

THE PROJECT

The Dober Lidsky Mathey and CJS Architects team was engaged by Cornell University to assist the School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) in defining their space needs and developing space reallocation solutions for their six-building complex at the heart of Cornell's Ithaca, campus.

CHALLENGE

While ILR is projecting only modest enrollment growth in Master's programs, its program initiatives and strategic emphasis on existing programs has resulted in space misallocation with some areas of the complex no longer appropriate to support the current and future program mix. The goals of the study were to identify solutions to improve unit space allocation while upgrading obsolete facilities and improving complex wayfinding.

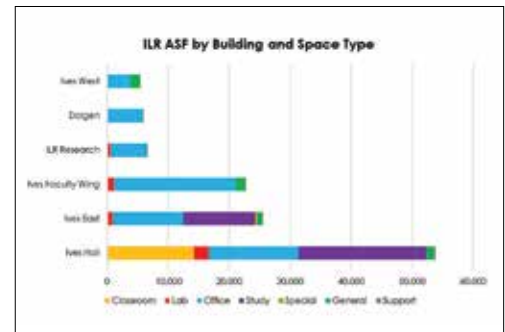
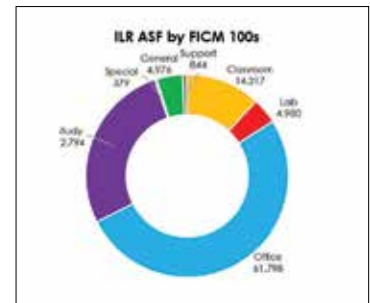
SOLUTION

The team gathered data on current and future enrollment, staffing, instructional, research and outreach activities for all ILR departments and programs. This data collection was followed up with one-on-one and small group meetings with departmental representatives focused on identifying their facility needs. Future space needs were calibrated to Cornell guidelines supplemented with DLM recommended allocations. A facility program of space required for the future was prepared to guide the development of alternative solutions.

Once the need for new space was described, CJS Architects developed concept plans for each opportunity area and future unit need. These concepts were presented to multiple school committees to gather feedback used in strengthening the concepts and refining the recommendations. The concepts were packaged into projects with sufficient detail to support the preparation of cost estimates and multi-step phasing plan.

RESULTS

The space plan gained approval of ILR's Executive Committee and was presented to the school community as a key component of the communication strategy. The implementation plan is underway with unit relocations and space upgrades in progress while major projects are placed in the ILR capital budget.



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