Rafael Viñoly Architects’ design for the new John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center consolidates neuroscience researchers from nine different institutes within a single building. The facility was strategically planned to offer the most flexible and collaborative environment for National Institutes of Health scientists to work toward a common goal of understanding the human brain and nervous systems in general. The facility design is composed of six 36.9-meter (121-foot) square lab modules, or “pods,” arrayed on a nine-square grid in plan. The roughly cubic pods are arranged around a seventh, central module that forms a transparent atrium. The naturally lit atrium is the collaborative nexus of the facility.

FACTS + FIGURES

Completion
2004

Size
54,440 gsm

Media Coverage

Client
National Institutes of Health

Consultants
MEP Engineer
AKF Group
Stantec

Structural Engineer
Thornton Tomasetti

Civil Engineer
RMF Engineering, Inc.

Laboratory Planner
Jacobs

Acoustics / AV Consultant
Shen Milsom & Wilke, Inc.

Code Consultant
Jensen Hughes

Security
Shen Milsom & Wilke, Inc.

Threat Analysis & Blast Design
Weidlinger Associates, Inc.

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