

# METROPOLIS

ARCHITECTURE AND  
DESIGN AT ALL SCALES  
March/April 2021

**FUTURE**

**100**

**The Top  
A&D Students  
of 2021**



ALEK TOMICH  
Columbia GSAPP



## EDUCATION

### Research Assistant

At the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, which has emerged as a leader in global health data during the pandemic, the new Hans Rosling Center for Population Health is poised to become an epicenter of lifesaving research.

“This project was about planting a flag in the sand, announcing Seattle as the center of gravity for research and innovation around population health,” says Ruth Baleiko, partner at the Miller Hull Partnership, which designed the 290,000-square-foot building.

The firm’s design for the center was driven by the belief that interdisciplinary collaboration is key to solving global health challenges, bringing together several departments and institutes that focus on health issues.

“UW has broad expertise across disciplines, as well as strong external partnerships with community groups and government entities,” says Derek Fulwiler, director of strategy for UW’s Population Health Initiative, which commissioned the project.



In Seattle, the Miller Hull Partnership has established a global hub for population research, a series of interlocking volumes. Three-foot-deep fins regulate daylight and solar gain, while ample common spaces encourage collaboration and link to the surrounding campus and landscaping.

The building announces its ethos of collaboration through a parti of interlocking rectangular volumes that contain seven stories of research offices hovering above a ground floor of public gathering spaces and classrooms. Envisioned as a series of neighborhoods where various office types intermix with shared meeting spaces, the floors are arranged around a central convening stairway meant to encourage movement and advance cross-pollination among occupants and visiting partners.

The architects addressed the site’s challenging 30-foot grade by creating three “ground floors” at different elevations, each with its own entrance. A massive

covered porch along the north facade is a welcoming refuge in Seattle’s rainy climate. Along the west elevation, three-foot-deep fins create a dramatic rippling effect visible from the nearby interstate. Each fin was carefully oriented to mitigate glare and solar heat gain without sacrificing views, a move that will help the building attain LEED Gold certification.

Although the Hans Rosling Center currently sits empty because of the very population health challenges it was built to address, UW’s Fulwiler remains optimistic: “Once it’s safe to gather again, the sky’s the limit as to what we can achieve together.”  
—Lauren Gallow