

Faced with a need for additional space for the Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University and the State of Ohio commissioned Irie Kynyk Goss Architects to design an addition to Cunningham Hall, a laboratory and instructional facility constructed in the late 1960's. The University had very specific requirements for the addition, including:

- A spatial organization based on repeated identical modules, with customization of these modules based on each instructor's research program
- Laboratory designs which permit any space to be reassigned to a comparable use without major or costly modifications
- Incorporation of state-of-the-art data communications equipment into all research spaces
- Performance requirements for material selection, acoustic separation and light level control based on the research being performed in a given laboratory
- Exacting security system specifications to protect important equipment and systems

The research laboratory designs resulted from an ongoing collaboration between our office, the office of the University Architect, the head of the Biological Sciences Department, and the 22 individual researchers for whom the laboratories were being built. The University Architect's initial programming was verified and then continuously updated as the project was developed. Through a scheduled series of design meetings, the overall building design and the designs of the individual research laboratories were constantly tested against program criteria to ensure that the needs of the Biological Sciences Department and the individual researchers were being met.

The four-story, 45,000 s.f. addition to Cunningham Hall contains 22 laboratories, classrooms, offices and support spaces. The building was completed on schedule in 10 months for occupancy in August of 2000.



Addition to Cunningham Hall, Exterior



Addition to Cunningham Hall, Laboratory Space