



2013 AWARDS FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Award of Excellence

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science



Consultant

Glotman Simpson Consulting Engineers

Owner/Client

UBC Properties Trust

Category

Buildings

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The ingenious design of the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building combines four structurally distinct buildings into a single complex, integrated together with three large atriums – the “lungs” of this living, breathing building. This signature building features a two level open entrance, abundant natural light and sloped walls at its base.

To create its iconic cantilevered west façade, columns connected to each slab were offset, set tight to the exterior curtain to leave corner boardroom spaces with unobstructed views.

The design required a structural solution that combined individual elements, making them behave together as a single entity seismically. When a snowflake forms, it relies on precise structural designs to bring its components together into a single unit. Using this inspiration, Glotman•Simpson integrated the building’s structural elements through the use of thin-link slabs 250 millimetres thick, these discreet concrete slabs were integrated into the overall design, and effectively transfer loads throughout the structure while supporting the architect’s overall vision.

Incorporating BIM modeling into the fast-tracked project schedule, completed in under 34 months, required strong project team collaboration from the early design stages. Proactive project management by the Glotman•Simpson team enabled them to incorporate BIM’s attention to detail while meeting the demands of an accelerated project schedule.

With its combination of state-of-the-art laboratory, teaching, research and public exhibit space, the UBC Pharmaceutical Building is able to bring the entire Pharmaceutical Sciences department under one roof for the first time. Opened in September 2012, the building is pursuing LEED® Gold certification.