BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH TOWER, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY


Location: Columbus, OH

Client: The Ohio State University

Area: 400,000 gsf

Construction Cost: $98,900,000

Completion: 2006

In association with Karlsberger and GPR laboratory planners, VSBA designed a 400,000 gsf Biomedical Research Tower for the Ohio State University Medical Center. It features laboratory research, core, and teaching facilities equipped with the latest technologies. The 10-story Tower -- with basement vivarium and rooftop mechanical penthouse -- houses research for cancer, cancer genetics, cardiovascular and lung disease, high-field imaging, biology, biotechnology and biomedical informatics. Three floors of shell space accommodate future expansion to provide a total capacity nearly doubling the current amount of biomedical research space on OSU’s campus.

A typical floor plan arranges repetitive generic lab modules on three sides around interior core and mechanical spaces, while a fourth side accommodates lobby, office, break areas, and conference rooms. On the ground floor, an interior concourse connects the lobby with conference rooms and the café; it looks out onto a tree-lined path linking the Medical Center with the Central Campus. A gateway arcade marks the southern entry. Bridge and tunnel connections also link the building with adjacent research facilities.

The Tower has a simple rectangular form without formal articulation (except for entries at the base and setbacks for mechanical systems at the top). Its window patterns and ornamentation follow the interior’s generic modular order. North and south facades relate to adjacent buildings using red brick-veneer precast panels with dark red metal accents; east and west facades brighten the areas between buildings using light grey precast panels with dark grey metal accents.
Northwest view from playing fields