

Keele Campus
Architectural Highlights



Tour YorkU

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redefine THE POSSIBLE.

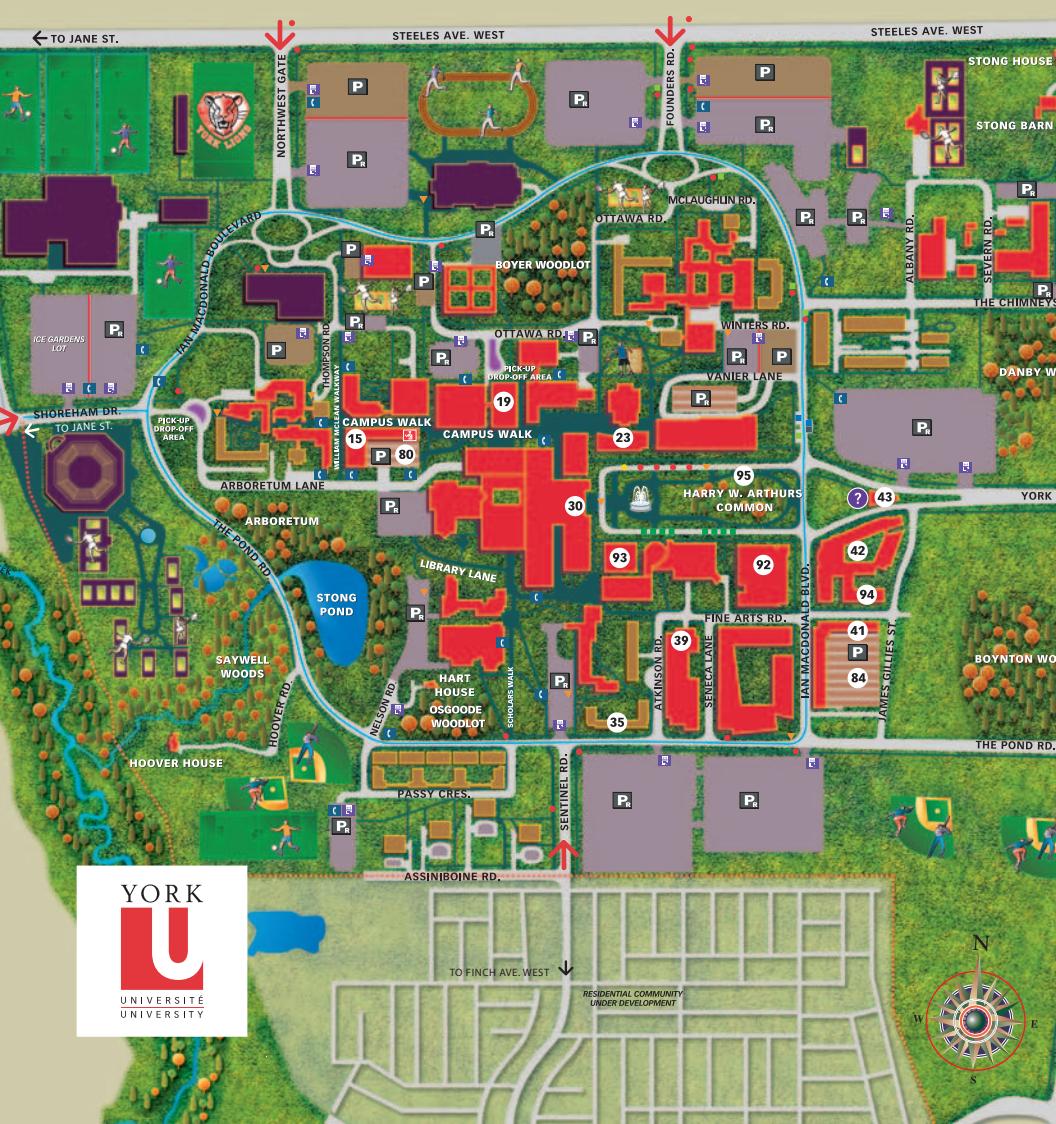
York University, the third largest university in the country, is host to a dynamic academic community of 55,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff, as well as 190,000 alumni worldwide.

York's 11 faculties and 23 research centres conduct ambitious, groundbreaking teaching and research that is interdisciplinary, cutting across traditional academic boundaries.

The buildings that we create are no less exceptional – reflecting our modern and innovative ways of thinking.

In recent years, York has become a leader in constructing environmentally-friendly or "green" buildings that use daylight, planted roofs and natural ventilation to their advantage while providing inspirational and comfortable environments for living, learning and working.

Our distinct and collaborative approach, which permeates all that York is involved in, prepares students for the future by bringing fresh insights and solutions to real-world challenges.



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92 93

The Accolade Project

Accolade East 83 York Boulevard
completed in 2006

Accolade West 89 York Boulevard
completed in 2005

**Zeidler Partnership, in joint venture
with Bregman & Hamann Architects**

The Accolade Project consists of two buildings on the south side of the Harry W. Arthurs Common.

The 26,000 square metre Accolade East Building houses the Faculty of Fine Arts' music and dance programs, the Art Gallery of York University, a 325-seat proscenium arch theatre, 325-seat recital hall, 500-seat lecture theatre equipped for cinema-quality projection and practice spaces. Windows are acoustically detailed and their quantity limited to buffer street noises; their distinctive angled design is influenced by trees associated with Group of Seven paintings. The strong façade features pre-cast panels that emphasize the windows in line, colour and texture. A transparent ground floor offers a dramatic view into the performance space lobby.

Accolade West, a 7,000 square metre classroom building, features The Gallery for showcasing student artists and a central atrium for natural light. Coloured glass and angled mullions animate the space with ever-changing projections of light and colour.

The Accolade colonnade will complete the sheltered walkway on three sides of the Common. Accolade window and colour elements are combined with the strong, horizontal lines of the existing colonnade resulting in a unified Common pedestrian system.

95

Harry Arthurs Common

completed in 1992

Janet Rosenberg and Associates

The Harry Arthurs Common is York University's primary open space and the symbolic heart of the University.

The Common was named in honour of President Harry Arthurs (1985-1992) who initiated plans for a redesign of the University's York Boulevard entrance. A central green space or common, as an organizing element in campus design, has historical precedence.

The significance and symbolism of the space is reinforced by its symmetrical design. A colonnaded promenade on two sides facilitates circulation between significant York buildings. A loop road encircles the majority of the space and contains a pastoral green. At the west end, the road passes through a plaza at the entrance to Vari Hall. Garden spaces provide a distinctive edge to the western half of the central green. Their more intimate scale contrasts the openness and simplicity of the green.

In addition to providing an ideal setting for strolling, socializing, contemplation, circulation and celebration, The Common functions as a storm water retention facility; and a transit hub – bringing people directly to the campus core.



30

Vari Hall*completed in 1992*

100 York Boulevard

Moriyama & Teshima Architects

Named in honour of Mrs. Helen Vari and her husband, The Honourable George Vari who were the major benefactors of this project, Vari Hall was designed as the ceremonial ‘front door’ of York University.

The doors, on direct axis with the York Boulevard entrance, create a landmark termination point to the Harry Arthurs Common. Vari Hall also was designed to create a more humane scale – softening the adjacent nine-storey Ross Building.

Vari Hall features an entry pavilion, the rotunda, with a ceiling height of 18 metres. It is a three-storey building which provides direct access to Ross and Central Square through an adjoining “link”. This building houses approximately 125 offices, four well-appointed lecture theatres complete with state-of the-art audio/visual equipment and twenty-one classroom/seminar rooms.

Awards

1993 North York Design Awards:
outstanding architecture and design



15 80

William Small Centre and Arboretum Parking Garage*completed in 2003*

155 Campus Walk

Robbie/Young + Wright and Rich and Associates

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design was an important part of the design of the Arboretum Parking Garage.

In the parking garage, to enhance colour visibility, the ceilings and columns are painted white and metal halide lights are positioned above cars instead of along the centre aisle. The stairwells in the parking structure are glazed, maximizing visibility.

A ‘face building’ integrates the parking structure on its north side with the heavily used Campus Walk. A protected, barrier free route paralleling this walkway with elevator access improves accessibility with an alternate route to avoid the slope of the Campus Walk. Named the William Small Centre, in memory of a founding University administrator, the face building includes a “high ceiling” computer commons at its northwest corner, designed by the architects to utilize the change in grade from the east to west ends of the structure.

In addition, an outdoor astronomical observation deck is located on the roof of the garage to view the wonders of the night sky.



23

Student Centre

completed in 1991

94 York Boulevard

A.J. Diamond, Donald Schmitt & Company

The Student Centre is centrally located to provide students with a space to socialize, organize and relax.

As the hub of student life, the building contains one of Canada's largest on-campus pubs – The Underground – as well as a food court, student government offices and council chambers, games room, art gallery and child care facilities.

This building is regarded as a prime example of "new modernism" architecture and features elliptical openings, magnificent stairs and sculpted structural elements that animate the centre. A continuous colonnade, glazed with triple-hung sash windows, provides weather protection for pedestrians. The interior spaces are softened by inlaid wood paneling.

In the north entry and south colonnade, the structure appears as a system of piers with niches formed by folded planes of concrete. Brick veneer wraps the outer surface of the piers to give an envelope which harmonizes with the predominantly clay brick of the campus.

Modern and functional this building serves the cultural, social, educational, organizational and recreational interests of the York student community.

Awards

1993 North York Design Awards:

outstanding architecture and design

1996 Governor-General's Award for Architecture.

39

Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Building

completed in 2003

88 The Pond Road

Moriyama & Teshima Architects

A joint venture between York University and Seneca College, the TEL Building's state-of-the-art technology redefines the classroom by allowing teaching and learning to take place outside their traditional limits.

The 32,000 square-metre TEL Building includes 31 classrooms and 40 computer labs; accommodating 4,000 students.

The TEL Building was envisioned as "a place of discovery, where visual and spatial experiences unfold." Its flexible classroom and office spaces are housed in an energy-efficient structure with abundant natural light and places for social interaction. The building was designed to reduce energy consumption by 25 per cent.

TEL's academic users have embraced the building's innovations. Students and visitors to TEL can stroll down a central indoor street where they will see two large video screens capable of broadcasting news, information and event coverage. In the spaces provided for social interaction students can meet, catch up on their studies by logging into TEL's 24/7 wireless network or just relax between classes. In the lecture halls and classrooms, faculty can call on a range of built-in multimedia facilities to enhance their presentations that can be recorded for viewing live or later from a Web-based course archive.



19

Computer Science & Engineering

completed in 2001

120 Campus Walk

Van Nostrand Di Castri Architects & Busby & Associates

The Computer Science & Engineering Building is the first cold weather, green building built by a Canadian university. This three-storey, 9,300 square-metre building has expanded York's science teaching facilities, including three state-of-the-art lecture theatres, classrooms and research lab space.

Utilizing natural ventilation, the building has no traditional duct work and the atrium spaces help to capture heat stratification opportunities – a fundamental aspect of the ventilation strategy.

This building uses about one-third of the usual energy needed for heating and cooling. Designed with sustainability and large open spaces in mind, classrooms are airy and spacious and the computer labs and research areas incorporate an open concept plan.

A roof garden serves as insulation and controls the discharge of rain water into the sewers.

Altogether the building saves 68 per cent of energy required to heat, cool and light other buildings. Over a period of 75 years, it is estimated that the building will save 85,700 tonnes of greenhouse gas equivalents, or one barrel of oil per occupant, per year.

Awards

2002 Governor General's Award in Architecture

2002 *World Architecture Magazine's Green Building of the Year*



43

Honour Court and Information Centre

completed in 2000

55 York Boulevard

Stephen Teeple and Associates

The Honour Court – York University's front door – features an information and greeting centre. This structure continues to be built literally – brick by brick, through the generosity of York's friends. This structure was made possible through the philanthropy of Seymour Schulich.

The Honour Court and Information Centre were designed to soften the look of the entrance of the University.

The pavilion wall of the Honour Court contains five types of granite blocks marking the cumulative gifts of donors since York's founding in 1959. This adds to the collage of textures created by stone, wood and corten steel; Tyndall limestone and concrete are contrasted with cedar and mahogany detailing. As an open-ended wall, it signifies that the University will continue to grow.

Natural light filters through the Honour Court walls in the daytime, while at night it becomes a beacon of light visible to the surrounding environment. It also features a watershed fountain marking the pavilion's axis along the boulevard and a selection of landscape materials which reflect the changing seasons through contrasts of colour.

Awards

2002 Award of Excellence (Ontario Architects Association):
one of the best new buildings in Ontario

CASE(Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) Circle of Excellence Award: recognized as a *Model Program in the category of Philanthropy/Donor Recognition*.



35

The Pond Road Residence

completed in 2004

92 The Pond Road

architectsAlliance

York's newest undergraduate residence is a 14,200 square-metre, 442-bed suite-style housing complex that features common areas and encourages interactive social and leisure activity among the residents.

The five-storey L-shaped podium, book-ended by a nine-storey tower, forms a U-shaped complex that shelters a 745 square-metre courtyard. This building features two-bedroom suites which share an ensuite kitchen and bathroom.

To create a comfortable home away from home, there is a large ground floor common room which features lounge furniture, TV, and a landscaped courtyard outside. The operable windows provide both fresh air and natural light throughout the building.

Among the building's interesting and environmentally-friendly features is the 1,000 square-metre planted roof which increases thermal insulation and stores ground water (reducing the need for sewers). The nine-storey residence features the advanced technology of "in-slab radiant heating and cooling" which uses less energy and provides more comfort than conventional forced-air or electric heaters.



42

Seymour Schulich Building

completed in 2003

111 Ian Macdonald Blvd.

94

Executive Learning Centre

completed in 2004

56 Fine Arts Road

Hariri Pontarini Architects, in joint venture with Robbie/Young + Wright Architects

The sheer scale and scope of York University's new Seymour Schulich Building and Executive Learning Centre complex required two intensive years of construction. The complex, features 40,000 tonnes of poured concrete; 89 hectares of energy-efficient glass; two million pounds (900,000 kilograms) of sandblasted limestone from quarries in Ontario's Algonquin Region, hand-cut and set into the curved walls; and enough heavy-gauge copper flashing to gild the CN Tower from top to bottom.

The new complex serves as a gateway showpiece at the main entry of York's vibrant, modern Keele campus.

Architects for the 30,375 square-metre business school and 60-suite Executive Learning Centre employed best practices in classroom layout, office design and the use of new instructional wireless technologies to create a world-class facility.

The interior design of the Seymour Schulich Building, described as "village-like", is organized around three distinct courts – most notably the



PHOTO: STEVEN EVANS/YORK UNIVERSITY



(continued)

CIBC Marketplace – maximizing the natural light to the lecture halls, the two-level library, offices, and various common spaces.

The Executive Learning Centre is a unique 12-storey tower with 60 guest suites, four large classrooms, several meeting rooms and offices to support the Schulich Executive Education Centre.

The Seymour Schulich Building and Executive Learning Centre accommodate 2,500 undergraduates, 650 master's students, 650 part-time students, and over 10,000 executives every year.

Schulich's dramatic complex was cited as "one of the new breed of 21st-century business schools" in a *Financial Times of London* article that explored how structures are changing the way business is taught. According to the *Financial Times*, business schools are increasingly creating buildings that challenge students and teachers alike to think along unconventional lines and to consider alternative ways of interacting.

Awards

2006 Governor General's Medal in Architecture

41

Student Services Centre

completed in 2004

99 Ian Macdonald Boulevard

84

Student Services Parking Garage

completed in 2003

84 James Gillies St.

Hariri Pontarini Architects, in joint venture with Robbie/Young + Wright Architects

The three-storey (plus basement) Student Services Centre (SSC) houses all of York's front-line, student service departments such as the Office of the Registrar, Student Financial Services and Admissions & Recruitment.

The SSC utilized sustainable principles including a flooring system that distributes air and power. The interior design provides for flexibility of layout, future renovations and comfort for occupants in open concept office spaces.

The design promotes the use of natural lighting and ventilation and employs materials equipped to retain natural heat, thus reducing costs.

The Student Services Parking Garage is the largest parking structure on York University's Keele campus. It is wrapped architecturally, on two sides, by the 36,000 square-metre SSC.

The Parking Garage accommodates 1,367 cars on six levels. It has been designed as the state-of-the-art high-service-level garage using an express-ramp design with digital car counts to ensure vacancy information is available to minimize customer frustration. The Parking structure is designed to be open and transparent to maximize air quality and maintain open visibility.

**York University
Office hours:
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Monday to Friday**

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