

# Reimagining MIT's Hub for Student Life

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**Stratton Student Center: A Destination for Wellbeing**



# A Culture of Wellbeing and Excellence

At MIT, we recognize that wellbeing is central to student success on campus and in life. Creating a campus community where both academic excellence and personal wellbeing are valued and promoted is fundamental to MIT's mission of advancing knowledge and educating students to help create a better world.

The physical spaces on campus should facilitate this positive culture, reinforce the importance of wellness, and encourage students to embrace self-care as a skill vital to their success at MIT and beyond. MIT graduates—equipped with a world-class education and the ability to care for themselves and others—will be even better positioned to help solve the world's most pressing problems.

## **A Vision for MIT's Student Center**

A busy hub of student activity, the Stratton Student Center is the ideal place to promote student wellbeing. Thousands of MIT community members and guests visit the building daily to eat, to relax, to study, and to socialize. Student groups, departments, labs, centers, and alumni groups host thousands of events, meetings, and rehearsals in the building each year, and some groups also have offices in the building. Nearly every student will spend a significant amount of time in the Student Center during their MIT years.

Since the Student Center opened in 1968, our community has grown and daily life has changed in many ways. As the needs of today's students evolve, so must the Student Center.

The targeted renewal of the Stratton Student Center will improve design coherence throughout the building, update infrastructure, and enhance flexible-use space to accommodate a range of uses and provide a more welcoming environment for all. The renovations, which will follow the principles of adaptive reuse in alignment with MIT's sustainability goals, will have a positive impact on the way students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors experience the building and, by extension, MIT as a whole.

The revitalized Stratton Student Center will provide a warm, welcoming environment in which students can care for their physical and emotional wellbeing, build relationships, and explore their purpose.



The first-floor atrium will be open, bright, and accessible to all members of the MIT community.

**First impressions:** The Student Center will be welcoming and accessible to all members of the MIT community. The first floor, while still offering needed services such as dining and retail, will also provide a comforting retreat for students, encouraging them to linger and connect.

**A new look and feel:** Students, faculty, staff, and visitors will enjoy better lighting and refreshed spaces. Refurbished atrium stairs and new furniture, flooring, paint, and whiteboards will reinvigorate the look and feel of high-visibility spaces within the building's interior and improve functionality. The leaf-shaded Beech Court adjacent to the building will be outfitted to inspire open-air gatherings.

**Appealing student spaces:** Rather than just a place to grab lunch or mail a package, the renewed Stratton Student Center will be an oasis for busy MIT students. Lounge spaces will encourage informal gathering and promote connection or simply provide a comfortable respite for students with a bit of time between classes.

**Food culture:** At MIT, enjoying food together strengthens community and is also a vehicle for cultural expression. Healthy dining options in the Student Center will reflect various cultures and accommodate dietary restrictions. Ample seating near eateries will encourage dining with others.

**Student activities:** The fourth floor, already a vibrant home for many student-led organizations, will be improved to provide flexible, multipurpose space that will accommodate dance and movement activities, student group meetings, and social gatherings. These updates will increase the visibility of extracurricular resources, helping students find or create their own communities.



The first-floor lobby—one of the busiest places on campus—will welcome thousands of visitors daily (top). New multipurpose studios on the fourth floor will host dance classes, yoga sessions, and dynamic presentations.



The new Wellbeing Lab will serve as the anchor and heart of campus-wide wellbeing initiatives, and the updated Stratton Lounge (right) will be an inviting destination for students.



## The New Wellbeing Lab

A centralized, highly visible, student-friendly Wellbeing Lab, coordinated by the Office of Student Wellbeing and bringing together programs and services from across the Institute, will serve as the anchor and heart of campus-wide wellbeing initiatives.

**Educational programming:** Students will engage in programs to help them develop skills to live healthy and purposeful lives. Programs on topics such as managing stress, developing healthy habits, and maintaining positive relationships will be curated from existing offerings from the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation and Community Wellness, and new initiatives will be developed to address students' needs.

**Direct support:** The importance of seeking help to care for their wellbeing will be reinforced by actively informing students about the various support services available to them, and by encouraging them to connect in group settings.

**Promoting community:** The Lab will become the headquarters for student wellbeing at MIT, allowing people to gather in a comfortable, informal, and relaxed space, promoting a sense of wellbeing for all.

The Stratton Student Center, already at the heart of daily life on MIT's campus, will become a destination for student wellbeing. We look forward to creating warm, welcoming spaces and programs that are thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of MIT students now and in the future.

Interior renderings: Dongik Lee informed by C&J Katz Studio.  
Exterior rendering: Studio 2112. All renderings are concepts and for illustrative purposes only. Actual designs may differ.

## Student Center By the Numbers

**10,000+**

DAILY VISITORS

**6,900+**

TOTAL EVENTS

**190,000+**

TOTAL EVENT ATTENDEES

Annual figures; scheduled events only

**We call upon MIT's friends and supporters to join us in creating a destination for student wellbeing.**

**For more information, contact:**

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