



GUELPH HUMBER BUILDING, HUMBER COLLEGE: ETOBICOKE, ONTARIO



Firm's Role

Sustainable Design Consulting

Description

The Guelph-Humber Building at Humber College, a Superbuild Project, is a joint initiative between the University of Guelph and Humber College. The 10,000 m² (100,000 ft²) building contains lecture halls, classrooms, computer labs and offices.

The most visible feature is a four-storey Living/Breathing Wall, the focal point of the atrium. The Living Wall acts as a biofilter, removing indoor air pollution, circulating clean air through indoor environments, and producing a passive evaporative cooling effect. The Wall has the added benefit of having a positive psychological effect on building occupants.

Features

- Displacement ventilation in the lecture halls, with supply air distribution facilitated by raised floors
- Atrium, facilitating displacement ventilation by allowing natural buoyancy forces to carry warm air to ceiling where return air is mechanically exhausted
- Daylighting atrium
- Operable windows, allowing free cooling, which reduces cooling loads and contributes to occupant comfort
- Biofiltration via a four-storey Living/Breathing Wall

Architect: Diamond & Schmitt Architects

Owner: University of Guelph

Status: Completed 2003