PROJECT: Alfred Lerner Hall

LOCATION: Columbia University in NYC, NY

ARCHITECT: Bernard Tschumi Architects & Gruzen Samton Associated Architects

PROGRAM: Meeting, Performance, & Social Space

CONSTRUCTION: 1996 to 1999

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 250,000

COST: $85 million

CONTEXTUAL DESIGN: 19TH century neoclassical academic composition, historical campus

DESIGN: Normative yet exceptional, normative exterior with an inventive interior

NAMED AFTER: Alfred Lerner, CC 1955 & Vice Chairman for the University Trustees

AWARDS: American Architecture Award
The Chicago Athenaeum
New York AIA Merit Award
New York City AIA Design Award
Time Best Design of 1999
Bernard Tschumi designed the *two distinct parts* of Alfred Lerner Hall to signify *continuity with original features* and *ultra-modern envisioning* of historic campus themes.

The 5,600-square-foot glass façade embodies central themes for the structure: *accessibility, visibility, and an open welcoming space* where students can interact *spontaneously and intentionally*. 
Two parts of the building were required to be brick following the ‘Flemish’ bond to create a relationship with the historic McKim, Mead, and White’s master plan.

The in-between of the two brick wings consists of an innovative, light, glass structure.

The design holds normative framework and historical constraints, while providing an innovative, programmatic space people can relate with.
The student center is like a *small city*, a *dynamic hub* that acts as a *major social space*.

The design is to create a *student city* within Columbia University City within New York City.

Consists of *public & semi-public activities* that help define public space.

New center acts as a *forum, dynamic place of exchange*.
The design strategy follows the **volumetric plan of 1890**.

Required functional rooms to be placed within **double rectangular volumes** (i.e. Broadway and Campus wings.)
Large public spaces placed between two rectangular volumes (i.e. main lobby, auditorium, black box theater)

The two traditional wings are connected with a system of ramps with organized program along them.
1. Auditorium
2. Campus Auditorium
3. Book Store Entrance
4. Broadway
5. Mail Services
6. Main Kitchen/Catering
7. Part Space [second level]
8. Cinema/Auditorium Balcony
9. Dining
10. Student Mailboxes
11. Computer Lab
12. Copy Center
13. Double Discovery Center

LIGHTING
14. Black Box Theater
15. Multi-purpose Room
16. Lobby/Lounge
17. Conference Rooms
18. Student Clubs
“A restful building, externally, respecting its context, and internally, a stimulating space for a varied and complex program”

Tschumi was forced to incorporate the historical context of Columbia University. McKim, Mead, and White established the Flemish bond with red brick and gray concrete. Many of the buildings contain major neoclassical aspects of design.
The façade begins as a typical symmetrical layout, then Tschumi begins to *deconstruct* the campus corner to turn into the in-between with increased glass and *visibility*.
The *unconventional* atrium space is rather *inventive* to accommodate the site location.

The Columbia campus is *half a story higher than the city* on the Broadway side.

The floors are stacked every *12 feet on the campus side*, while the *Broadway side they are every 6 feet* and connected by *simple ramps*.
CAMPUS AXIS

HIGH DENSITY
LEVEL 3

- auditorium
- kitchen
- computers
- discovery center
- mail boxes
Along with using the grid off existing architectural style, the **golden section** was used to separate spaces.
BROADWAY TRAFFIC
VERTICLE CIRCULATION
The **RED** ribbon ties the program to the vertical circulation. The program is wrapped around the connecting ramps to provide an inventive design solution for the in-between.
Resources

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/archive/2/22/20080519112232!New_York_City_at_night_HDR.jpg
http://i.cnn.net/money/_element/img/1.0/sections/mag/fsb/bestcolleges/2007/galleries/columbia_university.jpg
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http://www.tschumi.com/
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http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/McKim_Mead_and_White.html

Architectural Record
Architettura
Columbia University Archives