

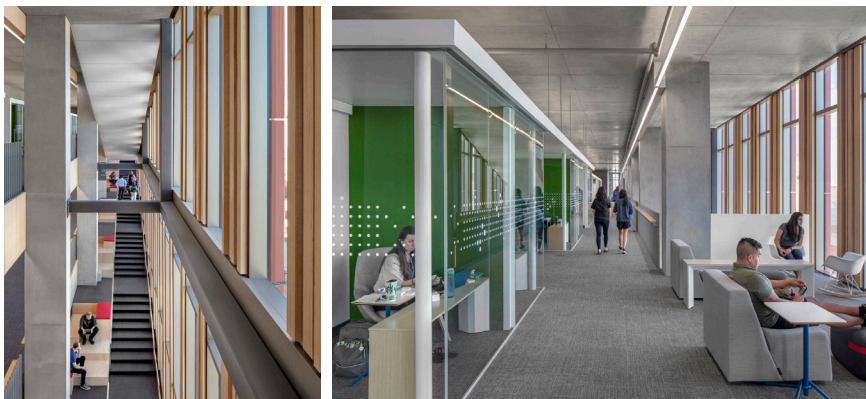
# BUILDING A LEARNING COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM.

Providing a wide variety of community-life and informal learning spaces offers students, faculty and staff a support system to build their lifelong learning community. These programmed in-between spaces, centering gathering spaces and casual touchdown spaces outside of the classroom create opportunities for connection, support chance interaction and foster communal equity.



**“In-between” spaces are essential.** While traditional academic buildings are characterized by their structured, formal spaces for learning, contemporary research acknowledges that much learning occurs in unstructured, informal settings. These “in-between” spaces – cafes, lounges, small group rooms, study halls, exercise rooms, corridors – create integral opportunities for social convergences and informal connections, ultimately giving meaning and vitality to the buildings and to the communities that inhabit them.

**Create a “center”.** While promoting the physical, communal expression of an institution and its programs, architecture must also create a home and “center” for students, faculty and staff. Accessible multi-purpose spaces such as forums and atriums organize and connect programmatic spaces with social spaces, creating a building “heart” that supports student and faculty academic life, community and culture, and fosters communal equity and individual access.



**Provide “offshoots” of streams.** Within the spectrum of community, nooks and eddies that flank larger public armatures provide students and faculty a place to feel alone and together at the same time. Alcoves off of main circulation paths, seating pods integrated into staircases and touchdown areas in highly trafficked spaces provide breakout opportunities for either casual integration or focused concentration within the broader building community.