

Crown jewels

Scientists get down to work in new Hillside Laboratories



It is a conception so pleasing to the eye, so consonant with the surroundings, that it is hard to believe its importance to the future of research. The Hillside Laboratories, formally dedicated in June before hundreds of staff, supporters and friends of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, have instantly provided the institution with 40 percent more space for research. When the buildings are fully occupied, the Laboratory's staff will total 1200, a doubling over the last decade. The 200 high-tech jobs created by the Hillside project represent the largest expansion in CSHL's 119-year history.

At the dedication ceremony, a beaming President Bruce Stillman said, "This expansion will allow Cold Spring Harbor

Laboratory to do more of what it has always done best: perform pioneering research at the leading edge of biological science, particularly in the areas of cancer and neuroscience, but also in the emerging field of quantitative biology."

CSHL Board Chairman Eduardo Mestre added, "An important goal for the design of the Hillside Laboratories was to encourage collaboration among scientists and foster the progress of scientific discovery, while preserving the historic appeal of CSHL's picturesque campus. Looking at this beautiful complex, I believe we have succeeded."



The Hillside Laboratories are an architectural marvel. As the *New York Times* astutely observed in a June 24th article: "Visitors to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory looking for the new state-of-the-art 100,000-square-foot science lab might be excused for asking, 'Where is it?'" What is distinctive about the design, by Centerbrook Architects and Planners LLP, reflects what is distinctive about Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory as a whole. It would be hard to identify another state-of-the-art scientific research facility of similar size that fosters so palpable a sense of intimacy.

The complex reflects an abiding interest in human scale and eco-friendly expansion. The six new buildings are actually outcroppings of a single interconnected structure with an infrastructure that is integrated beneath ground level. Nestled within the hillside, the buildings are connected at various elevations and share a common utility grid that makes them 30 percent more energy efficient than prevailing standards for laboratory facilities.

"These buildings remind me that Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory continues to be the most beautiful place in the world to do science," observed Chancellor Emeritus James D. Watson in his dedication remarks. He added that the Hillside complex was "a reaffirmation of the desire of the Laboratory and those people who support it and love it to remain a significant force in the acquisition of knowledge toward the betterment of the human condition."

Chief architect William Grover, who has made his mark in structures from one end of CSHL's historic campus to the other, has commented that he has "always liked buildings



"The research and educational activities that these six interconnected buildings will house will help humanity surmount the great challenges of our time."

Phillip A. Sharp, Ph.D., Nobel laureate and CSHL Alumnus, in Hillside Dedication keynote

with narrow spaces between them that frame views." Eschewing "big, grand interior dramatic spaces," Grover and his team seized the opportunity "to make outdoor spaces that were as interesting as indoor spaces."



Science on the Hillside

- **The Donald Everett Axinn Laboratory:** research on the neurobiological roots of mental illness
- **The Nancy and Frederick DeMatteis Laboratory:** research on the genetic basis of human diseases, including autism, cancer, and schizophrenia
- **The David H. Koch Laboratory:** home to a newly established Center for Quantitative Biology and CSHL core computing facility
- **The William L. and Marjorie A. Matheson Laboratory:** research on the tumor microenvironment and metastasis
- **The Leslie and Jean Quick Laboratory:** research on new therapeutic strategies for treating cancer
- **The Wendt Family Laboratory:** research on neurodevelopment and the wiring of complex circuits in the brain

People exchanging ideas in natural and informal settings — faculty, students and postdocs, often mingling with visitors taking part in Meetings & Courses — are an essential feature of daily life at the Laboratory, a continuing source of intellectual ferment. The Hillside complex provides another memorable setting for impromptu gatherings of this type — a plaza at the entry level of the six new buildings dotted with tables and benches that command breathtaking vistas across the harbor. Meantime, the new complex seen from the harbor's eastern shore blends in almost seamlessly, appearing more like a hilltop village than a vital outpost in efforts to improve treatments for cancer and discover neural pathways implicated in devastating neurodevelopmental illnesses such as autism and schizophrenia.

The Hillside Laboratories were designed, engineered and built by Long Islanders — some 250 project contractors, consultants and craftsmen. The project was made possible by the generous contributions of private donors, philanthropic foundations and the New York State 'Gen*NY*sis' initiative, which provided a grant of \$20 million. A capital campaign raised over \$200 million to support construction, recruitment of new investigators, equipment for new research projects and endowment for research and graduate education. The project was also supported by a bond issued with the Nassau County Industrial Development Authority. **Peter Tarr**

