

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The Biodesign Institute, Arizona State University

Tempe, Arizona

Gould Evans / Lord, Aeck & Sargent

Glass forges a connection between science and nature

Located on the Tempe campus of Arizona State University, the Biodesign Institute is dedicated to interdisciplinary research and forging collaborative partnerships among biotechnology, nanotechnology, and information technology. The Institute's interdisciplinary approach inspired the architecture team. Their designs for an open, light-filled atrium and laboratories express the values of communication, collaboration, and connection.

The building's lab, office, and conference spaces converge around an open, four-story atrium that links people visually, vertically, and horizontally. Two distinct masses surround this atrium: one is striated brick forging a visual connection with the masonry vocabulary of other existing campus buildings; the other glazed.

An exterior sunshade system lessens solar gain and adds a sophisticated decorative element. The building also features a two-part interior louver system: the top portion extends down from the ceiling and automatically adjusts to maximize daylight yet minimize direct sunlight from entering the interior rooms; the bottom section adjusts manually.

Given that the scientific work within this facility delves into the mysteries of nature, the architects felt it was important that the space maintain a connection to natural light and the outside world. The Institute's forecourt is a landscaped garden in the Sonoran desert. Tapered ceilings and glass partitions allow researchers to glimpse the garden from deep within the building, maintaining a visual connection to the day's natural rhythms.

Formal name of Project:

The Biodesign Institute, Arizona State University

Location:

Tempe, Arizona

Gross square footage:

350,000 sq. ft.

Total project cost:

\$152.5 million

Owner:

The Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University