

DIALOG

YORK UNIVERSITY - SHERMAN HEALTH
SCIENCES RESEARCH CENTRE

Transforming a hockey arena into a health sciences research centre

Science + Technology



LOCATION

Toronto, ON

CLIENT

York University

COMPLETION

2010

COLLABORATORS

Blackwell Structural Engineers

Crossey Engineering Ltd.

DIALOG SERVICES

Architecture

Interior Design

Laboratory Design

The Sherman Health Sciences Research Centre was conceived as a nexus for York University's renowned interdisciplinary research programs in the neurosciences, vision sciences, and kinesiology. We transformed an unlikely starting point—the university's 1960s hockey arena—by inserting a “building within a building” into the cavernous space, complete with a new mezzanine level and circulation streets. The existing structure would not support the large, heavy air handling units and other utilities without significant reinforcement; instead, we mounted the mechanical and electrical systems along the north side of the building in a sidehouse configuration. Research facilities include a 3T fMRI laboratory for real-time neuroimaging and specialized suites for visuo-motor assessment, neurostimulation, visuo-robotics, and immersive virtual reality.