

Program Summary:

A 25,500 SF satellite campus in an industrial area supports coastal sustainability research with labs, classrooms, and a marine-themed design for public accessibility and educational engagement.

Program Statement:

Located in an industrial area, the new 25,500 SF satellite campus supports research and education collaborations focused on coastal and marine sustainability. Featuring research labs, classrooms, and assembly spaces, the facility complements its original, increasingly threatened location. Designed to make scientific research accessible to the public, the client team envisioned an architectural solution that embodies "science alive," serving as a dynamic "billboard" for their organization's work. To address flooding concerns, the building was elevated 13 feet above grade. Program distribution places public-facing elements along a main circulation corridor, with research and administrative areas opposite. The design integrates surrounding environments such as a research vessel and warehouse, with plans for future connectivity. Inside, a central atrium connects classrooms, labs, and maker spaces across three stories, fostering interaction with marine science exhibits and artwork. The interior design reflects the maritime theme with warm wood finishes, a custom rigging rope corridor divider, and a cerulean color palette. Informal collaboration spaces throughout the building provide diverse working environments. The campus also features a gallery/side-porch with circulation on the campus side, offering views to the east and west. It opens onto a south deck connected to a new watershed and constructed wetland, facilitating aquatic research and classes. This integrated approach ensures the facility supports research and education while engaging the public in coastal and marine conservation.

A-80.01

Building Area: (sf)
25,500 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
\$424.21

Construction Cost
\$10,817,394

Date of Completion:
2023

A-80.02

A Research Vessel

From the beginning, the client team was clear in their desire for an expressive, exciting architectural solution—they did not want a “research shed.” The client wanted it to “feel like science alive.”

The design team explored several massing options, ultimately settling on a gallery/‘side-porch’ option, circulation on the campus side of the building with program blocks behind it to give views through to the east and west.



A-80.03

Within the Landscape

Beyond the research happening within the building, the organization eyed a future where the immediate surroundings could serve as an extension of their work. A research vessel, one of the largest in the world, and a warehouse that serves the vessel sit outside. Stakeholders expressed a desire for a connection to both.

Cognizant of flooding, an immediate design need involved raising the building, ultimately elevating it 13' above grade.





A-80.04

Billboard for Research + Organization

The design team simultaneously recognized that the project should serve as a “billboard” for the organization, providing a signal to the public from the moment one arrives on campus of the exciting and important work being done within.

A-80.05

Three-Story Atrium

Within, a building program prioritizes the intermingling of professional scientific researchers and students by interspersing labs around a central atrium space incorporating marine science exhibits and artwork.





A-80.06

Three-Story Atrium

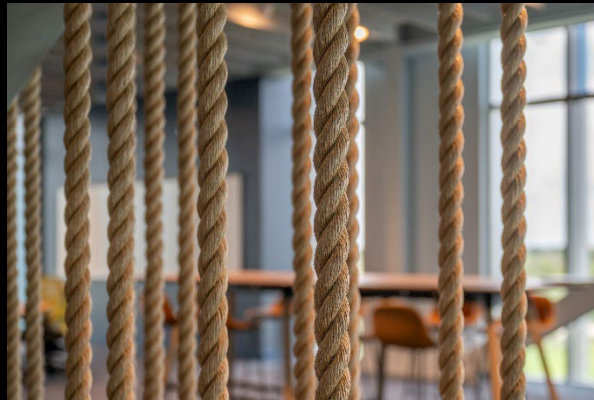
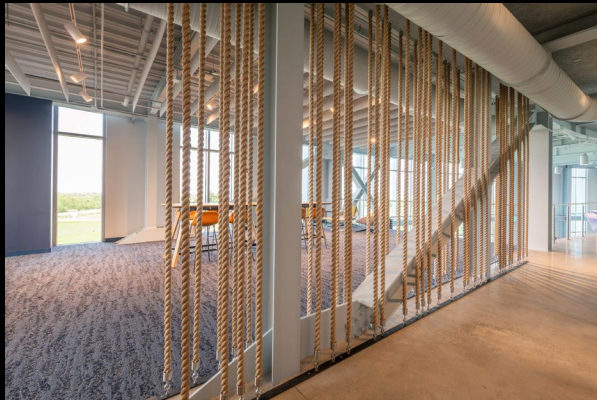
The atrium puts learning on display with three stories of classrooms, labs, and maker spaces that directly open onto the central communal space.



A-80.07

Ocean Blues

Interior design cues similarly took inspiration from the client's work, employing warm wood finishes, creative maritime precedents, like a custom rigging rope corridor divider, and a lively color palette of cerulean hues.





A-80.08

Collaborate

Informal collaboration spaces are simultaneously spread across the building to provide for different types of working environments that complement the labs and classrooms. The space opens directly onto a south deck connected to a new watershed and constructed wetland where researchers and students will hold classes and release aquatic research robots into the water.



A-80.09

Cues from the Research

Ocean-inspired furnishings and wall coverings are utilized throughout interior spaces, reminding visitors of the project's focus.



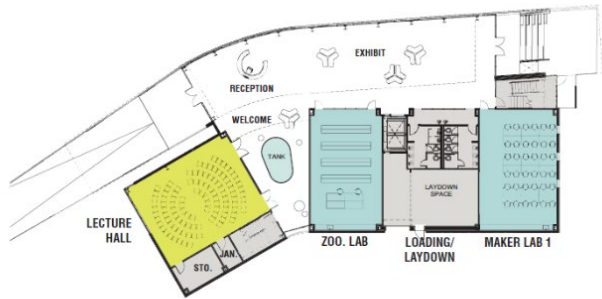
A-80.10

Beacon of Research and Light for the Community

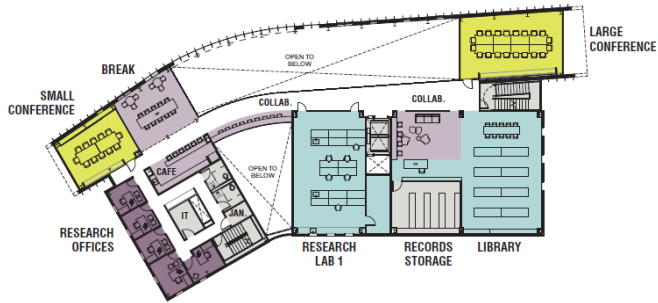
Within the industrial landscape, the building is lit from within at nighttime, providing a beacon in the coastal area.

A-80.11

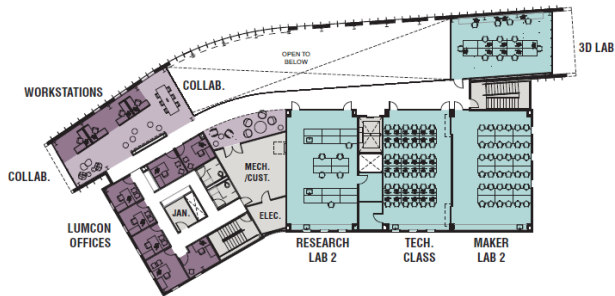
Floor Plans (1st & 2nd Floors)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Project Name:
LUMCON Blue Works

Project Location:
Houma, LA

Owner/Client:
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
(LUMCON)

Architect(s) of Record:
(names and addresses)
Fill in Here

Project Team:
Mark Ripple – Principal in Charge
Shawn Preau – Project Manager
Haley Allen – Project Architect
Mark Hash – Design Team
Sam Levison – Design Team
Chris Jackson – Construction Contract
Administrator

Landscape Architect:
Carbo

Consultants:
Fox Nesbit, Civil / Structural Engineer
Salas O'Brien, MEP Engineer
Terracon – Geotechnical Engineer
Sherwood – Environmental Engineer
NV5 – Audio-Visual Consultant
Palacio Collaborative – Cost Estimating

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Michael Mantese

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