

MYERS FOREST LABORATORY

*A lab in the woods***CLIENT**

Yale University

TYPE

New Construction

SIZE

3,100 sq ft

COMPLETION

2017

Following the comprehensive renovation of Greeley Memorial Lab on Yale's campus for the School of Forestry & Environmental studies, an alumni donor stepped forward to fund the creation of an outpost mini-version of the Greeley Lab to pursue similar research in the 7800-acre Yale Myers Forest located in Northeast CT.

This project started with conceptual renderings and budgeting to ensure that the donor's intentions were being fulfilled. With funding secured, the design was solidified, and construction was completed in the fall of 2017. The new building consists of a large central lab that accommodates up to sixteen researchers, an adjacent prep room and an environmentally controlled Herpetarium. Under the same roof but in a semi-detached wing is a common meeting room and rest rooms.

An integral part of the design is the site, which is where much of the research occurs. Directly connected to the lab via an expansive L-shaped deck, an adjacent field is subdivided into forty-eight small plots containing clusters of water and electrical connections. Each plot can be setup to suite individual researcher's needs, several of which will be water-filled cattle troughs to raise tadpoles. The entire side of the lab opens to the deck via large glass overhead doors and retractable screens, bringing the outside in and visa-versa.

BACK STORY

Supporting the roof over the deck are columns inspired by the forest trees and by Paul Rudolph's Greeley Lab, which (located at the school's central campus) also includes "Y" (or tree) shaped concrete columns supporting its roof.



CONTEXT

Located about a quarter mile from the School of Forestry's bunkhouse/camp down a seldom traveled gravel road lined with "Wolf" Trees (which we were warned not to touch!).

NUTS & BOLTS

Except for the foundation, polished concrete floor and metal roof panels, the entire building consists of different forms of wood construction including conventional wood framing, prefabricated trusses, post and beam, wood windows, doors and various types of wood panels. Even the conference table is a locally sourced live edge tree slab.

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE

The disappearing insect screens that, at a push of a button, automatically descend from above each overhead door, allowing research to continue without pesky bug bites.

BEST USE

Supporting the School of Forestry's ongoing projects & research (from studying climate change to learning how to track animals) without leaving the woods.



conceptual rendering



conceptual rendering

