



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Design & Engineering
University Planning, Design & Construction



JOHN P. ROBERTS LIBRARY

East Asian Studies



East Asian Studies

PROGRAM
Offices, event lounge, classroom

SIZE
485sm

D&E CONSULTING TEAMS
Architectural

This project for the Department of East Asian Studies in the Robarts Library Building reimagined the spaces using built form, materials, and colours. The previous interior design concealed the building's distinctive concrete structure and blocked the natural light. Rather than ignoring the building's geometry, the design team accentuated it with ceiling cut-outs, angled millwork, and hexagonal carpet patterns. By raising the ceiling height and introducing full-height glazing throughout, natural light was brought deep into the building. Vivid blue and red accent colours were applied to the interior finishes and furniture, infusing the space with energy and vibrancy.



Lounge Ceiling Cutouts



Lounge



Classroom

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Geometry** accentuates the building's existing geometric forms by adding triangular cutouts in the dropped ceiling, angled millwork, and geometric carpet tiles
- Texture** echoes the building's textured concrete by adding patterned fiber panels to highlight surfaces
- Colour** uses a lively colour palette in the public spaces and a more muted colour palette in the office spaces

