



Entrance to Lewis Thomas



Schultz



Lewis Thomas

LABORATORIES FOR PRINCETON UNIVERSITY:

**LEWIS THOMAS LABORATORY FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GEORGE LAVIE SCHULTZ LABORATORY**

*Architects: Payette Associates, Inc. in association with Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.*

*Location: Princeton, NJ*

*Client: Princeton University*

*Construction Cost: \$21,500,000 (bid year 1984); \$13,100,000 (bid year 1991)*

*Area: 110,000 sf; 50,000 sf*

*Completion: 1986; 1993*

The 110,000 sf **Lewis Thomas Laboratory for Molecular Biology** was an early element in Princeton University's strategy to continue its leading position in the sciences. VSBA was responsible for the exterior design, entrances, site planning, and landscaping; our associated firm, Payette Associates Inc., was responsible for interior programming and design.

Facade scale, rhythm, and proportion are determined by specific programmatic and interior layout requirements. The patterned brick and cast-stone finishing relates to other buildings in the area, including VSBA's 1983 Gordon Wu Hall. The variety and texture of Lewis Thomas's surfaces create several orders of scale, lending interest to the extremely long facade while complementing the traditional Collegiate Gothic architecture of Guyot Hall and its Geology and Biology Departments located across College Walk to the north. On the south side, windows are recessed to provide sun protection, adding a rich sculptural effect to that facade. A recessive brick and cast-stone pattern differentiates the high upper floor devoted to the mechanical plant.

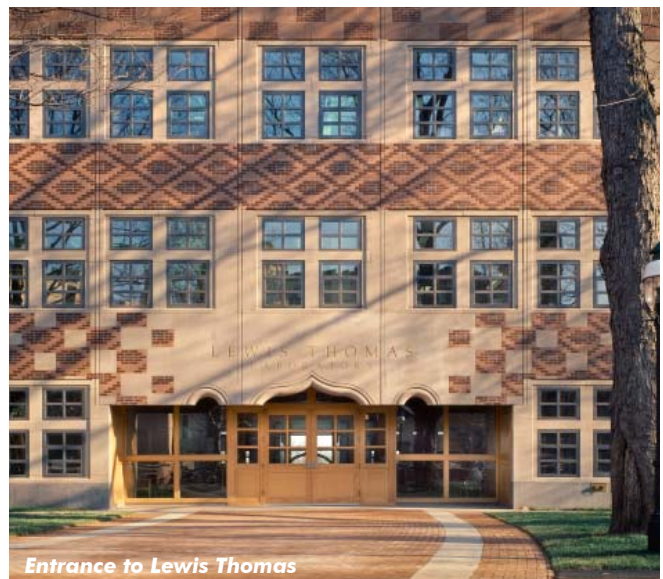
Lewis Thomas's design and landscaping create a sense of entrance to the main campus from Washington Road. A service area with depressed loading ramp and underground tunnel connects Lewis Thomas physically to the Biology Department in Guyot Hall; terracing, paving, planting, and modified walkways provide symbolic links. A low retaining wall at Guyot's base frames and contains the diverse Guyot complex while providing an outdoor space in front of the Laboratory. Minimal paving and extensive lawn surrounding the wall continue Princeton's Gothic residential court tradition.



*Schultz (on left) & Lewis Thomas*



*Site plan*



*Entrance to Lewis Thomas*

In 1988, Princeton asked VSBA and Payette Associates to design a molecular biology laboratory addition to the existing Moffett Laboratory and Guyot Complex. The **George LaVie Schultz Laboratory** is a narrow, four-story building parallel to College Walk that reinforces the longitudinal directional quality and unity of the passage from Washington Road. Its brick and limestone facade and repetitive window rhythm respond to the module of research laboratories at the upper floors and create a highly patterned counterpoint with Lewis Thomas Laboratory across College Walk. The ground floor contains public spaces -- lobby, teaching labs, seminar room, and computer lab -- illuminated by large arcade windows promoting a sense of connection and community between the buildings. Schultz's east end is curved and highly articulated in contrast with the formally severe east end of Lewis Thomas. Together, the two buildings form a gateway to College Walk from Washington Road.

The interiors of Lewis Thomas and Schultz balance closed and open labs, with bay-window alcove lounges at the ends. This organization places informal gathering places at the ends of the buildings where natural light and the outside campus are best enjoyed, while the buildings' cores hold equipment. Wide corridors and relatively high room ceilings offer an additional feeling of openness and allow flexible space to store and operate shared equipment. Glass walls between labs and internal support spaces bring natural light and views through the width of the building -- creating a "transparent" lab effect. Such visual connections promote awareness of fellow researchers in buildings that contain numerous, separately-controlled environments.

*Awards:*

- Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, 1987.
- Gold Medal, American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter, 1986.
- Honor Award, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1986.



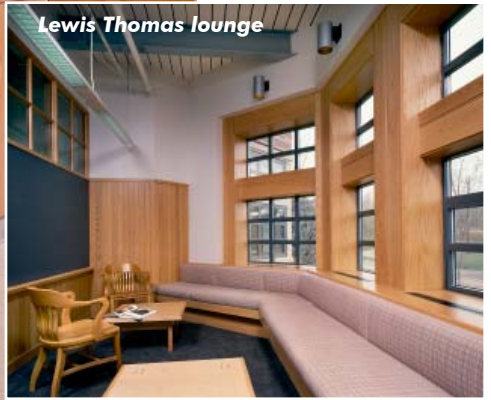
**Lewis Thomas: Typical lab level floor plan**



Lewis Thomas lab



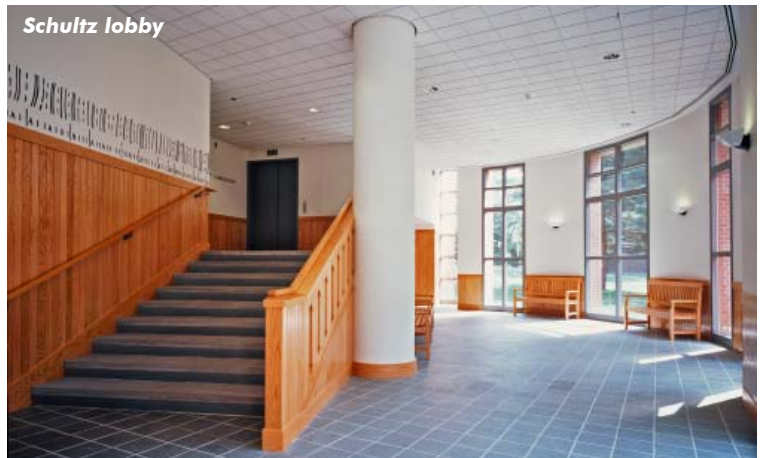
Schultz lobby detail



Lewis Thomas lounge



Schultz lounge



Schultz lobby