The addition is an academic facility designed by Patkau Architects and completed in 2009 which, in addition to administration and research functions, rapidly expanding and hiring new faculty, launching new programs, and building new partnerships. The Centre's addition proposes to expand the existing research centre and add a museum storage facility that will enable it to qualify as an official BC fossil design policy compliance

The project has been designed in accordance with the Vancouver Campus Plan Part 3 requirements for academic projects. The project is an addition to an existing building. As such, the design is considered for compliance with the Campus Plan as a single composition of new and existing components. The campus pattern of blocks and courtyards is to be reinforced. By providing a new west edge to a preserved south court, the addition is to be seen as a valuable addition to the site and to enhance the building's identity. The new massing is to be considered in relation to the surrounding buildings and the pedestrian environment. The new building is to be designed to complement the existing building in terms of scale, massing, and materiality. The new building is to be designed to be energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. The new building is to be designed to be safe and accessible. The new building is to be designed to be flexible and adaptable. The new building is to be designed to be cost-effective. The new building is to be designed to be constructed in a sustainable manner. The new building is to be designed to be integrated with the existing building. The new building is to be designed to be a landmark for the campus. The new building is to be designed to be a unique and distinctive addition to the campus. The new building is to be designed to be a valuable asset for the campus.

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