

**College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Minnesota -
Minneapolis, Minnesota
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Placed amidst traditional and historic buildings at the University of Minnesota, the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, or CALA, is a necessary respite of light and space. Designed by Steven Holl and completed in 2002, the CALA is one of his earliest works that employ the now-emblematic translucent glass panels.

The project program included a library, auditorium, classrooms, study spaces, and offices, as well as a renovation of the existing CALA building designed by Thorshov and Cerny.

While the original building is situated to take up well-defined space, Holl's addition serves as a counterpoint by *creating* space around its massing. Visualized as four distinct "arms," the CALA extends *into* its surroundings, a movement that is further emphasized by its facade.

The exterior is characterized by metallic cladding, some parts running the full length of an "arm." The outermost face is often lined by glass panels that glow into the night and hint at the work taking place inside. The translucent panes allow for a marked angular distinction with the stairs that run along them and throughout the winter months, the colors of the CALA blend perfectly into the cloudy Minnesota sky.

The interior finishes are minimal and highlight the concrete walls, including the marks made by the reinforcement during casting, and the structural concrete members. The latter are often contrasted by blank walls that run flush with beams and columns.

Further, the mechanical systems remain largely hidden, though strongly needed during the sub-freezing Minnesota winters, and render the ceilings to be great planes of space.

In terms of end use, the CALA finds balance in form and function. From spacious and airy drawing studios grounded by the strong presence of columns at the edges, to cork-lined hallways to display student work, this is a space uniquely made for the architecture student.

Sources:

<https://www.stevenholl.com/project/cala-university-of-minnesota/>

<https://design.umn.edu/about/our-story/history>

<https://www.archdaily.com/113813/college-of-architecture-and-landscape-architecture-uminn-steven-holl-architects>

