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## Design Awards 2017

Iwan Baan



## THE ROY AND DIANA VAGELOS EDUCATION CENTER

DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO WITH GENSLER  
NEW YORK, NY

Diller Scofidio + Renfro's Roy and Diana Vagelos Education Center at the Columbia University Medical Center in Upper Manhattan might seem like a greatest-hits compendium if so many familiar motifs from the firm's most celebrated works were not so skillfully readapted to this commission's complex programmatic requirements. Some decisions were merely formal, such as the 14-story building's exterior articulation, in which portions of the glass-fiber reinforced concrete cladding seem to flow outward and then fold back to embrace a floor above or below – like a taller version of the firm's unbuilt Eyebeam Museum of Art and Technology (2001), or perhaps lasagna emerging from a pasta machine.

Other reiterations are directly related to function. DS+R's 275-seat multipurpose auditorium, with one glass wall overlooking a dramatic view of the Hudson River, evokes both the harbor-front theater at their Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston, built in 2006, as well as the firm's superb reworking of the similarly wood-paneled Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center (2009). And several variations of the architects' signature see-and-be-seen bleacher-style seating, both outdoors and indoors here, reiterate a wildly popular feature at the ICA, the High Line, and Lincoln Center.

Not least of the Vagelos Center's many wonders is how well it manages to cram 110,000 square feet of gross floor area onto a site of only 100 by 125 feet, while maintaining an illusion of lofty, unlimited expansiveness throughout. Even the cleverest of Japanese architects working on a handkerchief-sized Tokyo lot never made better use of such a severely restricted site.

### Diller Scofidio + Renfro Design Team

Elizabeth Diller, Ricardo Scofidio, AIA, Charles Renfro, AIA, Benjamin Gilmartin, AIA, Anthony Saby, Chris Hillyard, AIA, Chris Andreacola, AIA, David Chacon, AIA, Christopher Kupski, AIA, LEED AP, Barak Pliskin, AIA, LEED AP, Kevin Rice, AIA, Gerard Sullivan, AIA, Mary Broaddus, Charles Curran, Robert Donnelly, Amber Foo, Yoon-Young Hur, Joshua Jow, Andreas Kostopoulos, Joseph Dart Messick, Patrick Ngo, Matt Ostrow, Stefano Paiocchi, Jesse Saylor, Jack Solomon, Hallie Terzopolos, Elizabeth Wizecarver

### Gensler Design Team

Madeline Burke-Vigeland, AIA, LEED AP, Kristian Gregerson, AIA, Ambrose Aliaga-Kelly, AIA, Joanne Fernando, AIA, Jinho Kim, AIA, Michelle Neary, AIA, Bill DuBois, Ana Espejo, Mariano Ortiz, Henry Hong, RA, Scott Wilson, AIA

### Collaborators

Scape, 2x4, Buro Happold Consulting Engineers, Cerami Associates, Cini-Little International, Group PMX, Jaros Baum & Bolles, Jenkins & Huntington, Leslie E. Robertson Associates, Milrose Consultants, Sciam Construction, Thornton Tomasetti, Tillotson Design Associates, Vidaris

This perception is owed in large part to stairways and double-height spaces that link two- or three-story units of related activities, which the architects call “neighborhoods.” This tactic also fosters a sense of community and intimacy so often lacking in scientific facilities. As might be expected, DS+R shuns the cliché feel-good strategies standardly used to humanize hospitals: pastel colors, green plants, and cheery artworks. Instead, a warm palette of affordable materials in orange-brown tones – terra-cotta-colored terrazzo, end-grain wood flooring, and stained Douglas fir paneling – is juxtaposed against crisp white wall surfaces to great effect and mutual benefit.

Although Vagelos is hemmed in toward the river by three banal 1970s residential towers (built as affordable housing but later taken over by Columbia for its own use), it’s amazing how the new structure, budgeted at \$185 million, maximizes stunning vistas in all directions, and makes those looming hulks all but disappear.

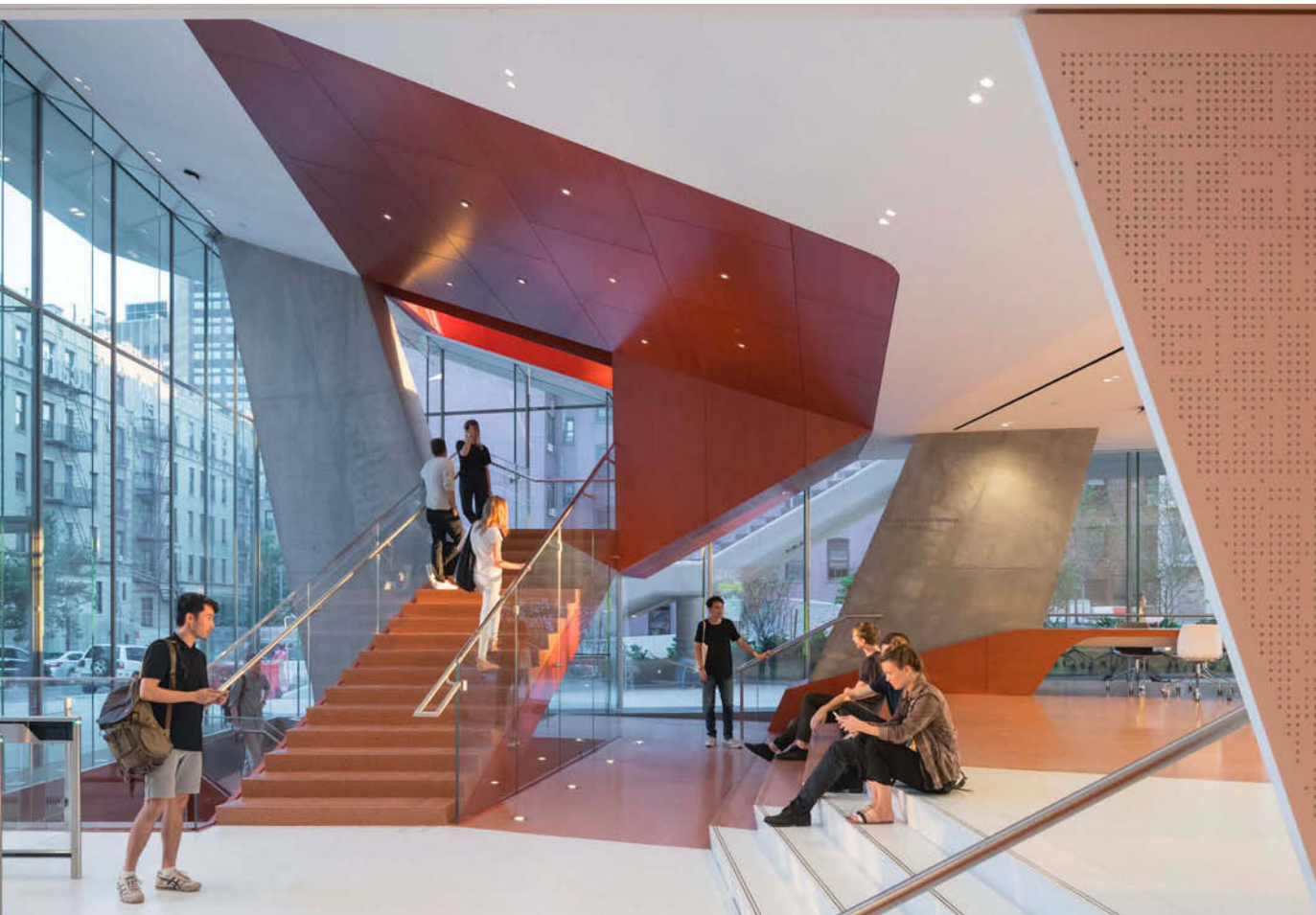
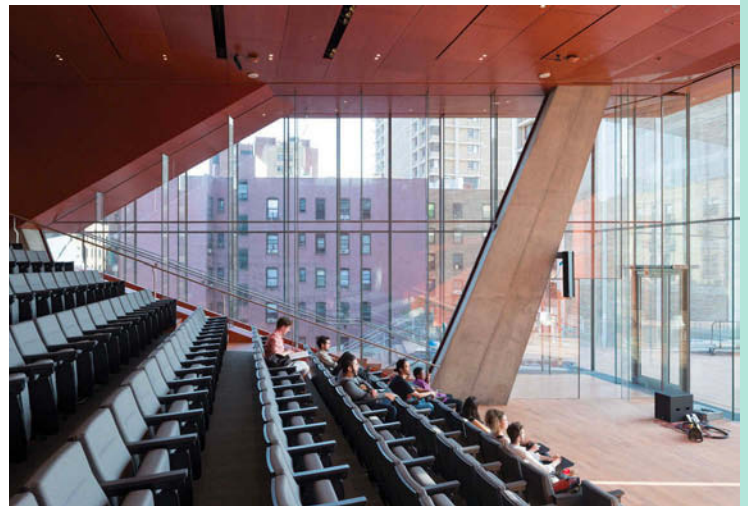
DS+R’s keen urbanistic instincts prompt recall of yet another of their earlier masterstrokes: the radical but wholly convincing transformation of Pietro Belluschi’s travertine-encased Juilliard School of Music into a glass-walled showcase that advertises the institution’s educational activities high above Broadway. The Vagelos Center, located several blocks north of the medical center’s original 1928 buildings, would have felt marooned without an equivalent connection.

To relate the new outpost to the main campus, the architects placed study and social spaces in the south-facing portion of the building to display the life of the school through a glass curtain wall that creates a direct visual link in both directions. Clinical

and technical facilities (which include anatomy laboratories and spaces where doctor/patient interactions can be simulated) are consigned to the building’s more enclosed portions on the north side, with a central elevator core that demarcates the separation between dedicated and common spaces.

There are but two things we can lament about this thoroughly exhilarating scheme. One is that very few of us were educated in such extraordinary architectural surroundings. The other is that even fewer among the general public will ever be able to get inside this ingenious gem in Washington Heights.

*Martin Filler is the architecture critic for the New York Review of Books and the recipient of the 2017 Stephen A. Kliment Oculus Award.*



Albert Vecerka/Esto



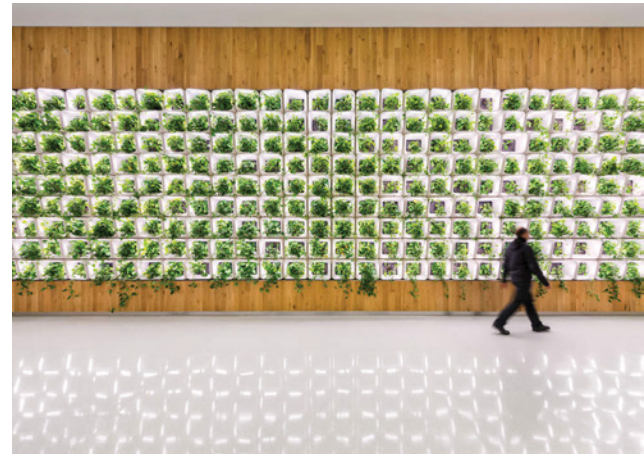
## PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING CENTER II

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL  
BRONX, NY

To mitigate its monolithic appearance, Public Safety Answering Center II (PSAC II) is clad in a serrated façade made of recycled aluminum, which gives the perfect cube a sense of asymmetry and dynamism. The blast-resistant, 450,000-square-foot structure receives more than 12 million calls per year and augments the PSAC I, a facility in downtown Brooklyn. Both centers are responsible for 911 emergency call intake and dispatch.

Designed to operate continuously, the new center can maintain communication under the most adverse conditions, such as a natural disaster or terrorist attack. If necessary, the center can operate independent of the PSAC I, due to double backup systems located on the mechanical floors. Below is a 50,000-square-foot, L-shaped call room with ceilings that approximate three stories. Within this highly stressful working environment, call takers and dispatchers can find some respite in the green wall that's located in the lobby and cafeteria area. The nine-acre site features a wraparound sculptural berm of wild grasses, adding a layer of protection combined with a series of bollards and anti-ram walls.

In addition to drought-resistant landscaping, the LEED Gold Certified building has low-flow fixtures, storm-water collection, and low-volatile organic compound-emitting materials. A project of the New York City Department of Design and Construction, the building is owned and managed by the city's Department of Citywide Administrative Services. Technology systems are managed by the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and call taking and dispatch are under the purview of the NYPD and FDNY.



### Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Design Team

Gary Haney, FAIA, RIBA, Laura Ettelman, AIA, Peter Magill, AIA, Carl Galioto, FAIA, Stephen Apking, FAIA, Mark Regulinski, AIA, Nicholas Holt, AIA, LEED AP, Emily Mottolese, LEED AP, Mark Leininger, Joseph Sacco, Rob Rothblatt, Cynthia Mirbach, Carl Brown, Lesley Campbell, Ross Goldsworthy

### Collaborators

Thornton Tomasetti, Jaros Baum & Bolles, Philip Habib & Associates, Van Deusen & Associates, Langan, Thomas Balsley Associates, Domingo Gonzalez Associates, Tishman Construction, Milrose Consultants, Shen Milson & Wilke, Lebowitz/Gould, Vidaris, Ellana, Hopkins Foodservice Specialists

# SQUARESPACE GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

A+I  
NEW YORK, NY

Once part of a bustling printing district in the mid-1900s, New York City's historic Maltz Building is now the home for Squarespace, a leading website publishing platform. The 100,000-square-foot headquarters occupies three full floors, a roof deck, and an expansive ground-floor lobby/event space. Its design expresses the company's brand and values with a highly functional, elegant workplace that reflects the sophistication of the company's products.

The design process began with a three-month workplace strategy exercise, which identified the company's working style and values. The designers found that Squarespace requires a fluidity in team collaborations that varies from project to project, as well as spaces where employees can easily move between individual work and group environments.

Honoring Squarespace's aesthetic commitment to minimalism and timeless elegance, the architecture avoids bright colors, and introduces depth, texture, and warmth with polished concrete floors, custom black concrete desks, leather benches, and walnut accents. Along the main circulation paths, dark wood slats are used for wall treatment. Visitors circulating between floors encounter an interior landscape of trees and low planters.

The office includes sophisticated work-lifestyle amenities, such as the 5,000-square-foot multifunctional ground-floor lobby, formerly the building's loading dock, which features rotating art installations and can serve as event space. There is also a library, a large roof deck, and a panorama bar on the 12th floor. This purposeful variety of spaces offers room to work, collaborate, relax, and socialize in a refined yet relaxed environment.



Magda Bierniet

## A+I Design Team

Eliane Maillot, LEED AP, Brita Everett, AIA, LEED AP, Cheryl Baxter, LEED AP, Tim Aarsen, Katina Kremelberg, Meg Kalinowski, Ryan Erb, Alan Calixto

## Collaborators

Severud Associates, New York Green Roofs, Lighting Workshop, Cerami & Associates, TM Technology Partners, Vidaris, JRM Construction Management, Gardiner & Theobald, James A. Davella Consulting, Brookbridge Consulting Services





## NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY RED HOOK HOUSES – SANDY RESILIENCY & RENEWAL PROGRAM

KOHN PEDERSEN FOX ASSOCIATES  
BROOKLYN, NY

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc on the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Red Hook Houses and the more than 6,000 residents living in its 28 buildings. With floodwaters reaching up to five feet, the storm caused significant damage to the boiler plants and mechanical and electrical systems due to basement flooding, affecting heat, hot water, and power service. The damage left residents with no access to basic necessities, including food and medical assistance, for weeks. Multiple community workshops helped develop a masterplan that makes the area less vulnerable to natural disasters like Sandy, and improves the sustainability and condition of the buildings and surroundings.

New York City Housing Authority Red Hook Houses – Sandy Resiliency & Renewal Program includes two above ground freestanding buildings to house boilers, and 14 utility pods that will be dispersed throughout the development to provide heat and electricity. Decentralizing infrastructure protects against future storms by decreasing the likelihood of widespread utility failure. To provide floor protection to buildings and entrances, raised areas called “Lily Pads,” located within the internal courtyards between buildings, will create permanent flood barriers to support a secure and porous campus. Typically, these areas will be accessible by stairs and ramps and have playgrounds and green spaces on top; during flooding, passive barriers and a floodwall will protect the areas until the water recedes. These areas will also transform the experience of residents and guests by providing vibrant social spaces.



Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates

### Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates Design Team

Jill Lerner, FAIA, Douglas Hocking, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Hana Kassem, AIA, LEED AP, Jerri Smith, LEED AP, Devin Ratliff, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Frank Cruz, AIA, Al Wei, Paulina Kolodziejczyk, Ilkay Can Standard, Scott Savage, Dan Choi, Jason Danforth, Jenny Martin

### Collaborators

New York City Housing Authority, Arup, Distinct Engineering Solutions, Olin Studio, Tillett Lighting Design Associates, LiRo Group, Code Consultants, CodeNYC, Arup, Li Saltzman, Vidaris, Friday Group, VJ Associates