Penn Connects 2.0 outlines opportunities for integrating knowledge and learning across the University’s 12 schools: School of Arts and Sciences; School of Dental Medicine; Annenberg School for Communication; School of Design; Graduate School of Education; School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Penn Law; Perelman School of Medicine; School of Nursing; School of Social Policy and Practice; School of Veterinary Medicine; and the Wharton School. Penn’s compact campus, where all 12 schools are located within a 10 minute walk of one another, enables students to combine theoretical learning and practical thinking across disciplines. Penn Connects 2.0 enhances the compact nature of the campus by locating several new academic priority projects within the core of the University and by proposing significant renovation and reinvestment in existing academic facilities. Several new construction and renovation projects are proposed in Phase 2 (2011-2015) to support the academic mission.

New Construction

Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology

Conceived as a seminal collaboration between two schools—the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of Arts and Sciences—the Singh Center for Nanotechnology will create a world-class research facility bringing science and technology together in one place. This regional center for cutting-edge innovation will serve nanotech researchers from across Penn’s campus as well as neighboring institutions. The Center’s landscaped courtyard will serve as a welcoming campus gateway along Walnut Street. A dramatic cantilevered forum for lectures and events and a galleria where visitors can watch scientists at work behind glass will promote nanotech understanding.
New Construction

Golkin Hall

Golkin Hall will afford a more intimate and harmoniously connected Penn Law, reinvigorated for a growing law school community. Its flexible seminar and collaborative study spaces, moot court room, auditorium, and cafe have been thoughtfully designed to promote interaction among faculty, students, and staff, and to foster the collaborative scholarship for which Penn Law is widely known. The carefully scaled Sansom Street facade, featuring Flemish-bond brickwork and marble accents, contextually acknowledges the neighboring Silverman Hall while announcing a modern entrance for today’s law community. The beloved Law School courtyard has been restored, and is joined by new roof gardens and an enhanced streetscape along historic Sansom Row.

Steinberg Hall – Dietrich Hall

The Wharton School’s new four-story addition to the west side of Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall will feature a beaconing new entrance and provide an inviting courtyard. Inside the building, two large tiered classrooms will be joined by collaborative group study spaces, seminar rooms and faculty offices. The exterior limestone and glazed facades will complement the existing Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall, while establishing a meaningful granite-paved plaza and glowing facade facing the Class of ’62 Walkway along 37th Street.

High Bay Research Lab

Penn astronomers and a team of international researchers are developing the most highly sensitive telescope of its kind to be carried by balloon. BLAST: The Balloon-borne Large-Aperture Sub-millimeter Telescope helps researchers understand the formation and evolution of stars and galaxies. Astronomers carefully construct this telescope within the new high bay lab, bringing it outdoors on a bright yellow steel beam for calibration with the stars, before eventually sending the telescope on its balloon trip; once the telescope returns to Earth, it must be reconstructed in the laboratory before future missions. The nearly cube-shaped design features a 42’ high ceiling, exposed structural steel framing, and a crane beam and glass sliding doors for moving the BLAST telescope indoors or out. A distinctive showcase window on Walnut Street affords passers-by a visual learning experience as they see astronomers at work.

Neural Behavioral Sciences Building

A revolution is happening in brain science as researchers connect human biology with human behavior and consciousness. The Neural Behavioral Sciences Building will put Penn students and faculty at the forefront of that revolution. The NBS building will bring together under one roof the Psychology and Biology Departments, the Biological Basis of Behavior Program, and the Penn Genomics Institute, creating a vital hub for life sciences at Penn. NBS will include new laboratory classrooms, study spaces, an auditorium and cafe. The strategic location along University Avenue, in close proximity to the School of Arts and Sciences, Perelman School of Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, and Dental Schools, will spark integration of knowledge, teaching and research among these fields.
Medical Education Center

Providing a world-class medical education is vital to safeguarding the health of our nation and the world. No institution has been doing this longer or with greater standards of excellence than the University of Pennsylvania. The new Medical Education Center will be at the heart of The Perelman School of Medicine’s historic home on Hamilton Walk, greeting the campus community with a new entrance on axis with 36th Street Walk and connecting with the Life Sciences precinct to the west and the Nursing and Medical precinct along Guardian Drive to the south. The new center will feature study spaces, seminar rooms, a reconfigured Biomedical Library and a café. New classrooms will be flexible and technology-friendly to reflect medicine’s new emphasis on team learning and information sharing. This collaborative environment, supported by new administrative and admissions departments will continue to make Penn Medicine’s students extraordinary healers.

Meyerson Hall

PennDesign is engaged, every day, in the discussion and development of new ideas. While these creative ideas are fostered in numerous facilities, the core of the School of Design radiates from Meyerson Hall. Its prime location at 34th and Walnut streets and fronting College Green is at an important gateway to Penn. In order to prepare the next generation of PennDesign planners and designers the School's studios, critique spaces, and its research and faculty offices will be realigned with an interactive pedagogy, enhanced sustainability and greater community awareness. The planned renovations will provide a new welcome doorstep facing Walnut Street and announce the studio life of the School to the campus community.

University Museum West Wing

The completed first phase of work to the Museum’s historic West Wing included refurbishment of public galleries and the creation of a teaching laboratory for ceramic petrography. The next phase will restore the architecturally unique Widener Lecture Hall, which will return to its original function as a beautiful public event space after several decades of use as a behind-the-scenes preparation area for exhibitions. Additional planned work will include a new state-of-the-art suite of conservation labs and several additional teaching and research labs. The addition of climate control throughout the West Wing, together with replacement of the windows with historically accurate but airtight and energy efficient versions, will significantly enhance the Penn Museum visitor experience and provide greater protection and stability for the artifacts on display.
This fifth and final phase of work within Penn Law’s gracious Silverman Hall will be comprised of renovations to multiple lecture halls, seminar rooms, and meeting spaces. With the completion of Golkin Hall and the relocation of the School’s Development Offices to the new building, subdivided former spaces will be returned to their original grandeur, while being outfitted with state-of-the-art classroom technology and conference support amenities.

The latest upgrades to Vance Hall greet prospective Wharton MBA candidates in a comfortable ground floor Admissions Suite featuring enhanced finishes bathed in natural light, befitting the home of the country’s leading business school. On the second floor, colorful new furnishings highlight the School’s innovative Information Technology Suite and its support spaces.

The new Special Collections Center atop the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center has recently completed Phase 1 with a dramatic facelift, featuring a central glazed pavilion, reading room and student study lounge all in the treetops overlooking College Green. Phase 2 will add new seminar rooms and a Shakespeare Library completing the 6th floor’s transformation into an intellectual commons designed to make rare books and special collections more usable and visible, opening up new possibilities for teaching and learning for the Penn community, visiting scholars, and the public. Its stunning rooftop views of the city and campus will emphasize what has always distinguished Penn from its peers when it comes to special collections—the greater illumination that comes with openness, access, and exchange.
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