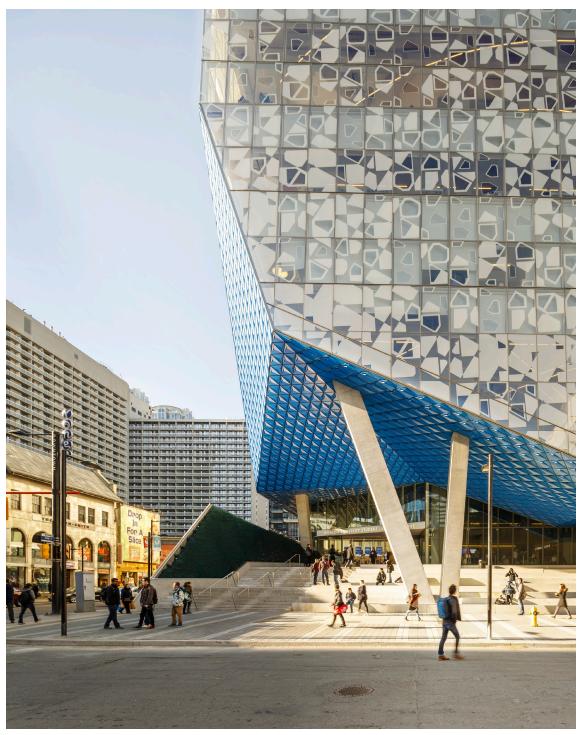


# Ryerson University Student Learning Centre

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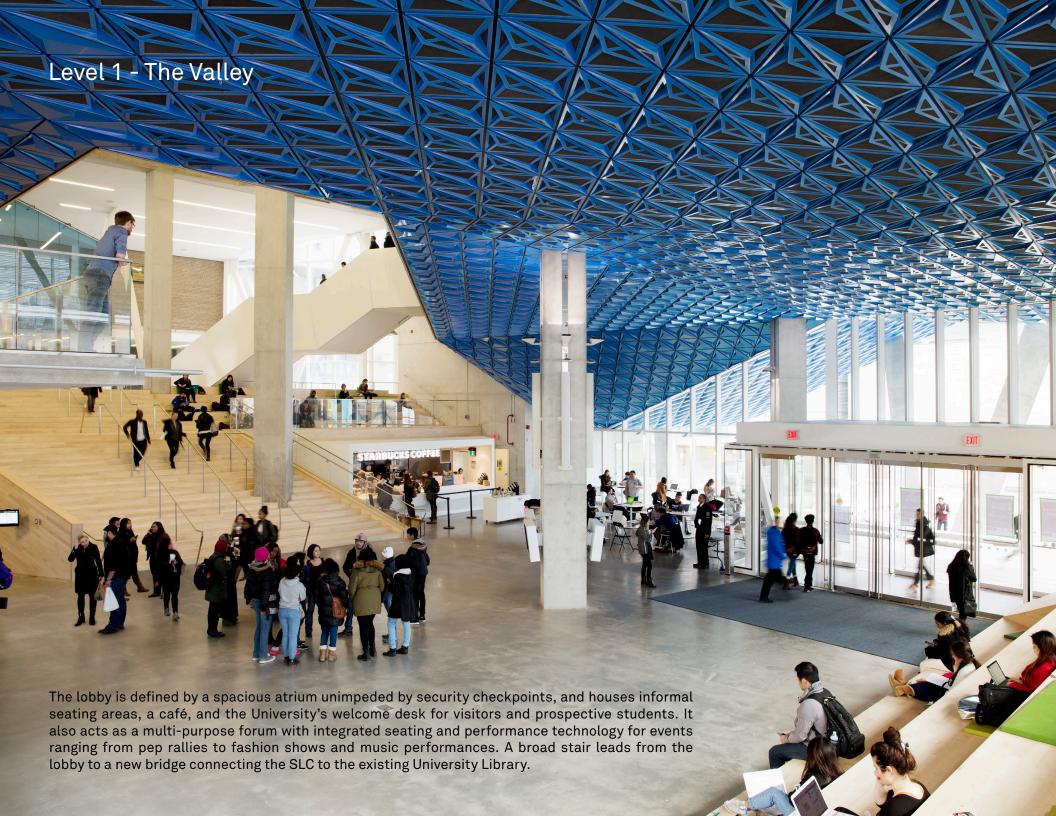
#### **Design Statement**

Ryerson University is an urban commuter campus with 38,000 students, well-known for its engineering and business programs. Previously, no space existed for students to study and remain on campus between classes. Ryerson struggled to establish a recognizable identity in the city, with most of the academic buildings housed within the existing building fabric or set back from major streets. The new Student Learning Centre, designed by Snøhetta with Zeidler Partnership Architects, is an expansion that bridges seamlessly to the Ryerson Library and Archives that now provides that critically-needed space for students and better connects the campus to the vibrant cityscape surrounding it.

Inspired by the historical gathering spaces of the Stoas and Agoras in ancient Greece where learning was inherently social, the lively SLC gives students eight uniquely-designed floors of generous space to meet, study, and exchange ideas. The design develops natural conditions for groups of people to interact while also offering areas for controlled and introspective study. Most importantly, it encourages students to make the space their own. Each floor of the building is different in plan and section, to offer students a wide variety of spaces to suit their needs, both volumetrically and atmospherically.

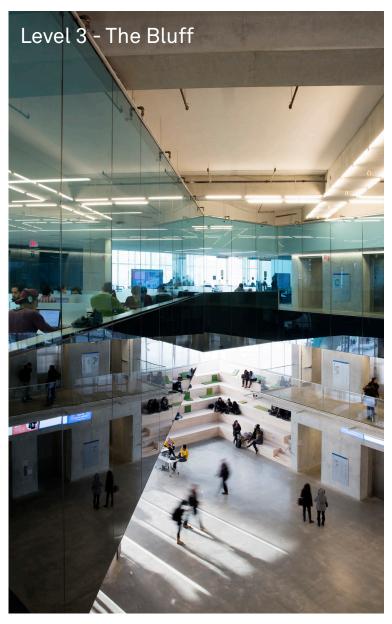
Since its opening in March 2015, the new campus landmark has become a popular hub filled with student activity from 7 AM to 1 AM each day. Notably, since the opening of the SLC, usage of the existing library and archives has not decreased, casting into relief the extent of the need for study space on campus.

The design begins with the creation of a south facing, raised platform that opens the street corner to allow for a broad range of pedestrian activity, from larger gatherings to smaller individual seating areas. Part plaza, part porch, this space creates a welcoming yet protected urban edge shared by students and the general public.









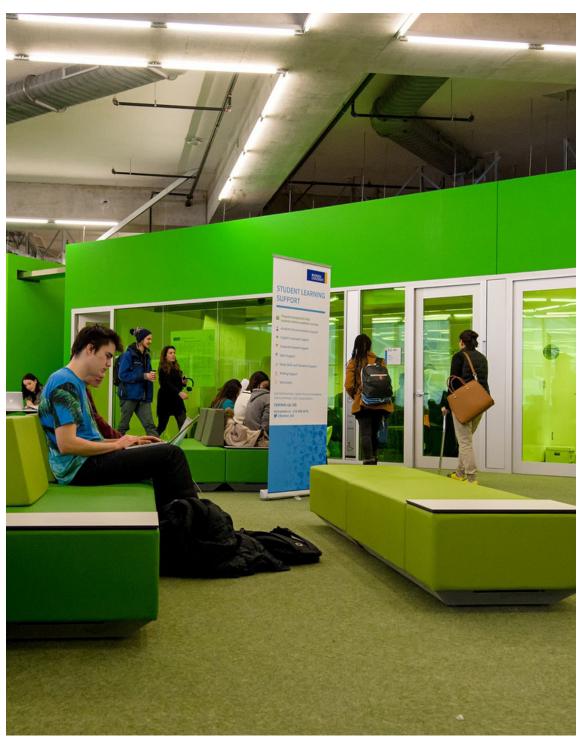
Students working on the Third Floor, known as The Bluff, overlook the lobby and amphitheatre below.





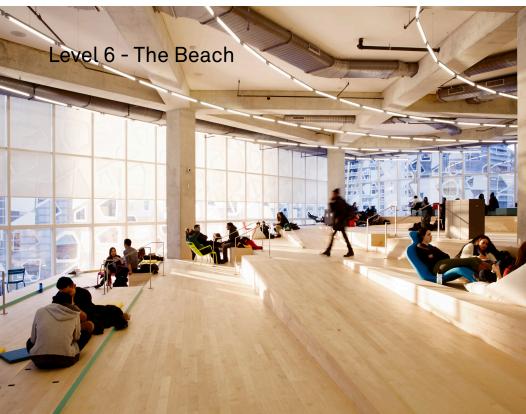
On Level 3, the Digital Media Experience Lab provides students with state-of-the-art teaching innovation technology.

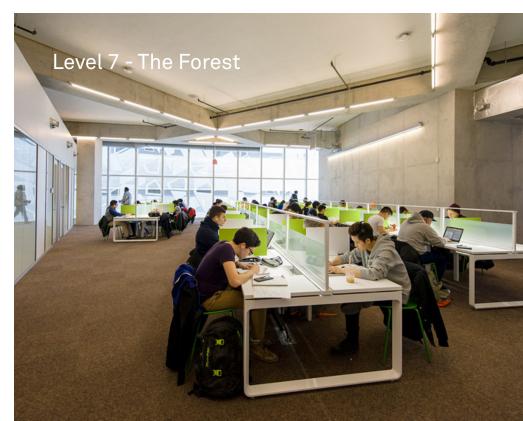
Level 4, known as 'The Garden,' houses the Center for Student Learning Support services, which provides a range of learning programs and academic support services.



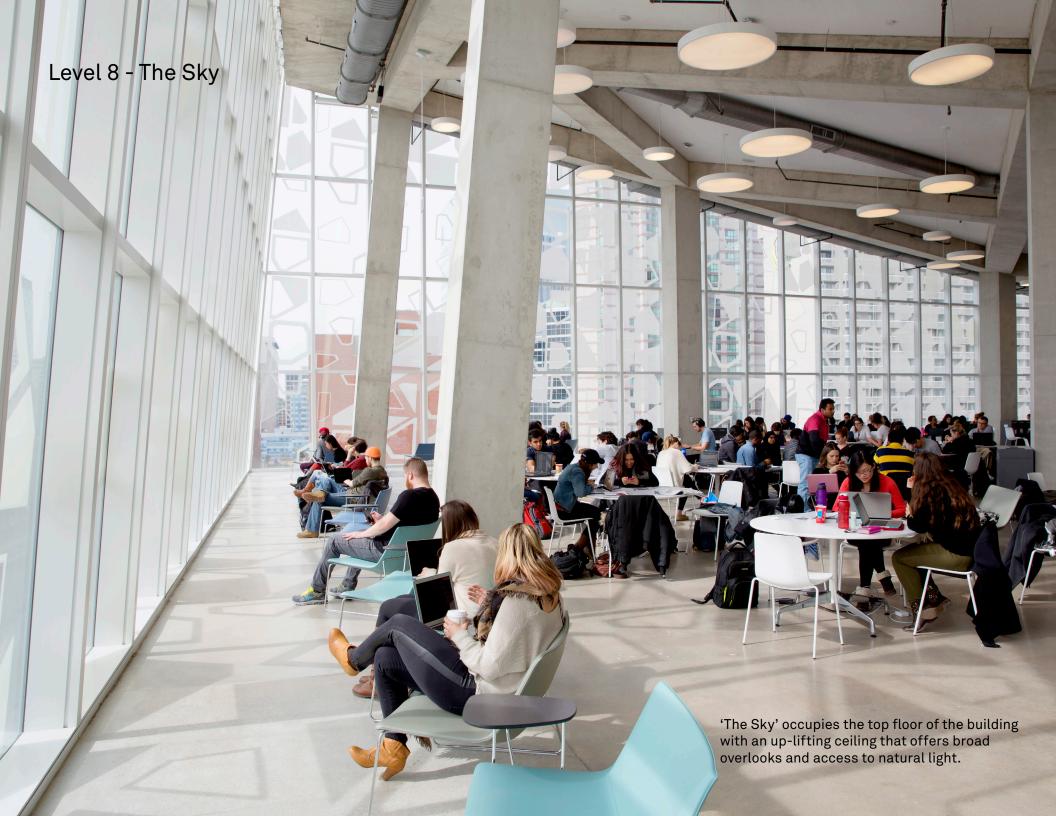


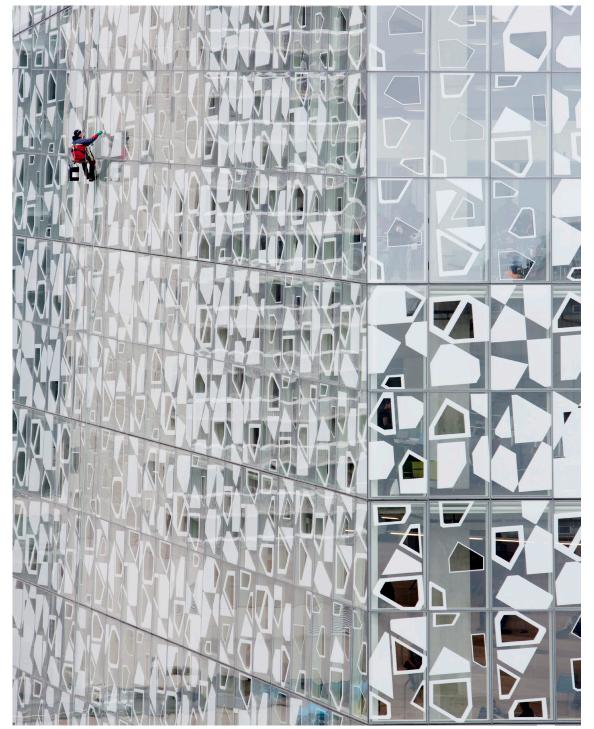








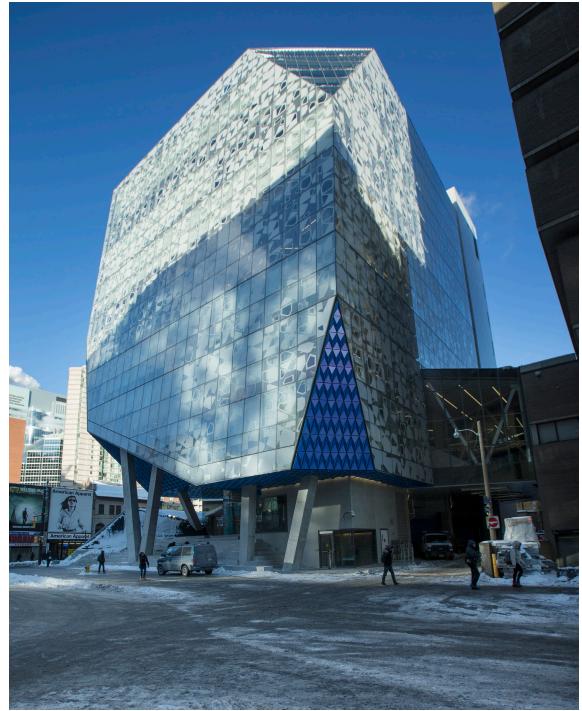






The façades of the building are composed of a digitally-printed fritted glass that envelops the rugged armature and pared-down aesthetic of the exposed concrete structure. While the glass is understood to be transparent and light, it also evokes a juxtaposing sense of solidity and mass.

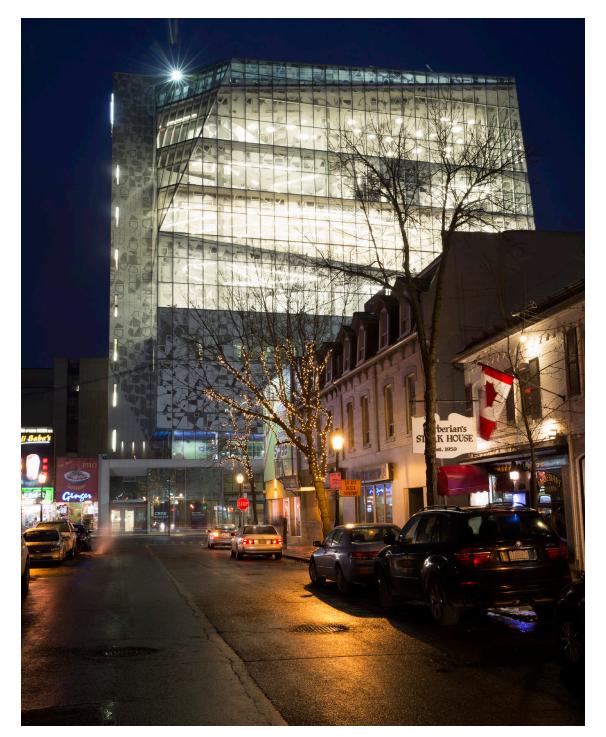




LIBRARY & ARCHIVES STUDENT LEARNING CENTRE F2

Floor Maps showing the connection between the SLC and the Ryerson University Library & Archives (RULA)

Exterior view of bridge between SLC and RULA

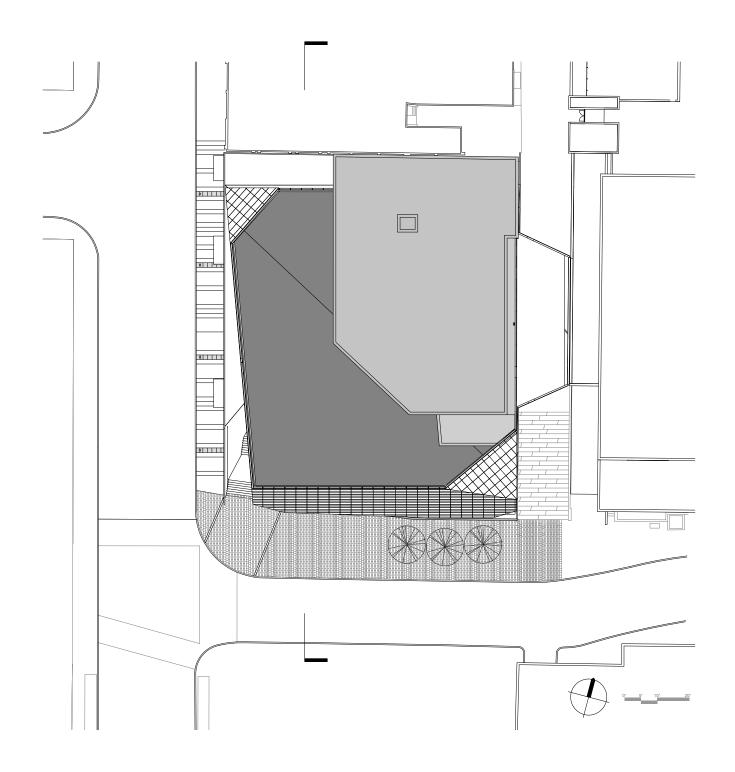


SKYSIAY FOREST FORE CHBEACH SUNSUN GARDENGARD BLUFF ALLEY BRIDGE VALLEY RETAIL

East-West Section Diagram: Each floor of the Ryerson SLC has its own unique character referring to a natural landscape, which is expressed through the interior architecture and color palette. The experience of each floor is surprising and engaging, encouraging users to pause and interact with their environment.

Nighttime view to East from Elm Street

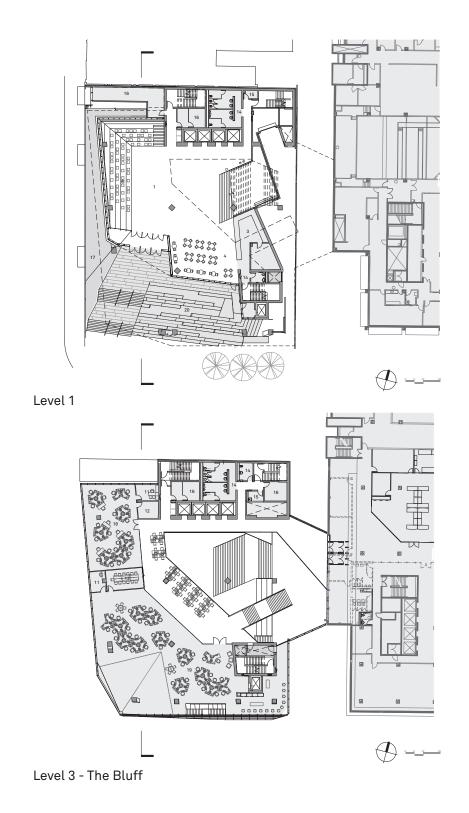


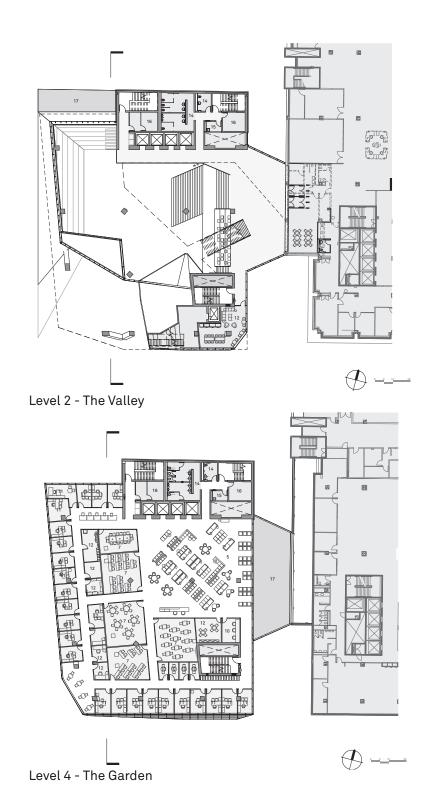


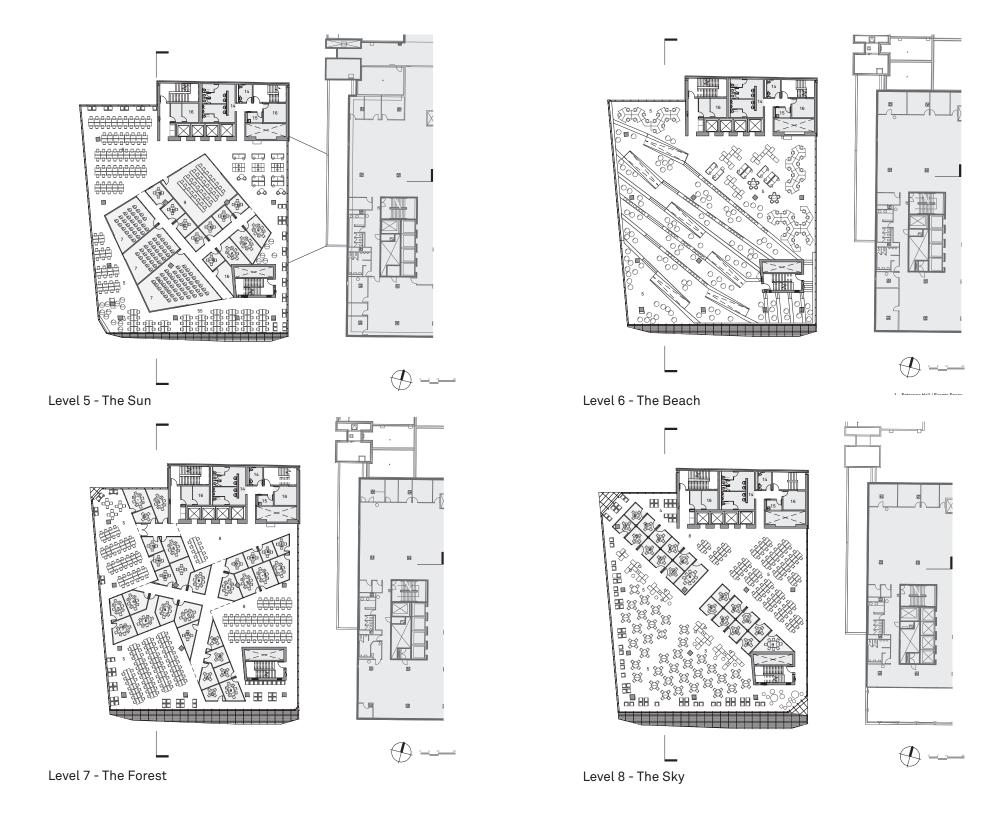


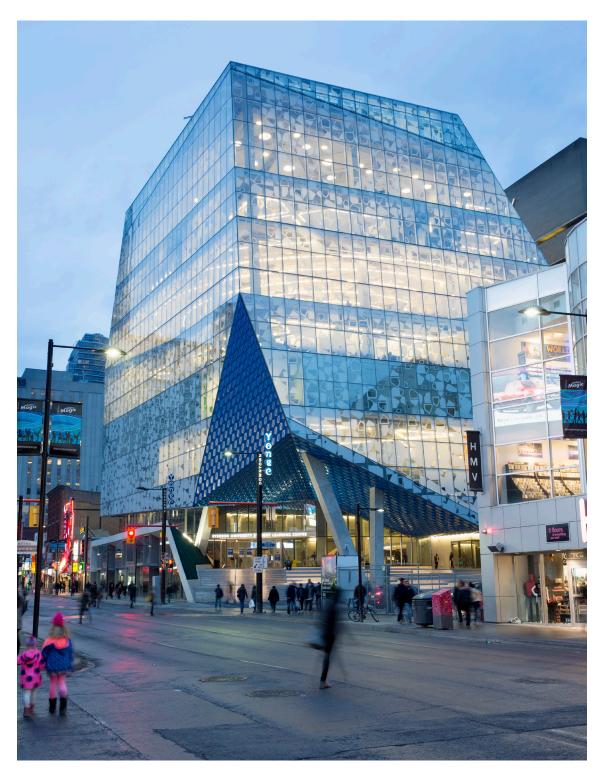
- Entrance Hall / Events Space
   Retail
- 3. Cafe
- 4. Casual Seating

- 4. Casual Seating
  5. Study Area
  6. Study Room
  7. Classroom / Seminar Room
  8. Computer Station
  9. Computer Instruction / Multimedia Lab
  10. Technology Studio / Audio Booth
  11. Office
  12. Office Support
  13. Meeting
  14. Washroom
  15. Janitor
  16. Building Services / Storage
  17. Green Roof
  18. Digital Media Suite
  19. Digital Media Zone
  20. Entry Plaza









## Statement from Ryerson University Chief Librarian Madeleine Lefebvre

Ryerson University, with few residences, is a commuter campus. The 1974 Library tower, built for 9,000 students, became completely inadequate. Students would attend classes and leave. There was little sense of community. We wanted to create a campus hub: a technologically rich, flexible and congenial library environment to inspire interaction, introspection, discovery, and innovation.

The SLC is seamlessly connected to the Library tower. Student learning support services formerly housed in the Library Commons have now been expanded in the SLC. The Digital Media Experience Lab provides a makerspace for experiential learning; develops students' digital literacy; and fosters productive collisions and innovative collaborations. The Launch Zone (part of Ryerson's zone learning network) offers entrepreneurial programming and showcases student-led projects. The Student Engagement Team ensure that students collaborate in the running of the building and coordinate a full schedule of events in the public spaces.

The SLC has become a downtown magnet for students and visitors alike. It recognizes the many ways students study and collaborate, and the multiple ways students learn outside of class. Our aim was to foster greater student engagement and success. The SLC has engendered great student pride and community spirit. Student Marissa Frosst wrote: "The SLC has a sense of welcome... Now I spend almost every day on campus... We learn more in that building than in any of our classes." Architecture professor Dr Vincent Hui wrote: "The SLC has become more than a "gateway" to the campus; it has emerged as the epitome of Ryerson's new academic plan."

#### Cost

The budget for the building was \$112 million, of which 40% came from a provincial grant. Other project funding was comprised of approximately 22% donations and 38% mortgage. Centrally funded, no library specific budget was used for the project. Additional funding was granted to the Library and other stakeholders for operating costs.