

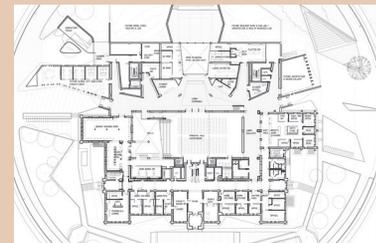
THIS PICTURE, IN THE TOP-FLOOR GRADUATE STUDIO THE CEILING'S ASYMMETRICAL TWISTS MEET THE GLASS WALLS IN GOTHIC POINTS  
BELOW, NADAAA'S ADDITION STANDS IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO THE 19TH-CENTURY ORIGINAL



**PERFECT FIT**

Bespoke furniture includes desks and lockers designed by the **students** themselves.

The new faculty building echoes the U-shape of the old, integrating into its surroundings by **Public Work's** landscaping. [publicwork.ca](http://publicwork.ca)



**PROJECT TYPE**

Architecture school

**NAME**

Daniels Building

**LOCATION**

University of Toronto, Canada

**ARCHITECTS**

NADAAA, [nadaaa.com](http://nadaaa.com)

The University of Toronto's new architecture, landscape and design facility is a double-height fabrication lab faced in glass, behind which 3D-printers whirl into action. At dusk, multiple levels of glazing supported by a sloping concrete frame glow from within. But what's that Gothic spire just beyond?

The building reveals itself as a visual chronicle of the city's development and a merger of two eras: 21st century to the north, 19th to the south. The spire belongs to the 1875 structure, built by Smith & Gemmell as a Presbyterian seminary before becoming a hospital, insulin factory and faculty building. Together with the new wing, designed by Nader Tehrani and Katherine Faulkner of NADAAA, the Daniels Building for the John H Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design.

Shamefully, most Torontonians know this crook in the regular street grid as an irritant, the building an obstacle. Today new crossings make it properly accessible for the first time in generations. Undulating grounds by urban designer Public Work aim to overcome the 'island effect', with a south-facing café staged as the building's 'front porch'.

Infiltrating the former cloistered courtyard is a flexible lecture hall edged with concrete bleachers and acoustic fins and, beneath it, Toronto's first architecture gallery.

While the heritage structure functions as an office and study wing, the addition is bright and versatile. The brightness falls down from the roof, its trusses peaking at intervals like the fingers of two hands clasped together. Light feeds down towards the lecture hall, and through voids over the second-floor studios. Conduits between the wings pass striking lookouts: over the 'fab lab' and the soaring foyer, and out to the surrounding area through NADAAA's trademark mesh valance. Once upon a time, Torontonians looked right through this landmark. Today they still can, but in a different way entirely. **Ellen Himelfarb**

Photography: John Horner