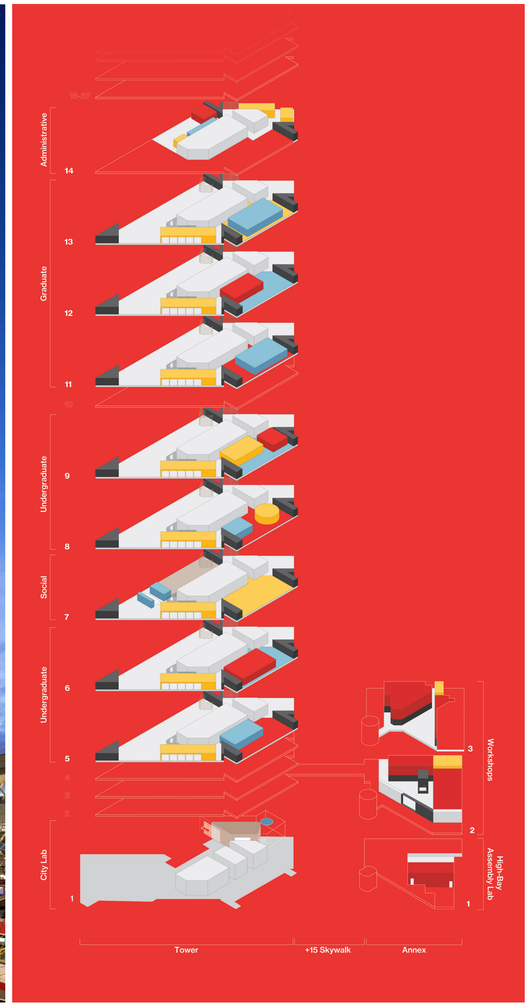
The University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

801 7 Ave SW, Calgary

This year, SAPL made the bold move to embed the school within Calgary's downtown, positioning it as an active participant in the city's revitalization. The nine-storey vertical campus sits within The Valentine–the 1982 office tower originally built for oil and gas company Nova and vacant since 2013.

At ground level, a community-facing City Lab extends the school's reach, and fabrication workshops in the adjacent three-storey annex support hands-on making. At night, SAPL announces itself with a repetitive pattern of bright colours — the result of light reflecting off painted floors onto white ceilings.







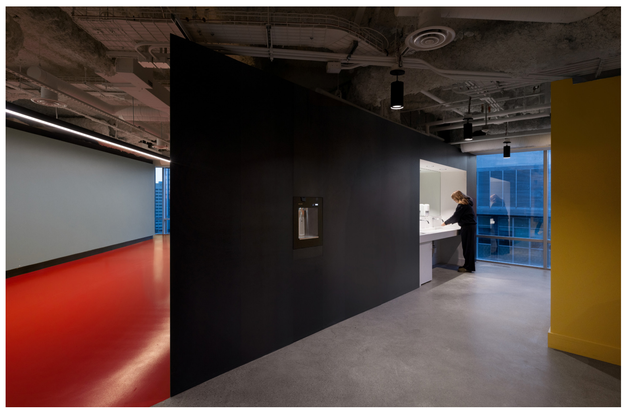












On teaching levels, studio desks are organized to align conceptually with the 45-degree lines of the building and city grid, providing students broad, expansive views across the city. From the street, SAPL becomes a distinct vertical motif within the tower's façade. Classrooms, crit spaces, and display elements repeat floor by floor in a continuous interior rhythm that reads outwardly as a deliberate architectural gesture.

The building, once a symbol of the oil and gas economy, now announces something different: a school committed to imagining what cities can become.