

# SIX WAYS TO BUILD A HAPPY CAMPUS

**Campus buildings come with tall orders:** they must support teaching and inspire learning, attract faculty and invite students, meet or beat operational and sustainability goals, satisfy public budget constraints, gratify private donor desires. They must speak to the future, and stand the test of time. Meanwhile, technology marches on, instructional models evolve, and students, educators and staff pursue diverse career arcs. Flexibility is paramount.

RMC's strength lies in our ability to balance these factors, to hold fast the ideals of higher education, while tackling the realities of programmatic, schedule, budget and political complexity with persistence and good judgment. Here are a few of our secrets for designing college success.

**1 >> SHARPEN YOUR COMPETITIVE EDGE** with projects that balance future-ready function (integrated, versatile) campus tradition (place, identity) and student-focused amenities (food, ubiquitous wifi). On deck? A resilience mindset. Near- or at zero-impact systems and buildings; projects that promote wellness and health; more shared uses and porous campus borders.

**2 >> JOIN THE SHARING ECONOMY:** Start with interdepartmental space sharing and see benefits like more funding, higher quality, new efficiencies and silo breakdown.

**3 >> LEVERAGE THE LIBRARY.** As a mixed-use facility for students and faculty to gather, study, learn and work, it's the heart of the campus, a hub of intellectual and collegial engagement and logical neutral ground for collaboration — student, faculty, departmental.



**4 >> HELP OCCUPANTS SHIFT SEAMLESSLY.** Build on the digital media proliferation by building fewer single-use spaces. Flexible, adaptable spaces with crossover uses support the fluid way students and teachers engage with each other and their academic pursuits.

**5 >> CROSS THE MOAT.** As universities foster closer connections with community, business, government and non-profits, they lose their "castle on the hill" seclusion. Permeable borders offer new opportunities to stake out a relevant and visible presence beyond campus.



**6 >> HARNESS DEEP FACILITY DATA.** With every project, design teams develop volumes of data that can be used to optimize facility management processes. Use it!