The Tepper Quad Project will provide a gateway to the new David A. Tepper Quadrangle, the first expansion project to take place on Carnegie Mellon University’s north campus. As a hub for technology-enhanced learning and research, the five-story business school will feature 305,000 ft² of collaborative, flexible spaces for students and staff. The health and wellbeing of occupants was a key concern for our clients, in addition to achieving LEED Gold certification.

Using significantly less concrete than traditional slabs, our efficient bubble deck structure considerably reduced the embodied energy of the building. In combination with our loft style design for the MEP systems, which integrated services distribution in the ceiling voids, this solution also allowed us to save floor to floor height as well as approximately nine feet from the total building height in line with planning limits. As bubble deck is a new concept for the US, we had to work closely with both our client and the contractor to prove the value of this approach and ensure its successful application.

To encourage a connection with the outdoors, we have drawn daylight and fresh air into the building wherever possible. To make sure occupants are comfortable, we will provide operable windows and a number of glare reduction measures, such as internal blinds, fritted glass and louvers. Biophilic strategies include multiple planted terraces throughout the building and internal landscaping.

The structural and MEP systems solutions we provided will allow maximum flexibility and adaptability so the building can accommodate future changes in pedagogy and use of technology. A cornerstone in the David A. Tepper Quadrangle, the new School of Business will set a high standard for subsequent development while securing Carnegie Mellon’s reputation for innovation and academic excellence.