

Student Commons

SIDNEY SMITH HALL



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

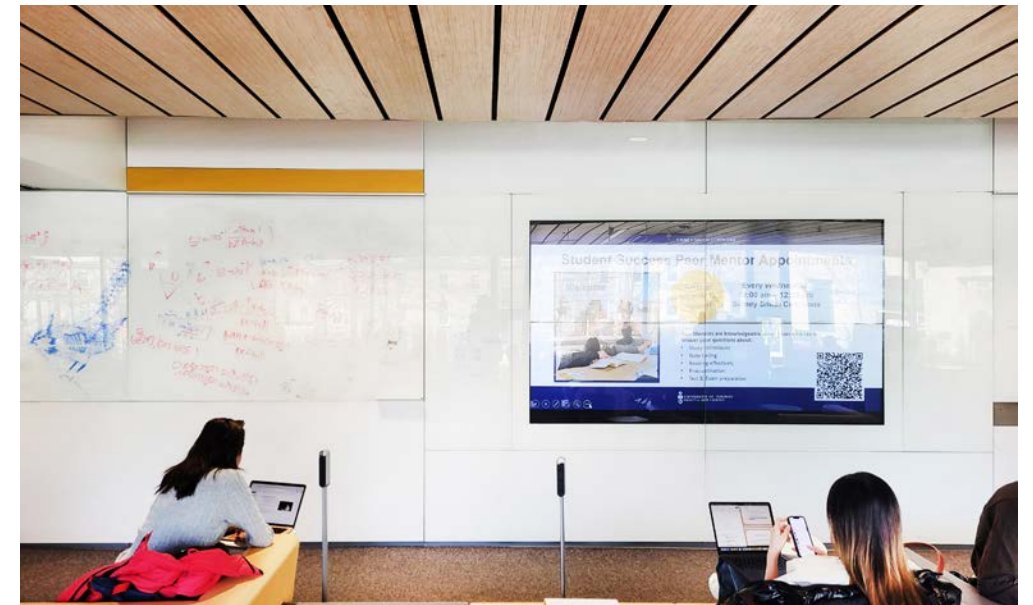
Design & Engineering
University Planning, Design & Construction



Lounge Seating Area



Corner Table Seating Area



Media Station



Large Table Seating Area

Student Commons

PROGRAMS
Open learning space

SIZE
315 sm

CONSULTING D&E TEAMS
Architectural, Mechanical

The Student Commons project in Sidney Smith Hall, designed for the Faculty of Arts and Science, thoughtfully incorporates movable partitions, varied materials, and strategic use of colour to enhance both flexibility and enjoyment within the renovated space. Departing from the previous rigid layout, the new design introduces glass-panelled movable partition systems that allow for spatial subdivisions while maximizing natural light and preserving views to the exterior.

To foster a visually cohesive and welcoming environment, the design features warm wood finishes throughout the millwork, columns, and ceiling elements. A warm yellow accent, chosen for its harmony with the wood tones, is applied to select interior surfaces and furnishings, reinforcing a unified and inviting aesthetic.



Group Meeting Configuration



Window View



Writable Wall

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

Material the use of wood in millwork, furniture, and ceiling elements creates a warm, inviting atmosphere while establishing a sense of unity throughout the space

Brightness natural light is maximized through the existing exterior window by incorporating low-profile furniture and glass panels on movable partitions, allowing daylight to permeate the space throughout the day

Openness visual connectivity is enhanced across the entire space and to the exterior by integrating glass panels at both the top and bottom of the movable partitions, fostering a sense of openness

Flexibility the space accommodates a variety of program types and scales—from open workstations to intimate group meetings—through the use of movable partitions and integrated technology hubs featuring charging stations, wall-mounted screens, and large whiteboards



Multiple Group Seating Configuration