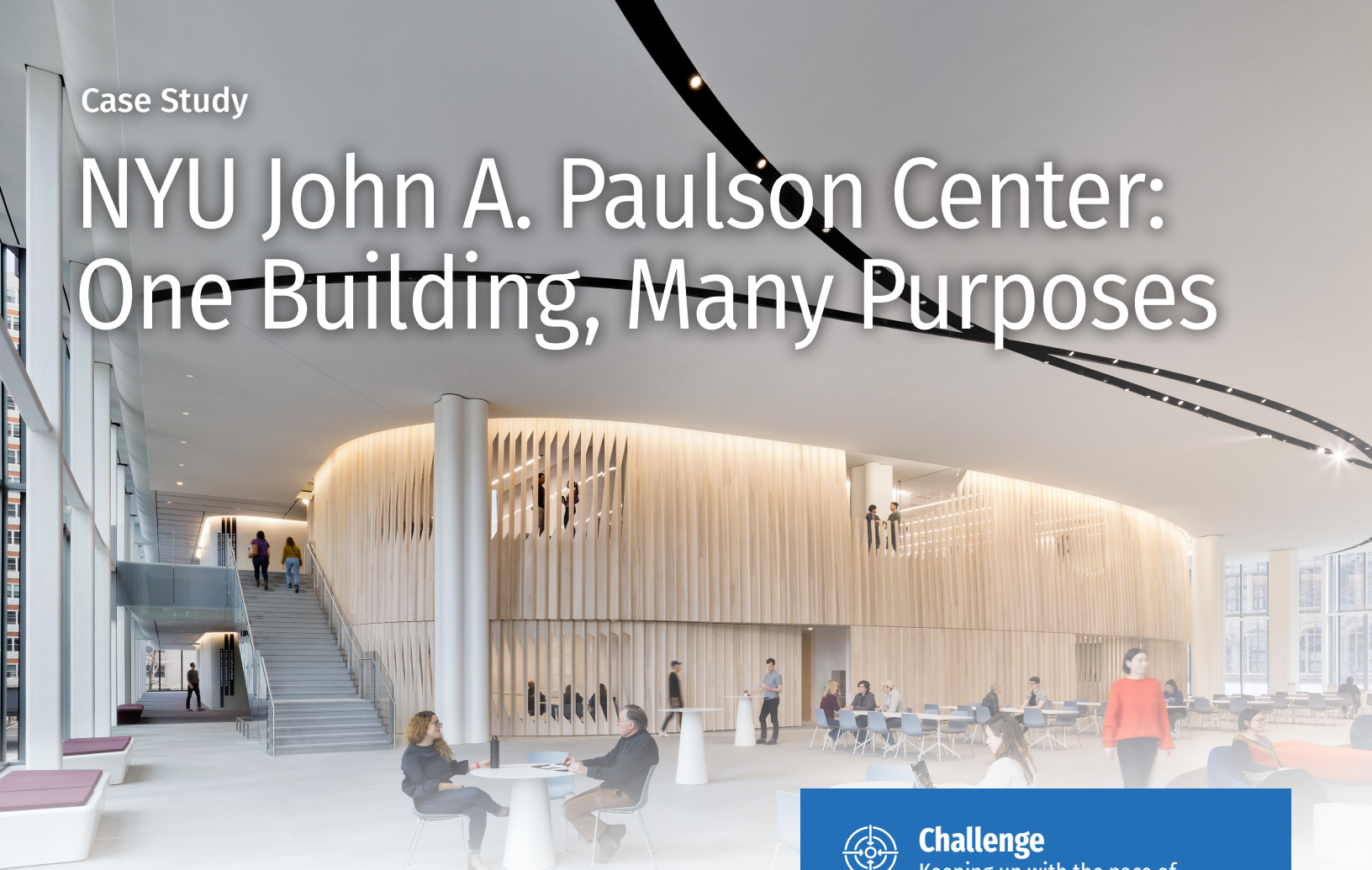


Case Study

NYU John A. Paulson Center: One Building, Many Purposes



The John A. Paulson Center at New York University is a 735,000 square foot state-of-the-art multipurpose building spanning a full New York City block between Houston, Mercer and Bleecker Streets. This higher ed campus merges learning and community into one structure. It is home to more than eight floors of academic space, sports complex, performing arts theaters, practice/instructional rooms, expansive commons and housing for freshmen and faculty.

What made this massive development incredibly challenging was the rapid progression of technology over the years. It was paramount for us to keep up with the latest equipment and ensure the building infrastructure worked with the technology of today. Furthermore, with its many uses and spaces, the Paulson Center brought forth a mix of acoustical challenges. Cerami, part of Trinity Consultants, helped NYU navigate these challenges with acoustical and technology designs that optimized teaching and learning environments for all students and faculty.



Challenge

Keeping up with the pace of technology was paramount for this university campus.



Solution

Integrated audiovisual, IT, security and acoustic solutions were implemented to support the academic and athletic facilities, common rooms and faculty and student residential towers.



Result

Our team's expertise and consistent commitment to understanding and incorporating advancing technologies proved invaluable to the client.

Challenge

This urban campus is essentially multiple buildings glued together, each operating with their own independent technology systems. As our team worked on the Paulson Center over the years, it was imperative that we update the technology to ensure the most modern equipment was being used in this development.

Solution

Acoustics matter everywhere, especially for a structure that sits above a busy New York City MTA subway line. To reduce the trains' noise and vibration impact to the building, we incorporated isolation materials at the columns and foundation walls. The custom curtain wall acts as a barrier to keep traffic noise out so that it is not a nuisance to the classrooms and housing. The instructional spaces and quiet/focus areas are further furnished with acoustically absorptive finishes such as acoustic ceilings, stretched fabric systems and fabric wrapped panels to maximize speech intelligibility and create comfortable spaces for studying and learning.

The common areas of the campus are strategically designed to foster connections between people and encourage interactions among NYU's diverse community. Furnished with kiosks that enable digital signage and wayfinding, as well as ceiling speakers for playing background music and broadcasting events, the lobbies offer wide open spaces and seating for students to find respite from the hustles and bustles of the campus. Open lounges scattered throughout the building are perfect places for individual or group work, preparing for a class or catching up with friends and colleagues. Some lounges even feature large LED displays and speakers dedicated for movie screenings.

One of the highlights of the sports complex is the four-court gym, which can be used simultaneously and independently and can accommodate a multitude of programs, functions and events. Each court is equipped with large video displays used for hyping content and game replays, ceiling mounted cameras that track the movements of players, and advanced audio and sound systems, including ceiling hung, large line array speakers that you can find in Madison Square Garden!

Diverse sound reduction techniques are employed to the athletics center to ensure students will never hear what's behind closed doors—from floating floor construction to robust walls and doors, to isolated ceilings—these features will help avoid noise transfer between spaces.

Result

Our acoustical and technology consulting services were instrumental in providing solutions on this major metropolitan campus.

Our signature solutions included security devices that are seamlessly integrated within the glass architecture to provide an elevated level of security. Robust IT infrastructure capable of supporting the migration to future technology is implemented throughout. Unique audiovisual solutions are employed for the classrooms, residences, amenities and athletics facilities.

The university classrooms are all designed to be flexible and reconfigurable, each with systems that support hybrid learning and operate AV over IP technology. This enables students and faculty to easily share and switch content to any displays across over 50 classrooms within the building!

The Paulson Center has been certified as a LEED Gold building and serves as a model for other NYC buildings seeking to reduce their environmental impact.

About Trinity Consultants

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.