



RICE UNIVERSITY  
Kraft Hall for Social Sciences



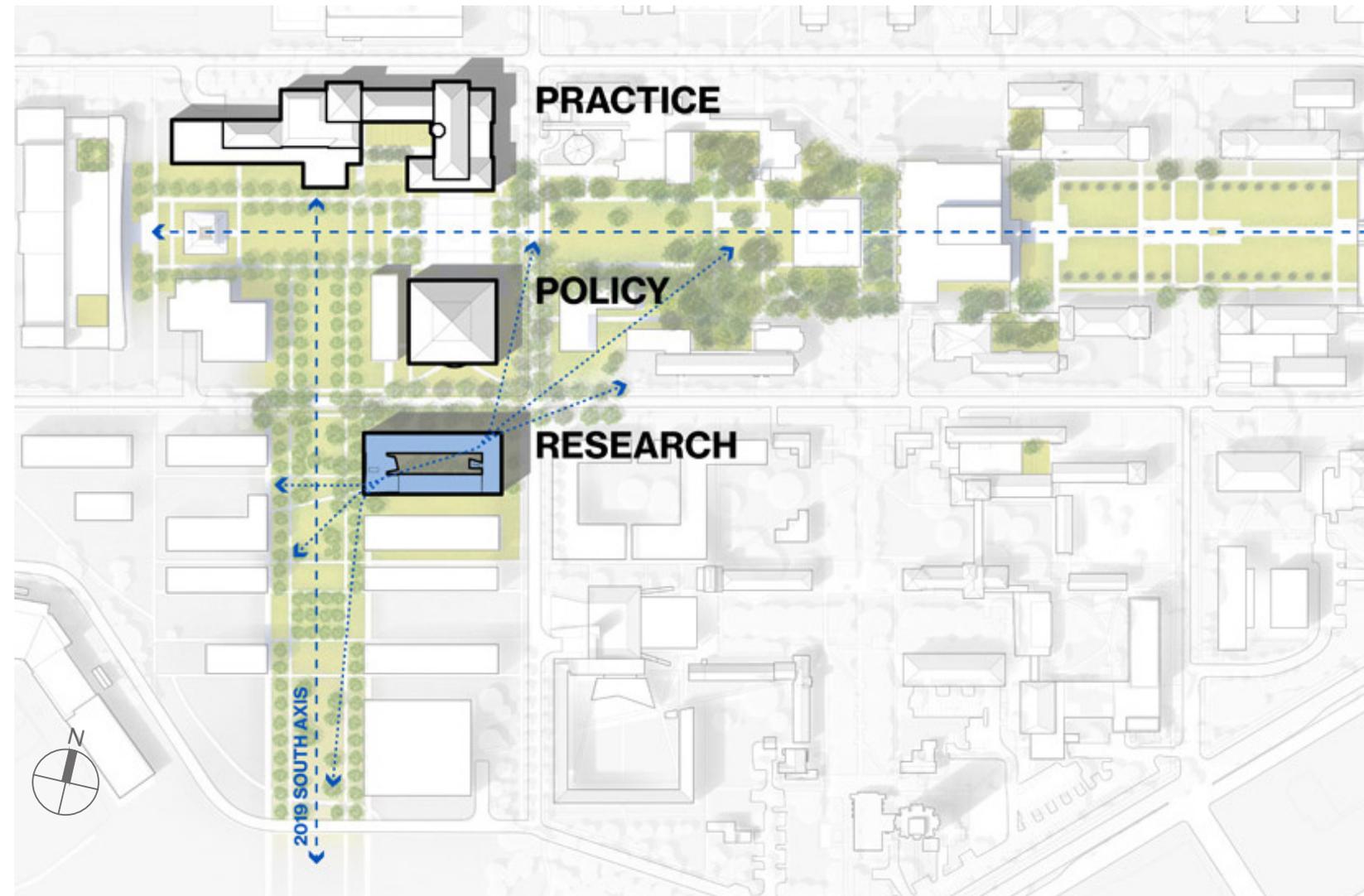
# KEY FEATURES

- Site selection, planning and programming for broad campus impact
- Space for collaboration, relaxation, and serendipitous encounters
- Environment that connects interior with exterior
- Optimized natural light throughout
- Internal pathways and stairs designed for ease of navigation
- Durable and maintainable material choices
- Building, landscape, and streetscape contribute to sense of place
- Integrated demand reduction controls that reduce energy use
- Native gulf coast plants provide habitat and mitigate irrigation demands

# GROWING THE CAMPUS

## Implementing the New South Axis & Predesign Process

- The first building on the new south axis, Kraft Hall tests more efficient land use with added height and FAR.
- Kraft Hall was designed with a primary entrance toward the existing main campus and a future primary entrance toward the planned south axis.
- The project creates dynamic yet seamless connections to the campus, while the building is elevated five feet above existing grade to rise above the flood plain.
- The building brings together two academic departments, four research institutes and centers, and the dean's office, all of which were previously dispersed across the campus.
- The siting and design anticipate a future addition to bring more of the school's departments together.







# RESPECTING THE CAMPUS FABRIC

## Massing, Courtyards, Materiality, Storytelling

- An in-depth study of Rice campus typologies informed the design of diverse and flexible spaces for students and faculty that fit within the overall campus context.
- The ground floor emphasizes transparency, but also echoes the human-scale detailing of historic campus buildings.
- Kraft Hall brings together traditional campus materials such as cast stone and St. Joe brick with more contemporary materials such as perforated aluminum and curtain wall to maximize natural light and views for offices.
- Serpentine stone panels salvaged from renovated campus buildings were incorporated to establish a tactile thread with the historic materiality of the campus.

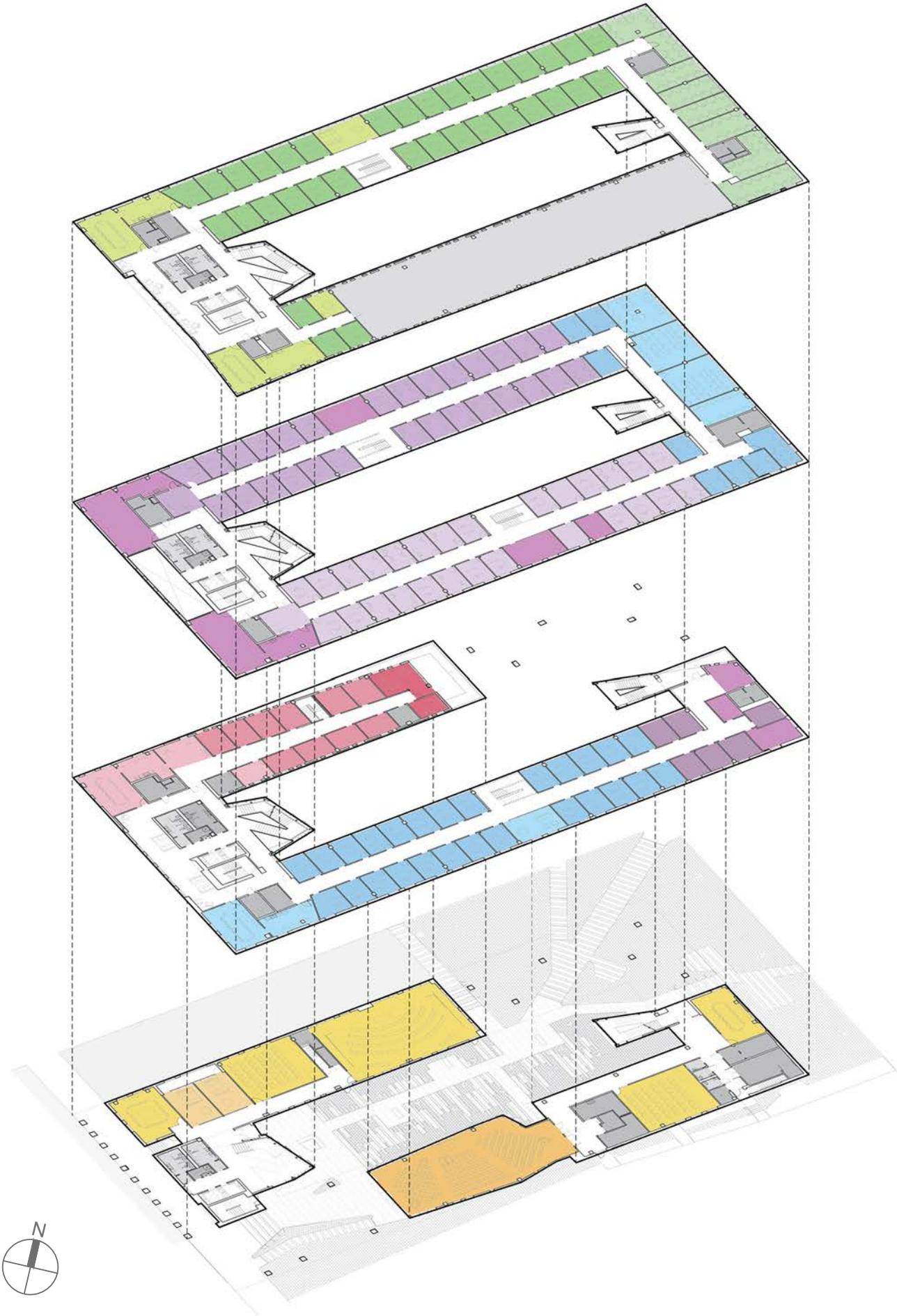


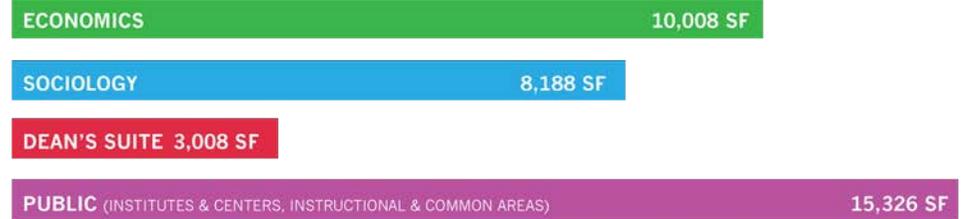


# PROGRAM

The new School of Social Sciences combines multiple research institutions within one building to serve the largest section of the University's undergraduate population. Accommodating Rice's Economics and Sociology departments as well as four research institutes: the Kinder Institute for Urban Research; the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC); the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance; and the Texas Policy Lab, the building will also house the Dean's Suite and innovative classroom, collaboration, and event spaces for students, faculty, and visitors.

-  Classrooms
-  Student Lounges
-  School of Social Sciences Function Hall
-  Administration
-  Sociology
-  Texas Policy | 2nd Floor
-  Kinder | HERC Research | 3rd Floor
-  Economics

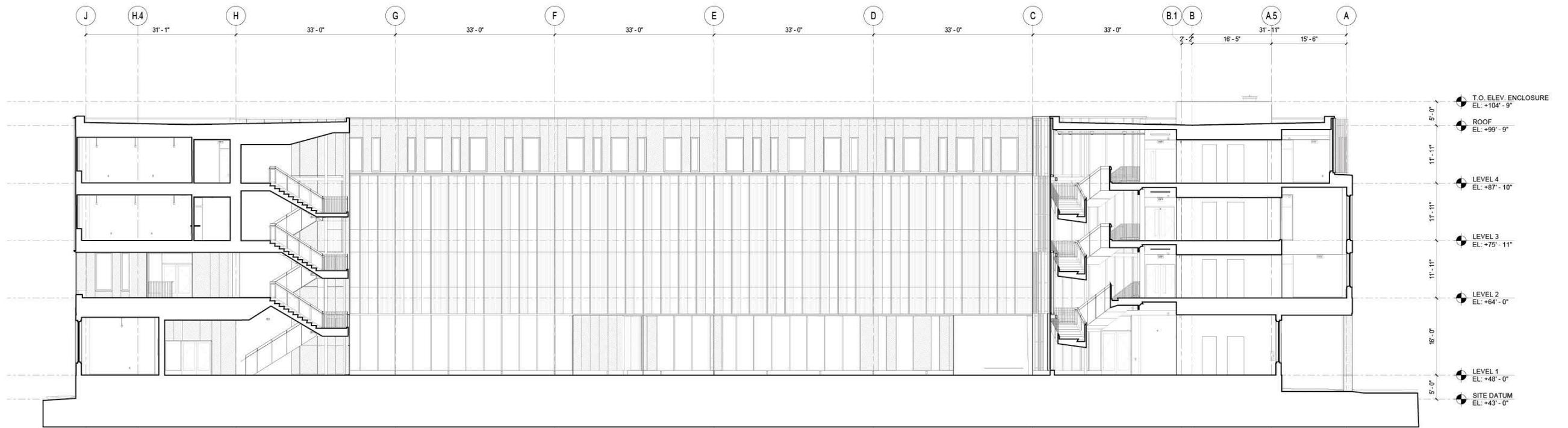




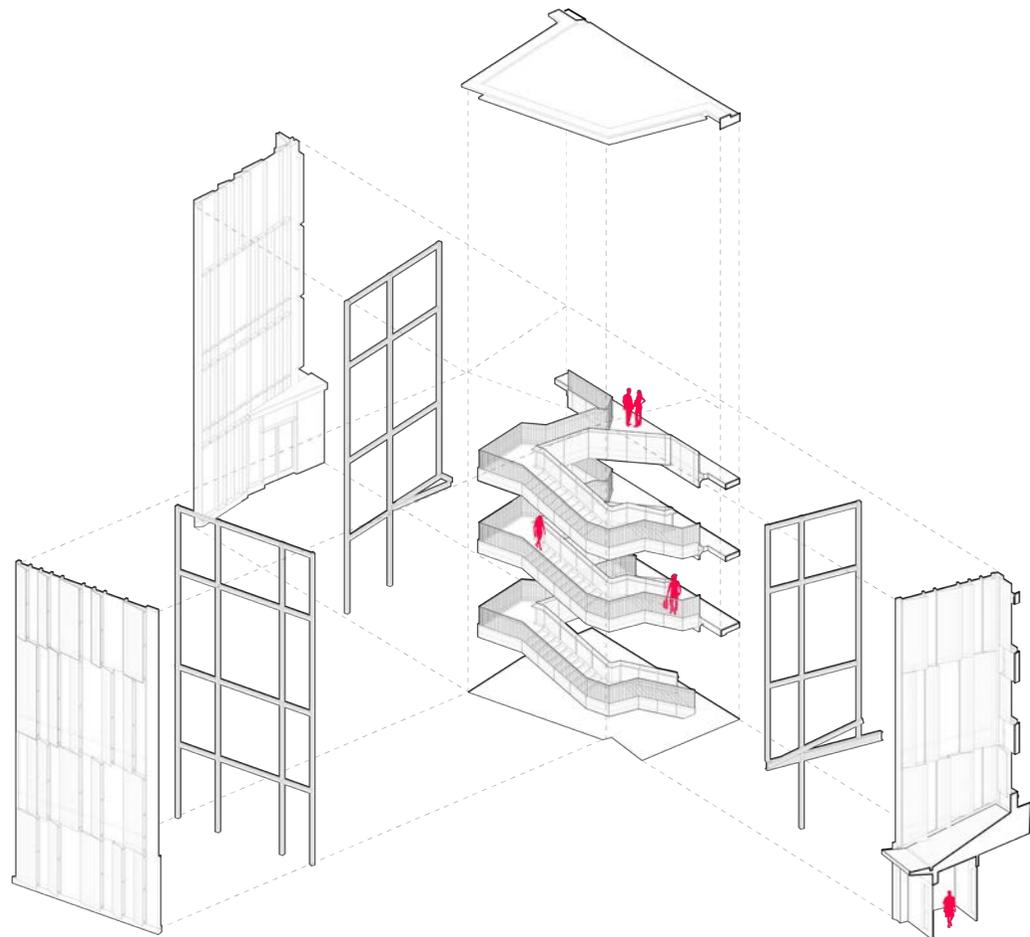
## COLLABORATION & FLEXIBILITY

### Stairs, Lounges, Outdoor Spaces, Office Modules

- Informal spaces are clustered around stairways and circulation routes to foster impromptu meetings.
- Classrooms and larger public spaces located on the ground floor are put on display for the campus learning environment.
- A multi-purpose event space to support a diverse mix of university-wide programs.
- Developed in conversation with faculty and staff, the office module was standardized to allow for future growth and flexibility in moving programs throughout the building. The module accommodates a single tenured faculty member, or 2 adjunct faculty members or administrative staff, or up to five graduate student carrels.



Section looking South



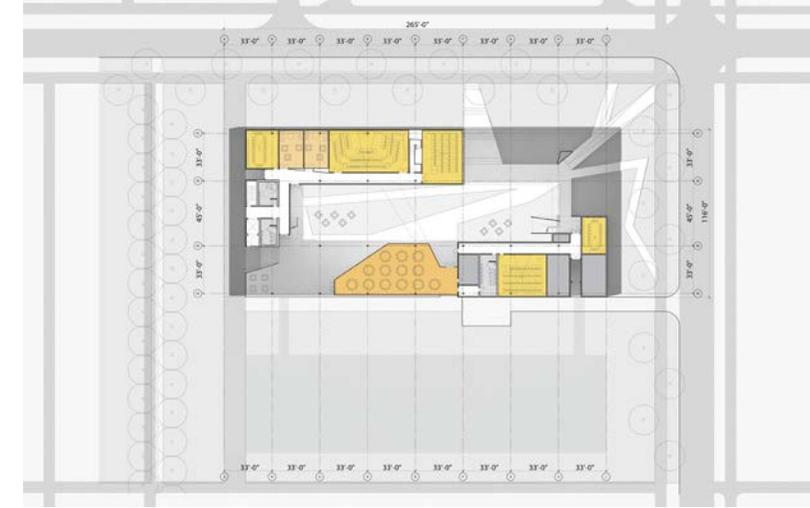
Stair Exploded Axo



# DESIGNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## Massing, Courtyards, Materiality, Storytelling

- Solar studies informed a curtain wall design that shields offices and classrooms from glare and extensive solar heat gain while enabling comfortable daylighting throughout.
- LEED Silver Certified.
- Kraft Hall includes energy efficiency measures as well as integrated demand reduction controls for targeted energy use reductions during peak demand times.
- A landscape of native gulf coast plants provides habitat for local fauna while reducing irrigation demands.
- The building's mass and envelope take advantage of the climate to amplify breezes and mediate heat and sun.







# INTEGRATED DESIGN PROCESS

## CMAR Delivery and Collaborative Approach

- BIM model allowed for complete coordination of systems with construction team early and throughout the process.
- CMAR Delivery allowed for cost checkpoints throughout the design process at each design phase milestone to keep project on budget and on schedule.
- Detailed working sessions with the construction team enabled thorough vetting of potential constructability issues prior to issuance of construction documents.
- Schedule developed with the client to ensure an efficient and timely delivery of the project while maintaining appropriate time for review by university stakeholders.
- The process involved principals from the full consulting team, including the Construction Manager, early in the process.



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Under Inaugural for Urban Research