



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing



BUILDING THE FUTURE

A New Home for the School of Nursing at Columbia University

Welcome to the future home of Columbia University School of Nursing

The vibrant activity in the School's atrium will be just a microcosm of the many activities taking place throughout the modern, seven-story structure. Spaces are designed for conversation, study, social events, meetings and presentations, research collaboration, and a state-of-the-art simulation learning laboratory.







A Laboratory for Learning



A 78-year old woman presents to the emergency department complaining of shortness of breath, and of feeling anxious and dizzy. The nurse practitioner on duty in the emergency department orders supplemental oxygen and a cardiac monitor. Taking the patient's history, the NP discovers that the woman had heart bypass surgery three weeks ago. Listening to the woman's heart sounds, the NP detects the sound of a rapid, irregular heart rhythm.

"We need a 12 lead EKG, stat," she says, and the wave pattern captured by the machine confirms the NP's suspicion: rapid atrial fibrillation.

The NP quickly administers an intravenous beta blocker and continues to closely monitor the patient's heart rhythm. Ten minutes later, with no modification in the patient's heart rate, the NP moves to the next level of response and orders an intravenous calcium channel blocker. Another few anxious minutes go by, but the patient's heart rhythm and rate gradually steadies to 80 beats per minute.



This scenario is typical of what a nurse practitioner student at Columbia University School of Nursing will experience while participating in an exercise in the new simulation laboratory using state-of-the-art mannequins. The lab will help students master clinical techniques in a safe, educational environment. They will learn to apply the skills and knowledge required for the evidence-based, quality patient care they will be delivering as Columbia-educated advanced practice nurses.

The simulation center will occupy nearly two floors of the new building, more than quadrupling the School's current simulation laboratory space. It will be equipped with a variety of model healthcare settings, such as a patient's hospital room, an outpatient exam room, a critical care unit, operating room, and an emergency department. For example, in the six-bed nursing skills lab, students will learn to safely start an IV or practice wound care. As students progress, realism and complexity are added. The simulation center will be equipped with video cameras and audio equipment so instructors can play back the sequence of events and discuss with their students the real-time consequences of both action and nonaction.







Advancing Nursing Science

Knowledge exchange inspires knowledge creation.

Our new building will assist Columbia Nursing to promote an ambitious research agenda by providing much-needed space for doctoral students and faculty to share ideas and information at every phase of their work. Ample meeting rooms strategically placed throughout the building will encourage conversation and collaboration. Event spaces will enable faculty and visiting scholars from research institutions around the world to participate in colloquia for students, faculty, alumni, and the community at large.

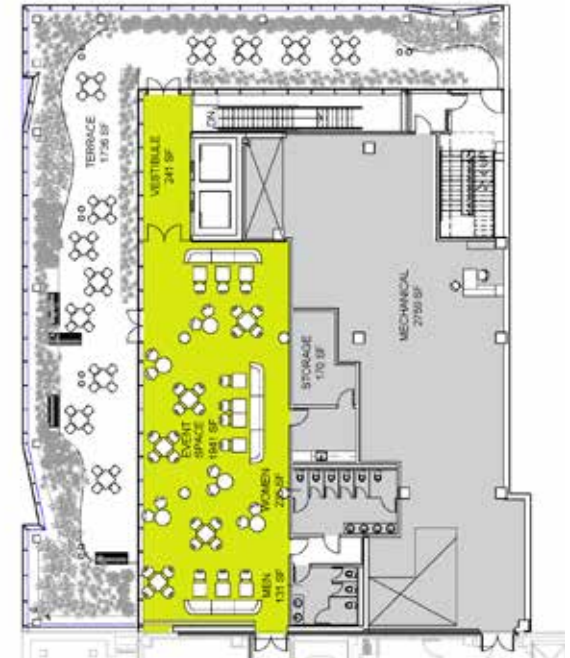
The building is also designed to create synergies between the School's clinical and research faculty. By positioning clinicians and nurse researchers in close proximity and providing a range of spaces for interaction, each will benefit from a broadening of perspectives and the enrichment of their respective endeavors.



A Culture of Learning and Community

The new building will feature abundant natural light, ample air flow and climate control, eco-friendly features, and a café where students, faculty, and staff can socialize and relax. Students and faculty will enjoy increased space for shared and collegial activities. Archival photographs and items throughout the building will provide inspirational accents, visual reminders of Columbia's historical legacy and the power of nursing. A rooftop terrace will provide additional opportunity for alumni, community and medical center partners, students, faculty, and staff to meet, unwind, and share while taking in spectacular views of upper Manhattan and beyond.





The Architects

The new building will embody the core principles of excellence in nursing. The award-winning architectural firm of CO/FX Fowle has designed a place where students and faculty will collaborate and learn from each other. Working closely with the School's administration, faculty, and students, they have conceived an advanced, environmentally sound building.

The Future of Health Care is Nursing The Future of Nursing is Columbia

Nurses are at the center of the healthcare delivery system. They care for patients who are living longer with complex chronic diseases. They are leaders in a growing variety of healthcare settings, including home care, community clinics, and skilled nursing facilities.

Columbia Nursing faces an historic opportunity. Our new building will create an environment where instructional excellence, collaborative research, and clinical distinction will flourish.



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