IIT Innovation Center:

Thinking outside Mies's box!

The Challenge was to create spaces that inspire innovative ideas by all means. My design combines an appreciation for the past with a contemporary method for design and construction; it marries the most up-to-date fabrication technologies with local industries. Eventually, my project assures parametric and sustainable design that satisfies Chicago's green aspiration and IIT's programmatic requirements.

There are three basic components in the project: Parametric skin divides patterns in relation to the surrounding environment. For example, the pattern height of the shading element changes depending on the orientation of elevation. It represents performative exterior in a very meaningful way. Second, the free-flying modified box (derived and inspired by Mie's box) houses the project innovative spaces and program. Last, the unique carrying system consists of ramps and stairs that lift the modified box in a very elegant way providing an innovative structural solution.

Lifting the modified box is very essential in my design, and there are three main reasons for that: It allows the green spaces to flow beneath the project as the campus landscape originally designed. It also harmonizes with the rest of the campus preserving the space-green relationship. Second, lifting the building makes it possible to interact with the life of the city around it and brings more light and view into the inner spaces. Third, the building has a great value for both the Institute and the city, lifting the box makes the building visible from the expressway becoming a landmark in Chicago.

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Project description.