

Program Summary:

Off-campus residence hall extending Dillard University into Gentilly through an interlocking system: integrating housing, community space, and a central core for learning, gathering, and connection.

Program Statement:

Dillard University's new residence hall extends the campus beyond its historic core into the Gentilly neighborhood, establishing a student-centered environment that integrates living, learning, and community engagement.

The building responds to both campus and neighborhood conditions through a scaled form that addresses residential and commercial edges. At the center, the community core acts as a shared zone of overlap, bringing together residential and public-facing programs and supporting interaction, visibility, and collective use.

The building houses 251 residential units along with study lounges, wellness spaces, and faculty offices. Public amenities, including a multipurpose room, pre-function space, and café, extend resources to the surrounding community, positioning the building as both student housing and a shared institutional asset.

A-270.01

Building Area: (sf)
71,415 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
\$461.83

Construction Cost
\$32,981,916

Date of Completion:
2025



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Project Overview, Significance, and Goals

Dillard University's first off-campus residence hall supports institutional growth by addressing student housing needs while extending the university's presence into the Gentilly neighborhood.

As Louisiana's oldest Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and the first new dormitory following post-Katrina reconstruction, Dillard's legacy informs the project's focus on equity, community, and long-term stewardship, while reestablishing a connection between campus and surrounding neighborhood.

Guided by goals of equity, learning, and resource sharing, the building integrates housing, shared amenities, and public programs into a connected system that supports student success and expands access for both students and the local community.

EQUITY AND ACCESS



REMOVE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AROUND RACE, INCOME, AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES

COMMUNITY LIVING



CREATE A WELCOMING AND COMFORTABLE COMMUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

LEARNING + SERVING



CREATE SPACES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO THRIVE AND GROW IN A SAFE AND INSPIRING ENVIRONMENT

NUTS & BOLTS



MAXIMIZE RESOURCES, MEET INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN AND CAMPUS STANDARDS

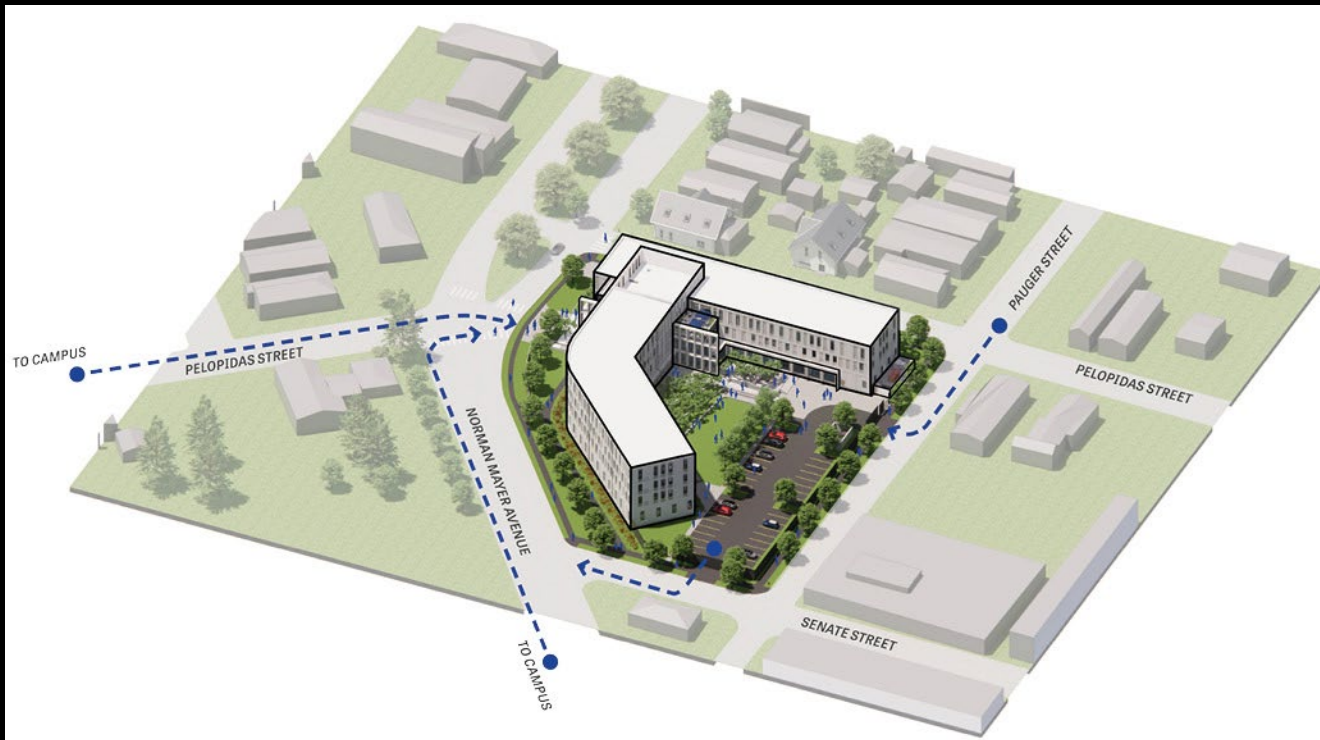
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Campus and Site Context

Located on a vacant site between residential and commercial edges, the project extends Dillard University into the Gentilly neighborhood while maintaining continuity with the historic campus.

Existing circulation flows across and around the site, positioning it as a connective threshold rather than a terminus. Multiple approach conditions emerge from both campus and neighborhood edges.

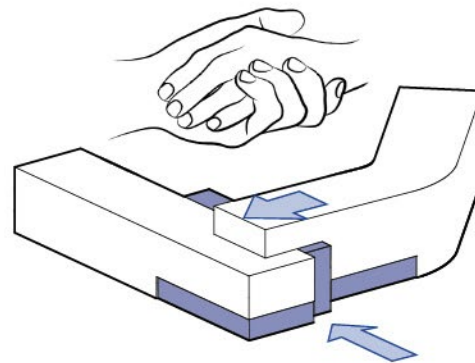
The site also presents contrasting adjacencies: residential fabric along one edge and higher-intensity commercial activity along the other, along with a curving street edge and opportunities for outdoor spatial buffering and stormwater capture.



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Building Massing: Spatial Response

The building form emerges directly from the spatial and contextual conditions of the site. In response to dual edge conditions, the massing steps from three stories along the residential side to four stories along the commercial frontage, calibrating scale between neighborhood and institutional presence. This gradient organizes the project into two interlocking wings that frame a central community core positioned along primary circulation paths identified in the site strategy. The core acts as the point of convergence between campus and neighborhood movement. The south wing follows the curved street edge, reinforcing arrival and shaping a partially enclosed outdoor courtyard that extends the site's stormwater and buffer strategy into the building form. The north wing organizes shared and support functions, completing the interlocking system that defines the overall spatial structure.



EXTERIOR PUBLIC ENTRIES FRAMING + SUN SHADING

CAMPUS REFERENCE



APPLICATION



MATERIAL SELECTIONS FRAMING + SUN SHADING

CAMPUS REFERENCE



MAIN PUBLIC PROGRAMS DOUBLE HEIGHT SPACE + COLUMN EXPRESSION

CAMPUS REFERENCE



APPLICATION



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Material Strategy

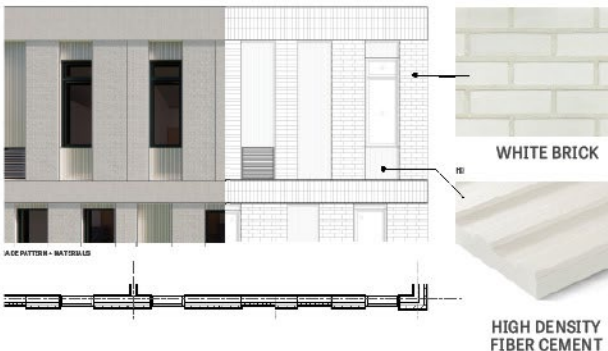
The design translates key spatial and material conditions from Dillard University's campus into façade, structure, and material systems.

Deep frames and shaded thresholds are reinterpreted as tall concrete frames and glazed entries that define public access and environmental control.

Double-height campus volumes and structural rhythms inform interior spatial organization through vertical scale and expressed column structure.

A white brick palette, paired with textured panels at openings, maintains continuity with the campus identity while differentiating solid and void conditions.

APPLICATION



Program Structure

This overlap creates a shared framework where residential and public functions remain distinct while connecting through a unified circulation and social spine.

The central core functions as the primary connector between wings, aligning all program zones through a continuous vertical and horizontal framework.



- ### LEVEL 03



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Program Configuration: Central Communicating Core

The central social core is the primary interior space of exchange, where circulation, visibility, and activity converge across all levels.

Defined by opposing entrances and vertical openness, it organizes movement while maintaining continuous visual connection between floors and programs. Layered seating, open thresholds, and transparent edges support overlapping conditions of gathering, study, and movement.

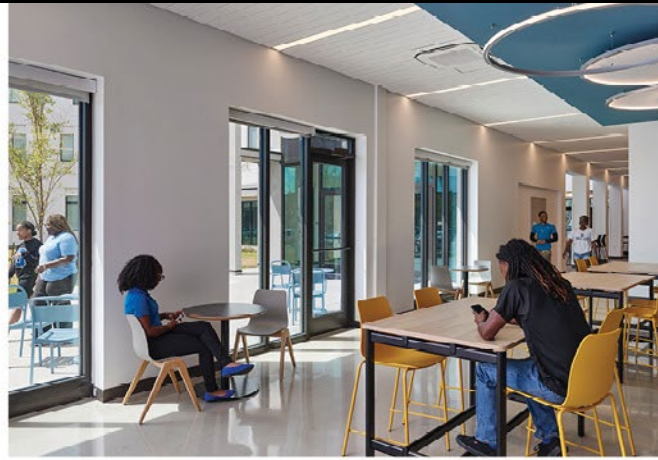
This space operates as the building's primary social field, linking all program zones within a shared spatial environment.



SOUTH SECTION



NORTH SECTION



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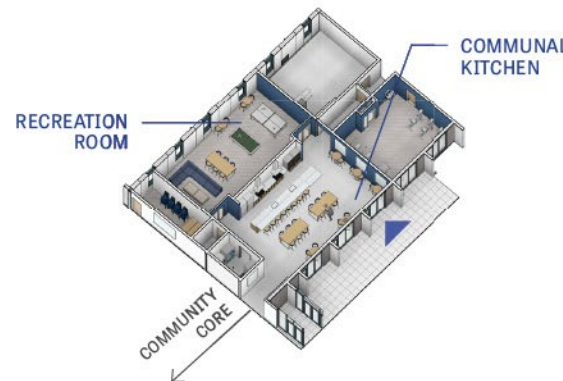
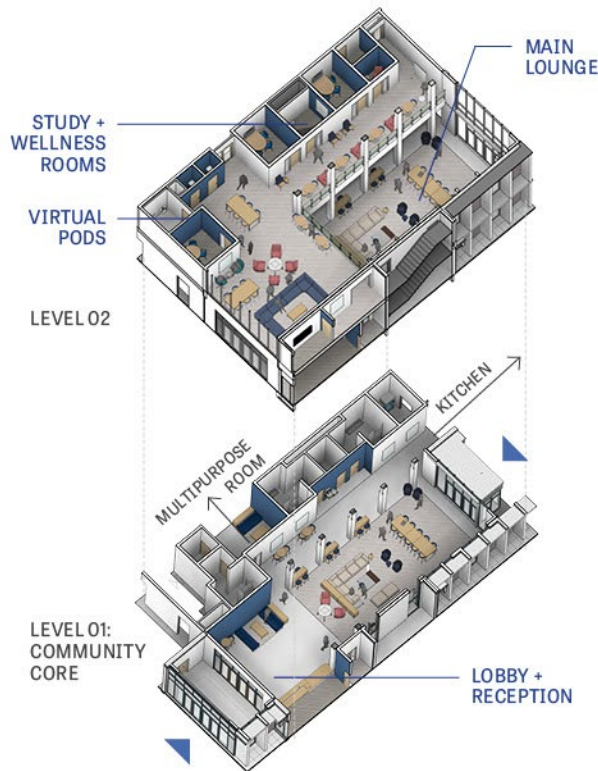
Semi-Public Student Amenities

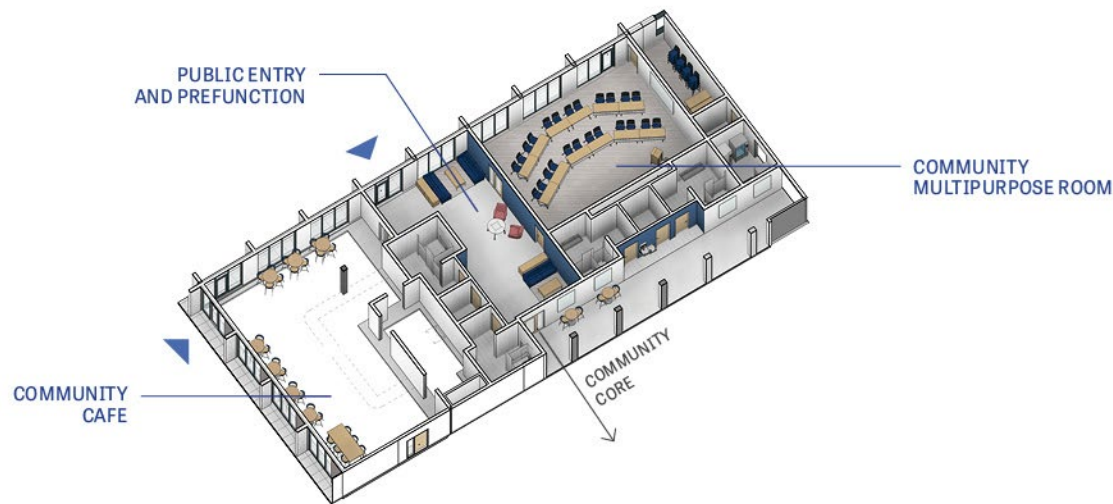
Shared student amenities are organized around a continuous social core that extends vertically through the building.

Within this system, program types repeat across floors, with the most public functions concentrated at the ground level and progressively more focused uses above.

The ground floor includes study areas, administrative functions, recreation rooms, and shared kitchen spaces as the primary zone of daily student activity.

Across upper levels, collaboration spaces, study rooms, lounges, virtual learning pods, and wellness rooms are integrated within the same system to support varying degrees of interaction and privacy.





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Public Neighborhood Interface

Public program establishes a direct interface between the building, the campus, and the Gentilly neighborhood. The ground floor includes a corner café (requested by neighborhood stakeholders), a multipurpose room, and pre-function spaces that support both scheduled events and informal community use.

Multiple entry points provide access while maintaining clear separation between public and residential areas. Controlled connections between zones allow the building to support university and community use without compromising residential security.

A dedicated backup power and systems infrastructure supports continued operation of public spaces during emergencies, enabling access to cooling, water, and power for community use.



SEMI-SUITE DOUBLE



SUITE DOUBLE



A-270.10

Semi-Private Residential: Floor as Neighborhood

Residential floors are organized as distinct social neighborhoods, where each level develops its own identity within the larger building system.

Each residential wing and floor includes dedicated laundry, shared social spaces, and typical suite-double units consisting of two bedrooms sharing an entry foyer and a split bathroom.

Shared lounges are positioned at circulation nodes, reinforcing interaction while maintaining clear separation between floor communities.

This organization embeds communal life within each residential level while allowing variation in atmosphere across the building.



STUDY / VIRTUAL POD



STUDENT LOUNGE / GROUP STUDY