically since the original Pinkard Building was built, from 500 students to over 1,200.
- Biophilic Design has been proven to increase cognitive functionality and performance, psychological health and physiological health.

The Pinkard Building sits on the corner of Wolfe and McElderry streets in East Baltimore, an imposing brick and cast stone structure that houses the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. For over 20 years, this structure has occupied half a city block directly across from one of Johns Hopkins Hospital's main entrances. At the time it was built, the Pinkard Building gave the nursing program, which had been spread out over six buildings on the Hopkins medical campus, a central, dedicated location for teaching and research.

Since then, the program has grown significantly and is the number one ranked graduate nursing school nationally. As a thought leader, research center, and educational program, the School of Nursing has outgrown its old building, both in size and use. Hord Coplan Macht in association with William Rawn Associates of Boston, is in the design development phase of a \$45 million combined renovation and addition that will revolutionize not only the physical space the school occupies, but the way in which students, researchers, faculty, and the public interact, learn, and connect.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS – TAKING DOWN WALLS

HCM is changing the function of the nursing school by opening it up, literally and figuratively. Johns Hopkins has been a fixture in the physical landscape of East Baltimore since the original building was completed in 1889. To create a deeper feeling of connection between the school and the city, plans for the façade of the building include opening up one side with glass and windows, inviting the community into the school and giving the school a view out to the community.

HCM supported school leadership’s desire to create a space that promoted health and wellness for faculty, students, and visitors, in particular mental and cardiovascular health. To promote mental health, HCM created a holistic design focused on employing biophilic design strategies that are open and connected to the outdoors, and utilizes patterns from nature. Studies show that biophilic design can reduce stress levels while increasing focus and productivity. Just optimizing exposure to daylight increases speed of learning by 20-26%, improves attendance by 3.5 days a year, and raises test scores by 5-14%.



View inside the Hub to the Courtyard.

HCM BELIEVES BIOPHILIC DESIGN IN ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTS:

- ➔ Reduces stress levels
- ➔ increases in learning speed
- ➔ Improves attendance
- ➔ Raises test scores

BIOPHILIC DESIGN STRATEGIES UTILIZED:

- ➔ Visual connection with nature
- ➔ Dynamic & diffused light
- ➔ Prospect & refuge
- ➔ Material connection to nature
- ➔ Mystery
- ➔ Biophilic forms & patterns

Not neglecting students’ physical health, HCM created new stairways instead of installing elevators. Stairways that are open, visually interesting, and conducive to stopping to talk encourage students and faculty to move more, and interact with each other. Better physical and mental health leads to deeper, more meaningful, and more engaged learning.

STUDENT CONNECTIONS – SPACE TO COLLABORATE

When HCM principal Paul Lund toured the Pinkard Building, he was surprised to come across a student studying in a cement stairwell for lack of a better space to go. This was not an isolated occurrence – students

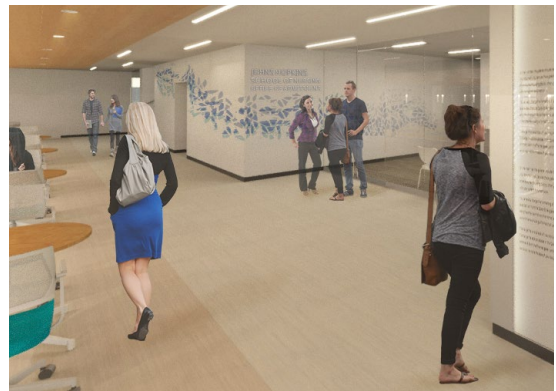
crowded non-traditional spaces looking for study areas, and it became clear that as the School of Nursing had grown from an undergraduate program with 500 students to a leading graduate program with 1,200 students, its building had not evolved along with it.

Graduate learning requires different spaces than undergraduate. In addition to studies like [this one](#) out of Michigan State University that show students learn better from each other, the school's advanced degree focus also necessitated rebuilding some of the larger tiered lecture halls to accommodate smaller class sizes. To encourage peer-to-peer learning, HCM's strategy was not just to expand study space, but to actively promote collaboration and learning. HCM expanded study areas and incorporated larger gathering spaces to encourage students to learn from each other, engage, and thrive.

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FACULTY CONNECTIONS – FORM AND FUNCTION

HCM is applying its connected theory of design to faculty offices as well. To foster faculty-to-faculty connections and stimulate academic collaboration, HCM has designed an experimental suite for 12 faculty with a flexible work environment instead of the traditional closed-door, private offices, which research shows are only occupied 20-30% of the time. The planned suite is designed around the way faculty work and includes common workspace, a library area, private office space that can be checked out, space to meet with students, and conference space to collaborate with each other. To promote the fact that the school is a leading research facility, the fifth floor will house a Research Commons that connects faculty and researchers, providing a visible, central research home within the building. There will also be satellite rooms on lower levels to invite students into the research process as well.



Level 2-21

CONTINUING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

Opening up space in learning environments is a recognized trend that doesn't just look nice but truly impacts learning. HCM isn't alone in believing and implementing this philosophy. The University of Kansas' new medical education building was constructed under the theory that the right designs for teaching and lab spaces "support active, team-based learning." St. John's University and Clemson also adopted open, transparent design elements in new buildings on their campuses.

Creating a space that serves students, faculty, and researchers drives HCM's work. This new space carries on a tradition of partnership between HCM and Johns Hopkins, and will help the School of Nursing continue to lead the way in education, research, and student needs. Most importantly, the space will reflect the school's status as the nursing education thought leader in the United States and throughout the world.



View inside the Hub, looking North.

SOURCES:

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