# INDIANA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH BUILDING

**SUBMISSION CATEGORY:** New Construction - Project Cost Greater than $5 Mil.
**PROJECT TYPE:** Higher Education
**ADDRESS:** 350 W 14th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202
**DATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION:** April 2025

## DESIGN NARRATIVE

The Indiana University Medical Education Research Building (MERB) is the first new School of Medicine classroom space built in Indianapolis since 1959, and the largest construction project in the history of the nation's largest medical school.

The eleven-story, 326,000-square-foot facility consolidates programs once scattered across the city into a single, purpose-built academic home in the heart of the 1,500-acre Indy Health District.

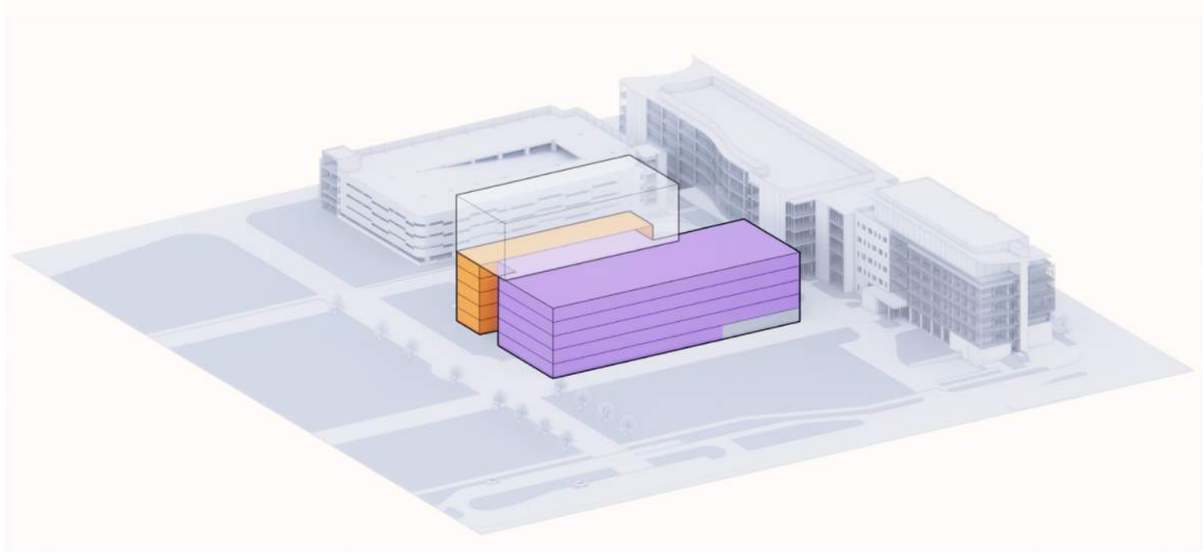
The building addresses a compressed urban site with a vertical solution: a three-story podium organized around a central atrium, and an eight-story tower above. The podium gathers the educational program, two 200-seat tiered classrooms, four 78-seat tiered classrooms, active learning classrooms, a Gross Anatomy Lab, a Surgical Skills Lab, Clinical Skills exam rooms, and twelve cohort-based Learning Communities clustered in neighborhoods of three around the atrium. The tower above is built on a laboratory-based structural grid that allows individual floors to convert between faculty office and research lab as the school's needs evolve.

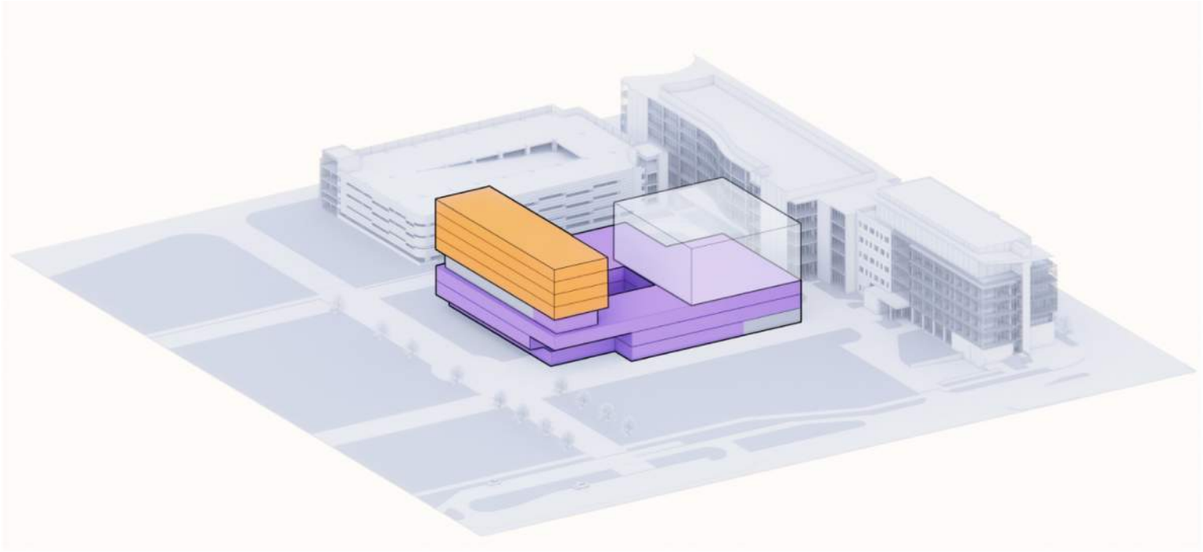
The building draws its vocabulary from the Indiana University vernacular. A limestone base gestures to the Bloomington campus, brick accents to IU Indianapolis, and a glazed tower to the present and the city beyond.

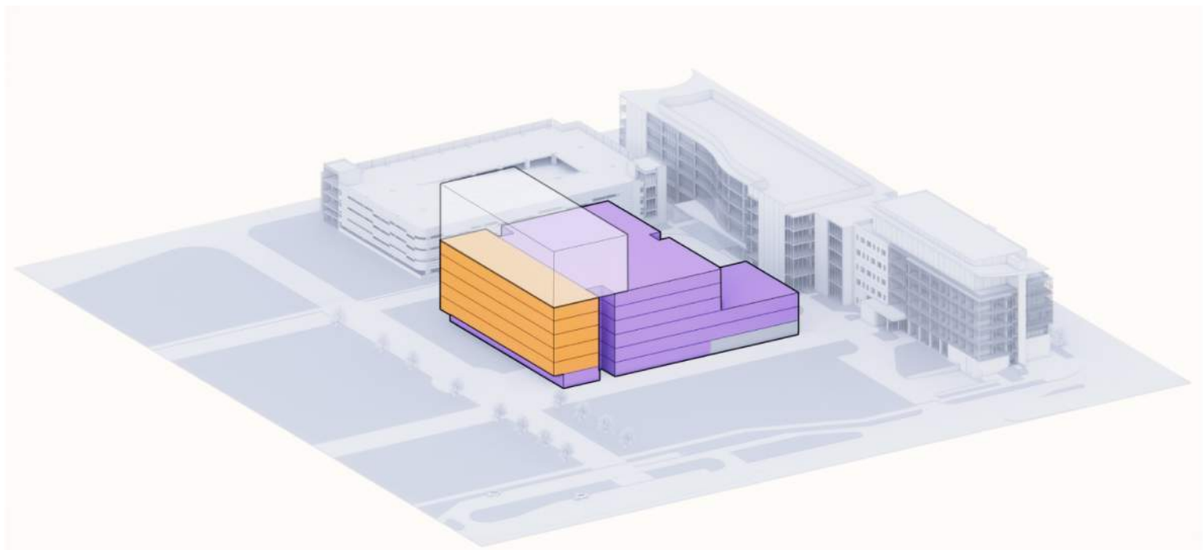
Tracking LEED Gold, the project integrates energy-efficient envelope and MEP systems alongside sustainable materials. Sited beside the new IU Health hospital, MERB places future physicians, faculty, and researchers in daily proximity to active clinical environments, closing the distance between classroom and care.

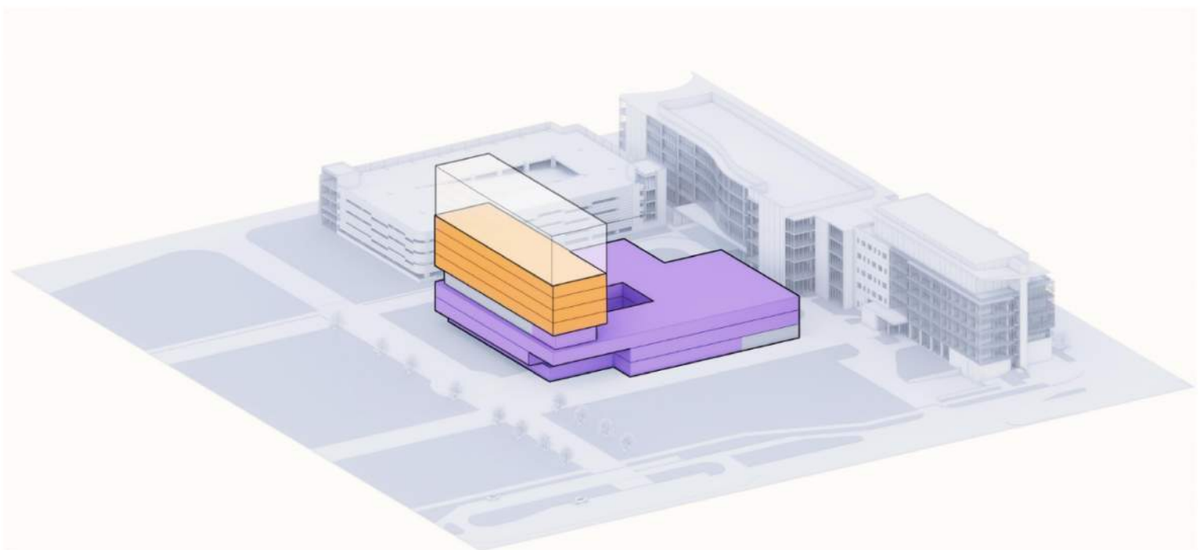
SOUTHWEST VIEW OF PODIUM AND TOWER

CENTRAL ATRIUM











## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Designed to support the well-being of future healers, the building prioritizes student health through abundant natural light, restorative spaces, wellness rooms, and active design strategies. By concentrating educational functions within the lowest three floors, the design encourages daily movement, interaction, and use of inviting open stairways. Learning communities and thoughtfully integrated faculty and student spaces foster mentorship, connection, and a strong sense of belonging, creating a supportive environment that promotes wellness, collaboration, and academic success.

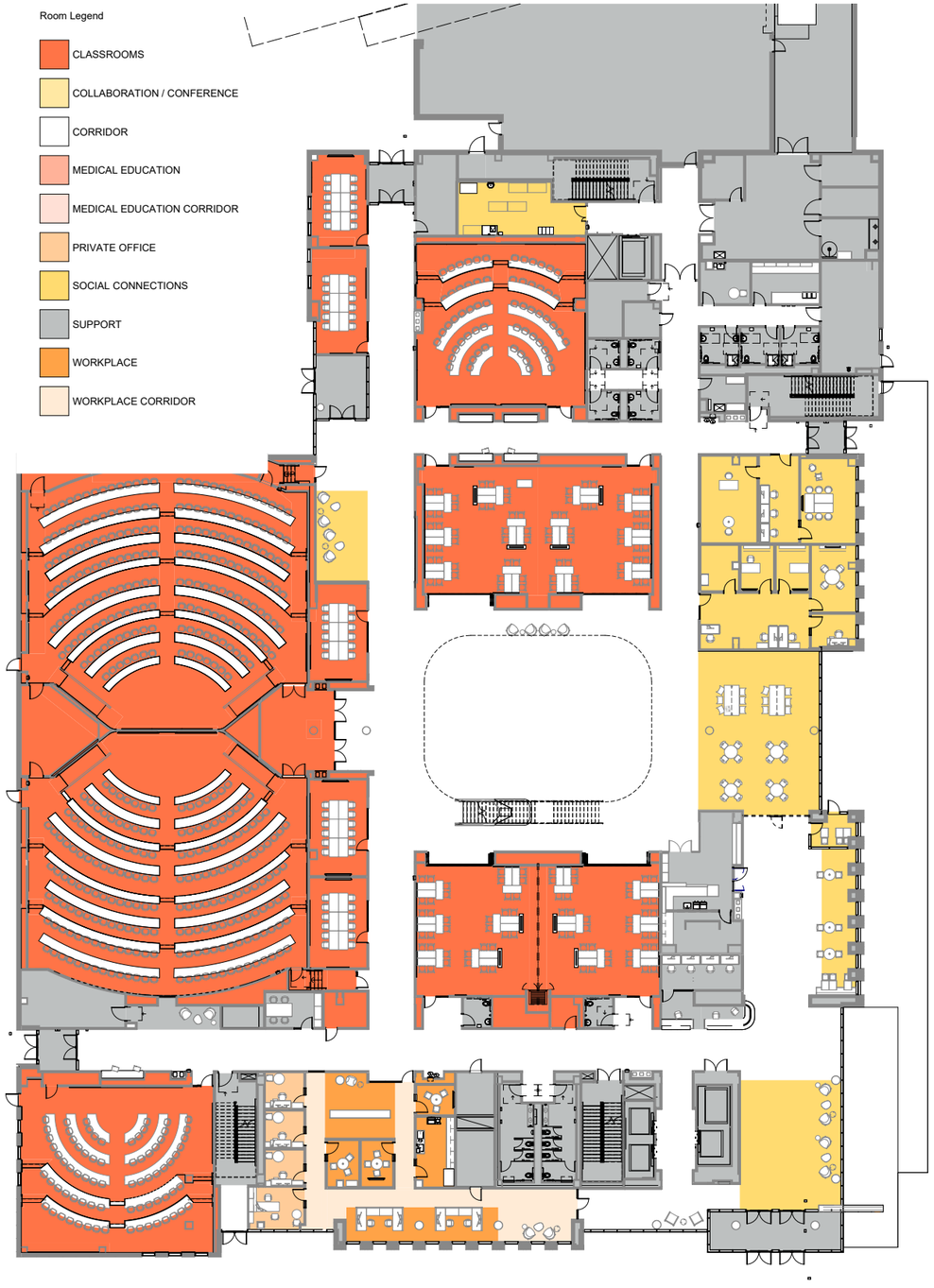
The tower is organized around a structural module designed to accommodate standard laboratory bench spacing as well as administrative offices. This flexible system allows the building to adapt over time. As demand for individual offices decreases, those areas can be readily converted into additional research space.

The research building leverages its urban location through direct access to nearby bus infrastructure. It is also sited along a planned park serving the medical district, acting as the terminus of a park and trail system that will connect to the city's cultural trails and downtown.

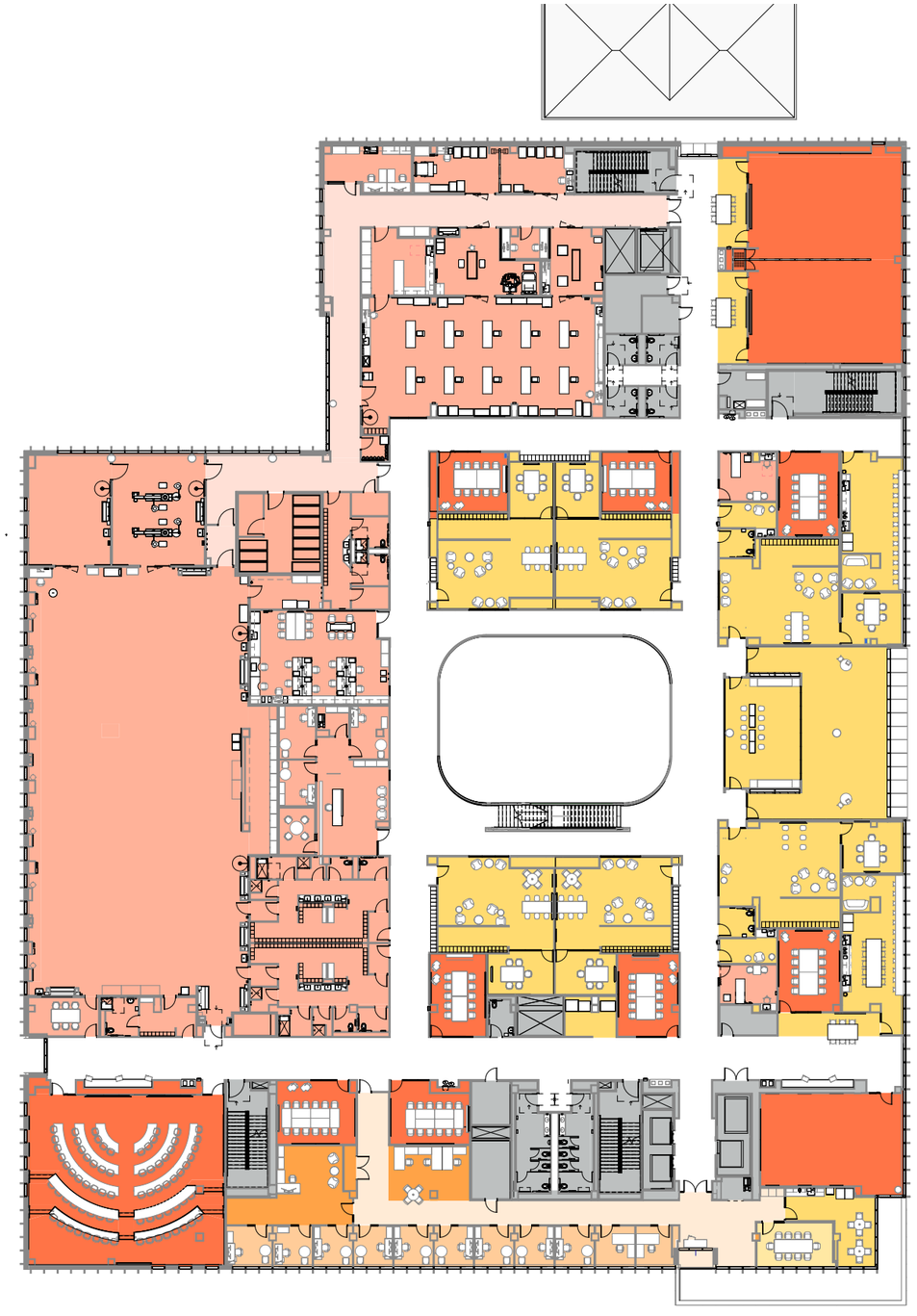



1. MEDICAL EDUCATION OFFICE AND RESEARCH CENTER [TOWER]
2. IU ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER [PODIUM]
3. EXISTING PARKING GARAGE
4. GOODMAN HALL
5. NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING
6. NEW HOSPITAL
7. FUTURE HEALTH DISTRICT GREEN SPACE
8. FUTURE PARKING AND GREEN EXTENSION
9. NEW HOSPITAL PARKING GARAGE
10. NEW HOSPITAL CENTRAL UTILTIY PLANT

**OVERALL SITE PLAN** | NTS



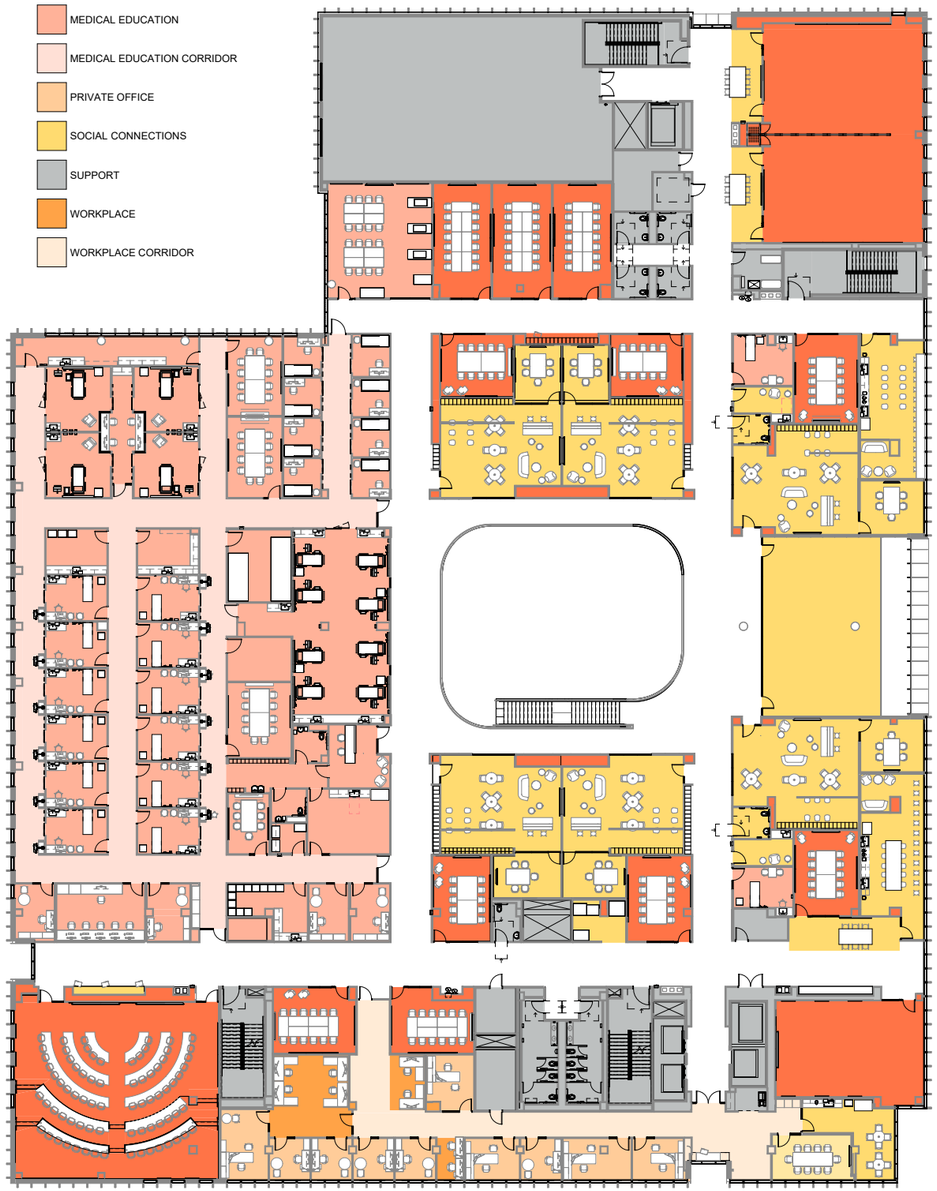

**GROUND FLOOR PLAN** | NTS



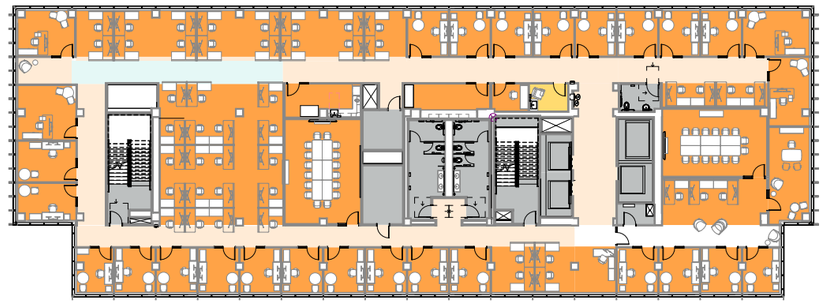
**SECOND FLOOR PLAN** | NTS

Room Legend

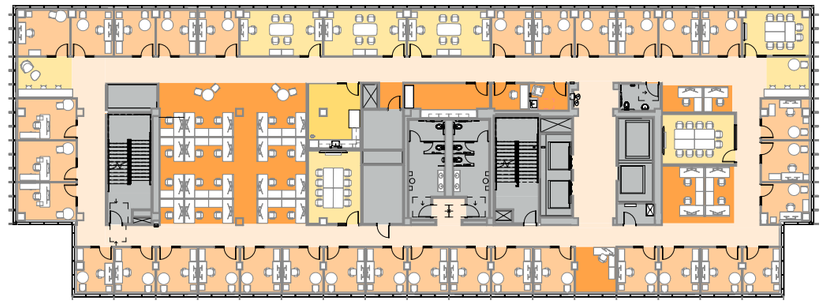
- CLASSROOMS
- COLLABORATION / CONFERENCE
- CORRIDOR
- MEDICAL EDUCATION
- MEDICAL EDUCATION CORRIDOR
- PRIVATE OFFICE
- SOCIAL CONNECTIONS
- SUPPORT
- WORKPLACE
- WORKPLACE CORRIDOR



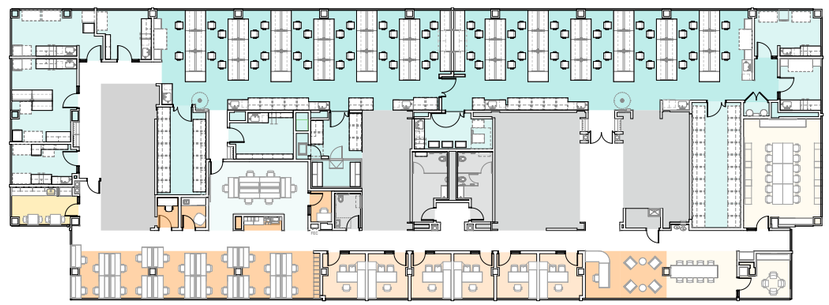
**THIRD FLOOR PLAN** | NTS



**FIFTH FLOOR PLAN** | NTS



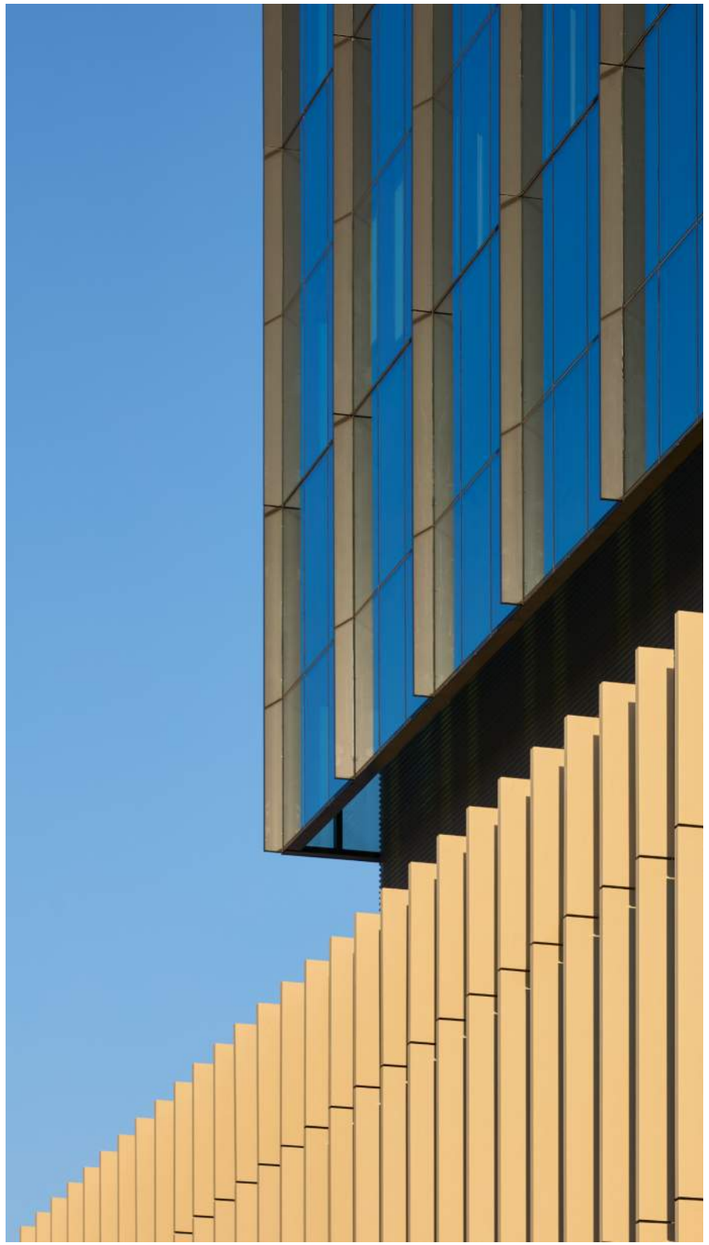
**SIXTH FLOOR PLAN** | NTS



- COLLABORATION / CONFERENCE
- CORRIDOR
- WET LAB RESEARCH
- PRIVATE OFFICE
- WET LAB SUPPORT
- DRY / DAMP LAB / COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH
- SOCIAL CONNECTIONS
- SUPPORT
- WORKPLACE

**NINTH FLOOR PLAN** | NTS

NORTHWEST VIEW



## MATERIALS

The design reinterprets Indiana University's limestone architectural heritage through textured GFRC fins that reference the color, depth, and solidity of traditional stone while working in concert with a transparent curtain wall to create a contemporary expression of openness and permanence. The façade shifts between solid and immaterial as light, shadow, and viewing angles change, reinforcing a dynamic architectural identity.

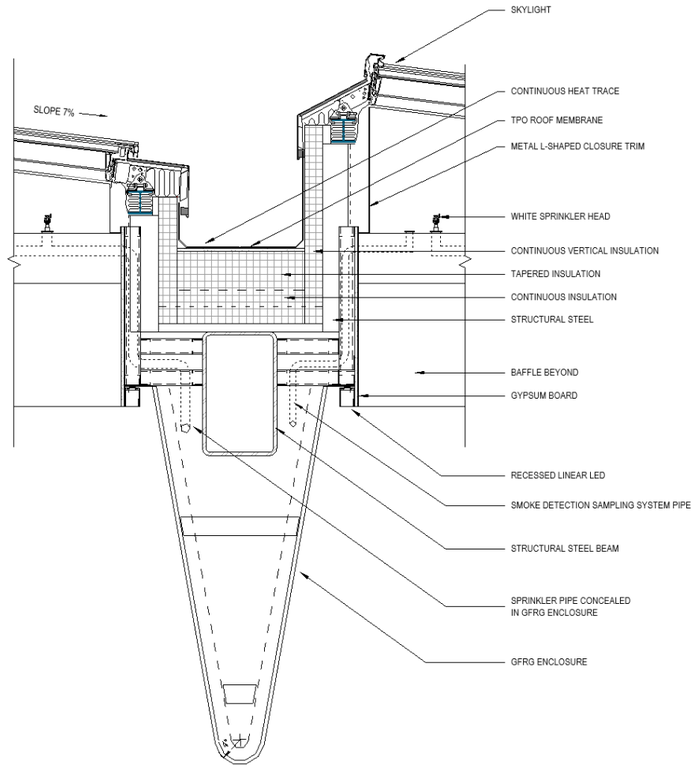


**EAST ELEVATION** | NTS


SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY | STUDENT SPACES

SOUTH ELEVATION AND STUDENT ENTRY






## SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS

Daylighting strategies further enhance performance and experience through a central atrium that draws natural light deep into the academic core while minimizing exterior envelope area. Skylight baffles and exterior shading devices reduce glare and solar heat gain, improving comfort and energy efficiency. Systematic studies of fin size and configuration informed cost and performance optimization, significantly reducing glare, lowering energy use intensity, and enabling extended daylight access with unobstructed views for occupants throughout the day.

The project holistically sought to reduce energy use, increase occupant well-being, and deploy innovation solutions through purposeful design decisions. These decisions manifest in everything from the daylighting strategies to the complex and intricate network of systems that support the learning spaces, laboratories, and other specialized needs. The building is expected to receive a LEED Gold certification and the project as a whole is pursuing LEED under the Campus Certification as part of the broader Hospital Campus of the Indy Health District.

**Baseline EUI: 154.28 / Projected EUI: 58.22 [62% Savings]**




**MEDICAL SKILLS LAB** | STUDENT SPACES




**ENTRY LOBBY** | COMMUNITY SPACES

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

The project strengthens community connectivity by bringing together students, physicians, researchers, faculty, and alumni within a shared environment dedicated to learning, collaboration, and wellness. Designed around a central atrium and a network of small learning communities, the building fosters meaningful interactions across disciplines and career stages. As the home of Indiana University's medical education program and a key component of the Indianapolis medical precinct, it connects academic, clinical, and research communities while serving as a welcoming gateway to the state's healthcare network. Its architecture embodies a culture of inclusion, mentorship, and collective purpose.



**LABORATORY SPACE** | STUDENT SPACES

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

AERIAL VIEW LOOKING TO DOWNTOWN