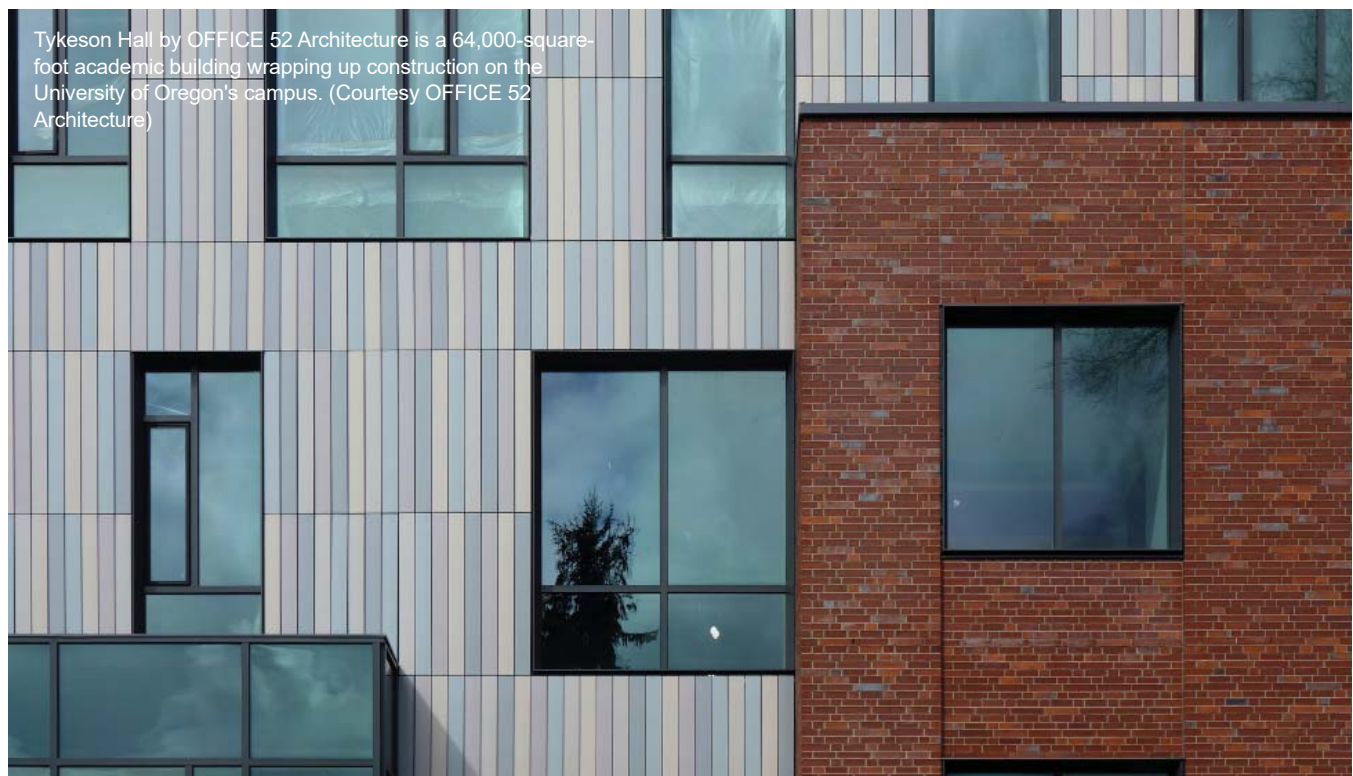


CLAY FOR DAYS

University of Oregon's Tykeson Hall announces a campus presence with a terra-cotta and brick facade

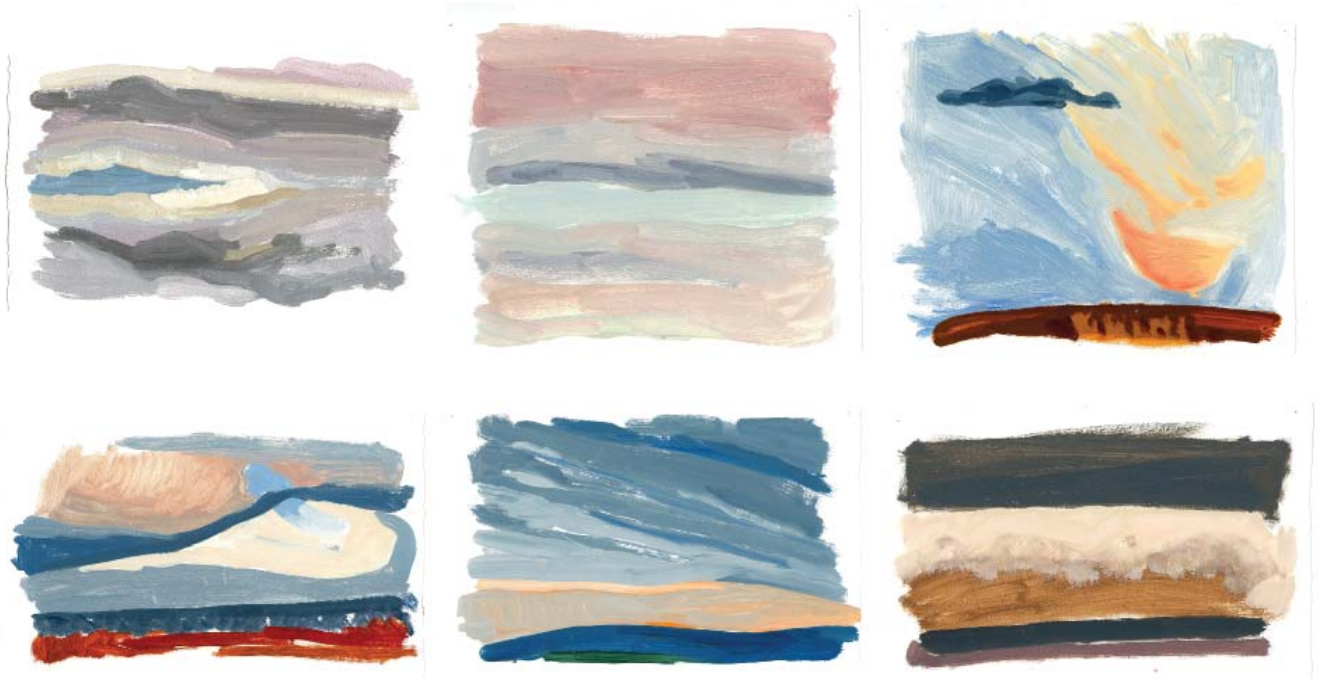
By MATTHEW MARANI • May 10, 2019



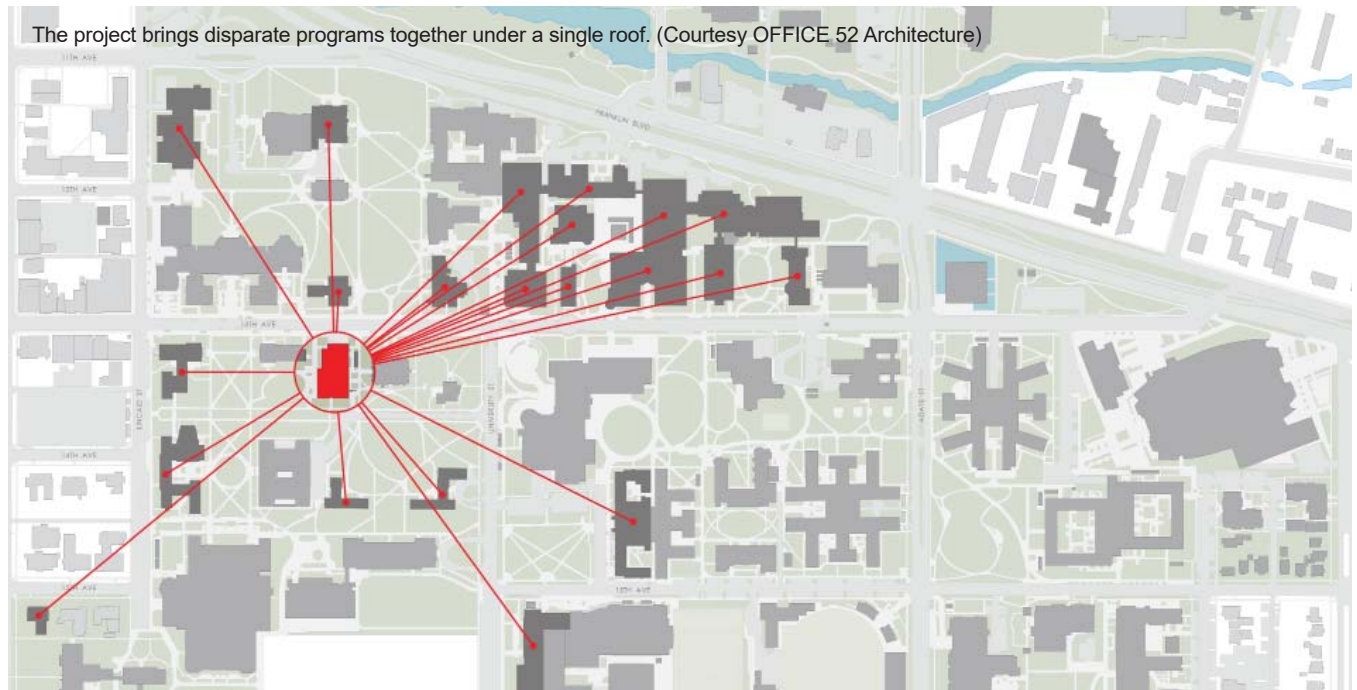
Tykeson Hall, currently wrapping up construction, is nestled in the center of the University of Oregon's Eugene campus. Designed by Portland's OFFICE 52 Architecture, the intervention consolidates classrooms, academic advisors, counseling, and tutoring for nearly 23,000 students under one roof. The 64,000-square-foot academic building carefully inserts itself into the campus with a variegated terra-cotta and brick facade with moments of glass curtain wall.

The building, like much of the campus, rises as a rectangular mass with a series of incisions and setbacks for daylighting and programmatic purposes. To match with the cornice height of the surrounding structures, Tykeson Hall tops out at four stories.

The principal material for the exterior envelope is a terra-cotta rainscreen system composed of 3,100 vertical tiles manufactured in Germany by the Shildan Group. This is the first application of terra-cotta on the historic campus in over eighty years—and earlier examples are chiefly decorative rather than performative. All of the terra-cotta tiles roughly measure six inches by three-to-five feet and are clipped to an aluminum grid at both their top and bottom. In using such a straightforward fastening method, the tiles can be easily removed, repaired, or replaced.



Scans of six abstract oil paintings of the Oregon landscape OFFICE 52 Architecture turned towards the Oregon landscape for inspiration, mapping out potential color palettes through oil painting. (Michelle LaFoe | OFFICE 52 Architecture)

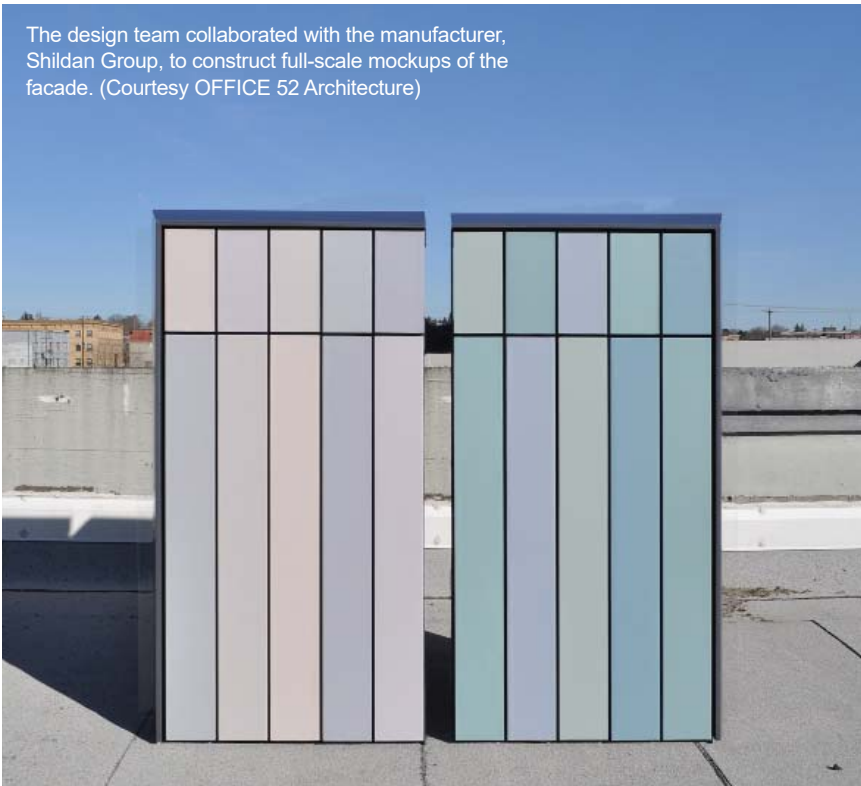


The project brings disparate programs together under a single roof. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)

The facade is clad with 3,100 terra-cotta tiles measuring six inches by three-to-five feet. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)



The design team collaborated with the manufacturer, Shildan Group, to construct full-scale mockups of the facade. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)



Visually striking from multiple vantage points across the campus, the pattern of the matte-glazed terra-cotta tiles was developed from the study of Oregon's natural landscape and the architectural context of the University of Oregon's campus. "We looked at numerous color combinations and determined that five colors were necessary so that no color was ever repeated adjacent to itself on any side," said Office 52 founding principal Michelle LaFoe and principal Isaac Campbell. "We then produced keyed drawings that called out every one of the 3,100 tiles, and we made full-scale mockups of the final options in our studio. The final resolution of the palette came down to a gray palette that had both warm and cool colors."

In total, 78,000 bricks were used for the east, north, and south elevations of the project. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)



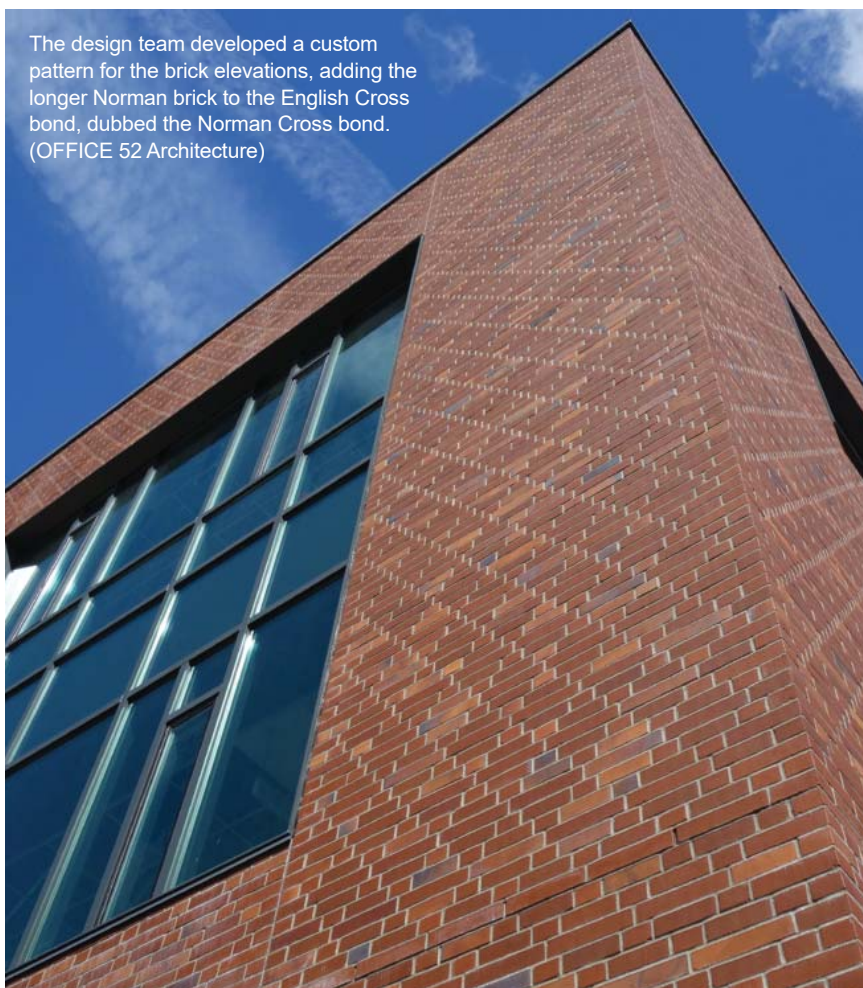
There are significant stretches of glass curtainwall found along the facade. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)



The most common material element found throughout the campus is brick, loadbearing in the case of historic structures, curtain for the contemporary. The existing brick color palette is largely brownish-red and arranged according to the simple Stretcher bond pattern—bricks overlaying each other midway on each successive course. For the project, the university required OFFICE 52 Architecture integrate this overarching aesthetic into the design of Tykeson Hall.

The design team developed a custom pattern for the brick elevations, adding the longer Norman brick to the English Cross bond, dubbed the Norman Cross bond. (OFFICE 52 Architecture)

To this end, the design team researched prospective brick layouts to enliven the facade along the east, north, and south elevations of the project. “During our research, we discovered an interesting pattern known as an English Cross bond, which creates a diagonal pattern by staggering the vertical mortar joints from course to course,” continued LaFoe and Campbell. “Intrigued with this pattern and seeking to increase its scale, we added a course of longer Norman bricks to the pattern, creating a new pattern which we called a Norman Cross bond.”



Facade Manufacturer:

Shildan Group
Mutual Materials Hardscape and Masonry
Kawneer
Vitro
Hartung
Viracon

Architects:

OFFICE 52 Architecture
Rowell Brokaw Architects

Facade Installer:

Streimer Sheet Metal
Davidson’s Masonry
Culver Glass Company

Location:

Eugene, Oregon

Date of Completion:

Summer 2019

System:

Kawneer 1600 Wall System
Open-joint rainscreen system with a fully thermally broken aluminum window system

Products:

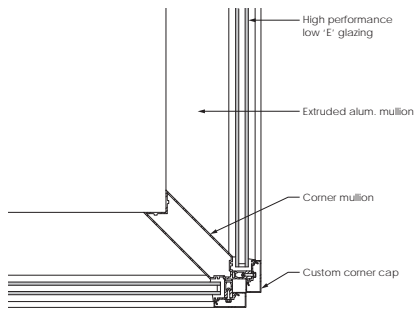
Custom extruded terra-cotta tiles by
Shildan Group
Mutual Materials Hardscape and Masonry
Columbia Red and Autumn Blend
Vitro Solarban 60 & 70
Viracon VE-1-2M

For the coloring of these three elevations of brick, OFFICE 52 Architecture worked with Mutual Materials Hardscape and Masonry to develop a custom-blend of their Columbia Red and Autumn Blend brick types. In total, 78,000 bricks were used for the project, with the design team using building information modeling software to ensure the pattern corresponded with window returns and corner finishes.

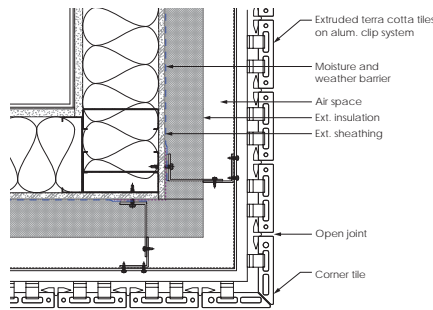
The interior is flooded with light by a series of skylights. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)



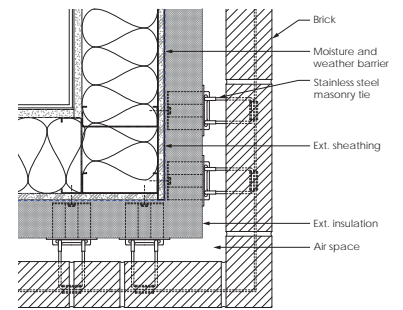
The brick and terra-cotta in non-structural assemblies, serves as a rainscreen for the building. (Courtesy OFFICE 52 Architecture)



Curtain Wall



Terra Cotta Rain Screen



Brick Cavity Wall

The bulk of the project's fenestration is composed of punched window openings. However, one-story glass curtainwall projects from the prevailing sedimentary mass along the north, west, and south elevations. Tykeson Hall is scheduled to be completed in August 2019.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
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