

THE PROJECT

The Skolkovo Foundation, created by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, is charged with developing a new science and technology center in the Moscow suburb of Skolkovo. This initiative comprises the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, corporate research and development centers, business incubators and accelerators, and start-up companies, as well as residential space and social infrastructure.

Rather than traditional academic departments and disciplines, the new university will be organized by the following focus areas:

- biomedical science and technology
- energy science and technology
- information science and technology
- nuclear science and technology
- space science and technology

A Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation will integrate education, research, and practice in entrepreneurship and innovation.

DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) was asked to help define, conceptually, the facility program for the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, a private graduate research university for 1,800 students and 300 faculty. The curriculum and pedagogy is being developed in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

CHALLENGE

The challenge was to create the facility program despite the fact that no faculty and no University administration were hired and the curriculum was in the early stages of being defined by MIT faculty representatives and the MIT planning office.

SOLUTION

MIT, Stanford, and Cal Tech were used as peers and DLM collaborated closely with MIT to define all the spaces that will be required for a fully functional graduate research university — beginning with assumptions about organization, student faculty ratios, and the amount of space per PI. To a certain extent, the curriculum mirrors MIT's style of working with graduate students — there will be no schedulable teaching labs. All learning takes place in the research lab. Defining generic wet and dry lab environments became an important factor, along with the planning for common and shared resources.



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RESULTS

The University has hired its first President, from MIT, and has moved into the next stages of campus planning and design, all the while fine tuning the curriculum and the way in which collaboration and interdisciplinary research will unfold.

PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE

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