

About Diamond Schmitt

Diamond Schmitt is a global architecture firm designing transformative, purpose-driven, and highly sustainable buildings from its four studios located in New York, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver. The firm is a boutique practice of accomplished design architects who collectively create innovative design solutions for leading cultural, academic, research, healthcare, and civic spaces worldwide. Always drawing inspiration from each site's surrounding community, architectural, and historical contexts, Diamond Schmitt's visionary designs can be found in more than 50 cities around the world.

Diamond Schmitt's designs for performing arts spaces inspire excellence and exhibit technical precision, achieving rich acoustic clarity and spatial elegance, and fostering an intimate connection between the audience and performer. Noted designs for iconic performance halls include leading the complete reimagining and transformation of New York Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall (scheduled for completion in 2022); the Mariinsky II in St. Petersburg (2013); Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto (2006); La Maison Symphonique de Montréal (2011); and the recently completed Buddy Holly Hall for the Performing Arts and Sciences, Lubbock, Texas (2021).

A signatory to the Climate Action Declaration, the firm is an industry leader in advancing sustainable design through holistic environmental, social, and economic sustainability practices. Diamond Schmitt creates high performance, conscientious, solution-oriented buildings that empower people, communities, and organizations to harness change for the greater public good. A member of the Canada Green Building Council and U.S. Green Building Council, Diamond Schmitt has innovated energy use solutions for its clients and provides critical energy intelligence through ecoMetrics, the firm's live, in-house software. The firm is known for its adaptive reuse expertise, and frequently achieves among the highest LEED and Net Zero Energy certifications—Innovation Centre at Red River College (2020); Centre for Green Cities, Evergreen Brick Works, Toronto, ON (2010); and is currently tailoring a Net Zero energy and carbon design of Ottawa Public Library – Library and Archives Canada Joint Facility (2024). Diamond Schmitt is currently working on two Passive House projects in Ontario, Canada—Toronto's Alexandra Park (2023) and the precedent-setting Passive House design of 300 residential units for Gladstone Village, Ottawa Community Housing (2023)—and is a member of the Living Building Challenge, having achieved Living Building Challenge petal certification for the Trades Building Renewal and Expansion, Okanagan College (2016) project.

Diamond Schmitt expertly transforms and reimagines iconic buildings and historic landmarks, several of which are on UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Banff Centre, Banff (2010); The National Arts Centre in Ottawa (2017); and The Senate of Canada Building in Ottawa (2019). Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto (2019) and the heritage revitalization and expansion at the New Vic, McGill University (2027) are other prime examples of conscientious design driven by leading adaptive reuse principles. The success of these adaptive projects is a consequence of Diamond Schmitt's signature approach, which combines thoughtful integration of contemporary methodologies, technologies, and materials with preservation of the integrity and beauty of the original built fabric.

New healthcare and research spaces such as the University of British Columbia's Undergraduate Biosciences Complex (2020), Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness (2017), Bridgepoint Active Healthcare (2013), and Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning at the Hospital for Sick Children (2013) exemplify Diamond Schmitt's innovative vision for creating humanizing environments that seamlessly integrate advanced technological capabilities into existing organizational frameworks. Diamond Schmitt approaches the creation of these facilities with a dynamic design philosophy focused on creating and facilitating creative connections and collaborations between disparate departments and research teams. Meanwhile, Diamond Schmitt frequently integrates modular spaces into its designs that can anticipate and adapt to future changes in the needs of researchers and practitioners.

Similarly, new academic buildings demonstrate the firm's expertise in designing spaces that foster collaboration, exchange, wellness, and community, as exemplified by University of Toronto's Robarts Common (2021), McMaster University's Peter George Centre for Living and Learning (PGCLL) (2019), Emily Carr University of Art + Design (2017), and Ontario Tech University Master Plan and seven academic buildings (2004-2010). From laying out university master plans to designing individual campus buildings, Diamond Schmitt develops a comprehensive understanding of the needs of students, faculty, and staff through extensive on-site research and collaboration, determining creative approaches to enriching each community through design.

The firm is also noted for civic, public, and residential projects that advance distinct and unique community interests, having designed the versatile Regent Park Community's Daniels Spectrum Arts Centre, Toronto (2012); Foreign Ministry of Israel (2002); Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, New York (2002); and the SmartVMC District Master Plan, Vaughan (2021).

From reimagining and reviving historic buildings to conceptualizing university campuses, hospitals, research centers, cultural facilities, and residential and commercial developments, Diamond Schmitt approaches its work with the intense focus, continuity of concept, and bespoke approach of a boutique practice. Through a collaborative research process informed by the site, client goals, and broader community and social dynamics, Diamond Schmitt combines the art of design and building to create structures known for their bold design, meticulous craftsmanship, exceptional performance, and meaningful engagement with the public.