



**PROJECT NAME**

American  
International  
University

**LOCATION**

Al Jahra, Kuwait

**CLIENT**

Ali Alghanim Group

**DESIGN DESCRIPTION**

Originally designed to be a community college, a shift in ownership during construction resulted in a newfound vision.

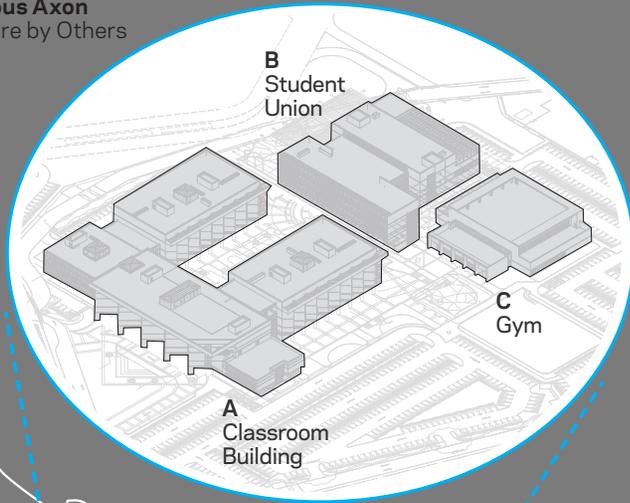
The ambitious American provost aimed to create a transformative campus experience that empowers the future leaders of Kuwait to be creators, not just consumers.

To successfully execute this vision, a new design team was commissioned to re-imagine the interior environments and deliver experiences that align with the high-caliber faculty and students the university was aiming to attract.

Set to be a cultural catalyst, the new American International University of Kuwait provides impactful experiences that aim to educate, inspire, and transform Kuwait's future landscape of leaders.

# CONTEXT

AIU Campus Axon  
Shell & Core by Others



IRAQ

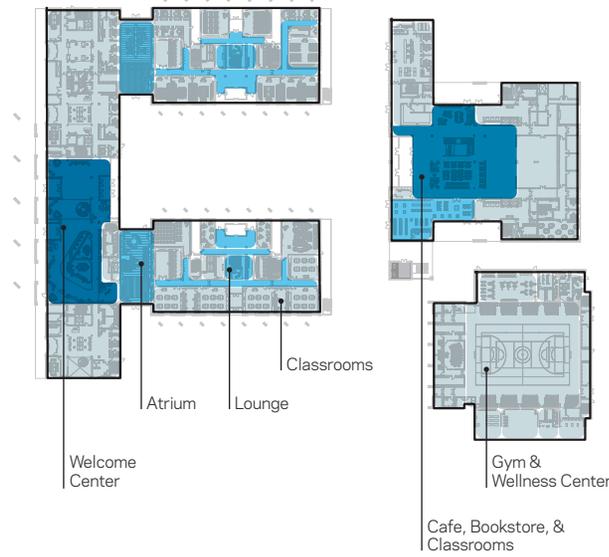
IRAN

KUWAIT

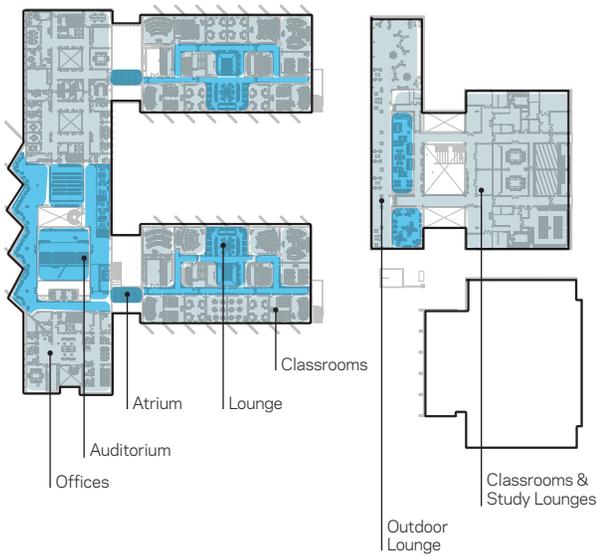
PERSIAN GULF

SAUDI ARABIA

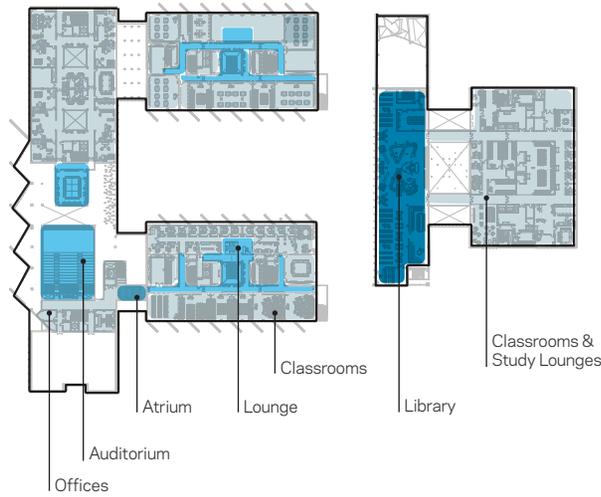
## GROUND LEVEL



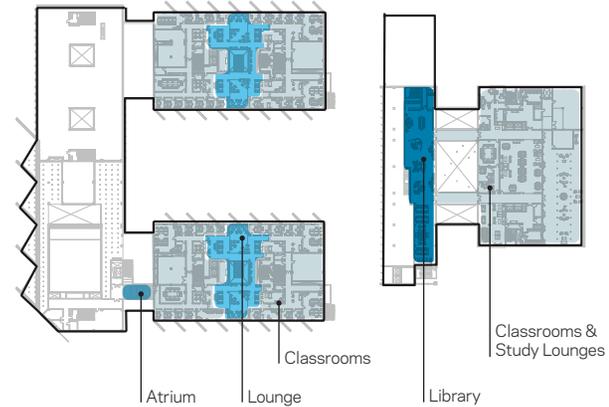
## LEVEL 1



## LEVEL 2



## LEVEL 3



## COLOR KEY

■ Welcome & Community

■ Primary Circulation & Study

■ Classrooms, Offices, & Wellness

## VISION

*"With this university, the future leaders of Kuwait will be empowered to be creators, not just consumers."*

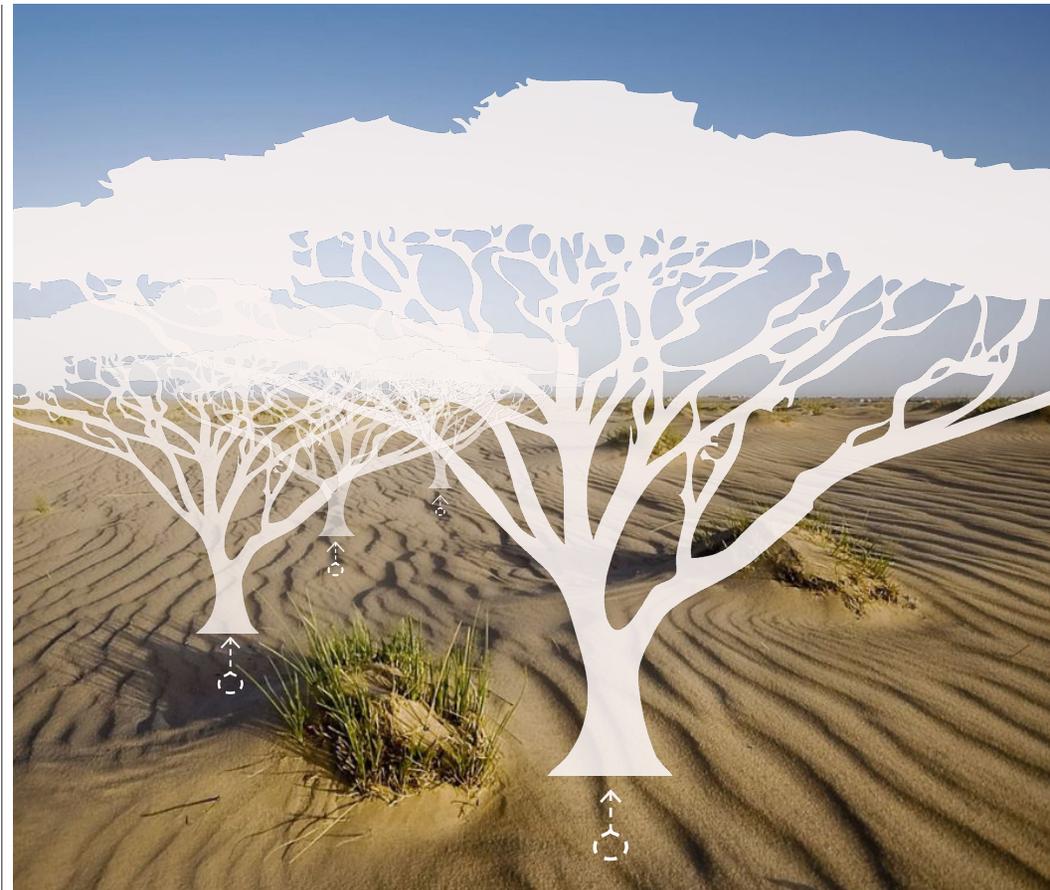
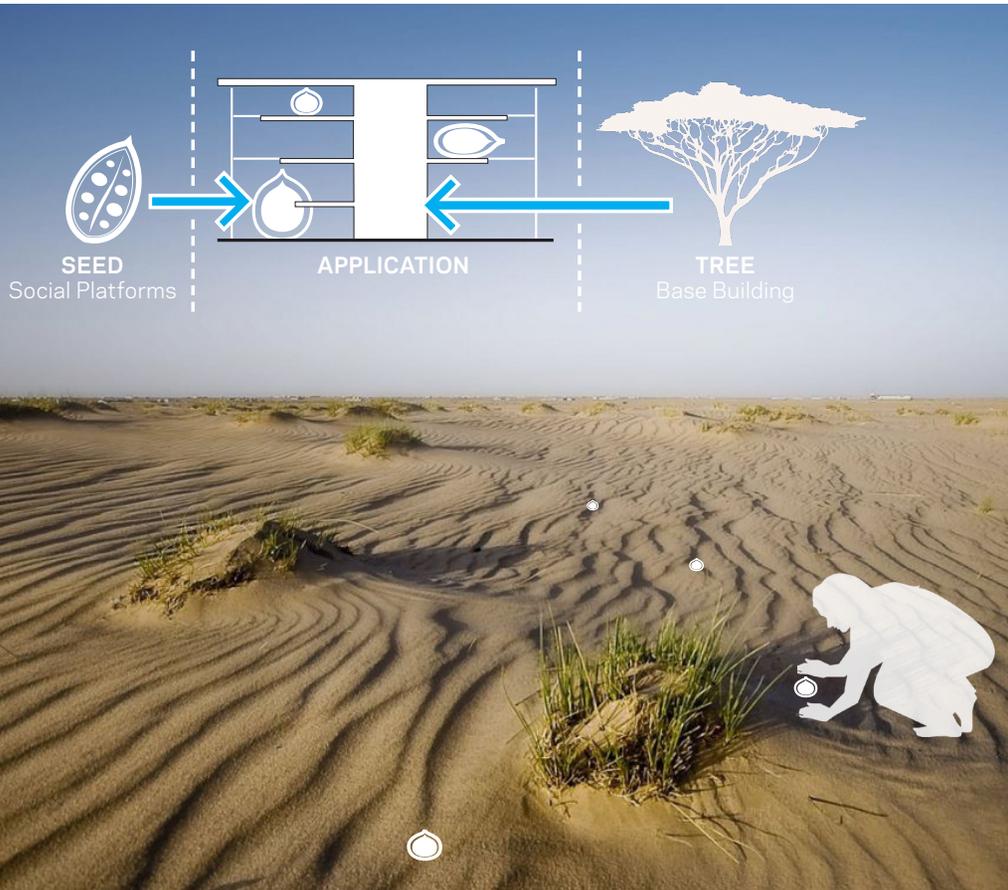
- Jacqueline Shaw  
American International University Provost



# CONCEPT

## Kuwait's Future Landscape

Armed with the client's vision, the concept for Kuwait's new American International University (AIU) was inspired by a young group of ambitious Kuwaitis determined to rebuild their natural landscape after decades of upheaval. Over the span of three years, these proud locals leveraged technology in order to plant and nurture 350,000 trees throughout the surrounding desert. Their efforts resulted in an increase in biodiversity, improved air quality, and a reduction in the number of sand storms. This story of perseverance is conceptually represented through the expression of the vigorous desert tree, its resilient seed pods, and their role in ensuring prosperity in surrounding environs.



## SEED PODS



The campus' magnetic social platforms pulled inspiration from the qualities of resilient desert seed pods. Vibrant colors, protective shells, and patterns that echo "release" result in environments that promote tenacity and ingenuity.



Color

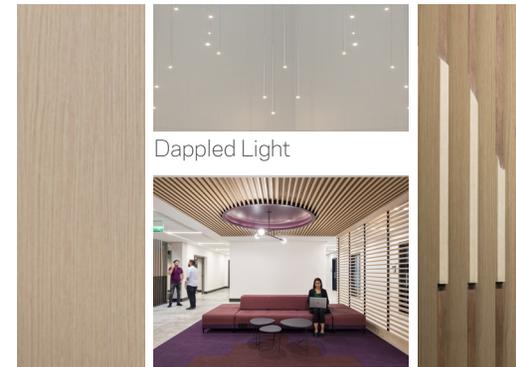
Form

Pattern

## DESERT TREE



Through the application of materials and lighting, the architectural base building references attributes of vigorous desert trees through the exploration and expression of warmth, texture, canopy, and dappled light.



Warmth

Canopy

Texture



## CONCEPT APPLICATION

Stalwart desert trees are expressed through the upward reach of the enveloping, textured wood surfaces. The targeted introduction of colorful, sculpted forms echo determined seed pods and serve as a prompt - encouraging movement, interaction, curiosity, and connection.



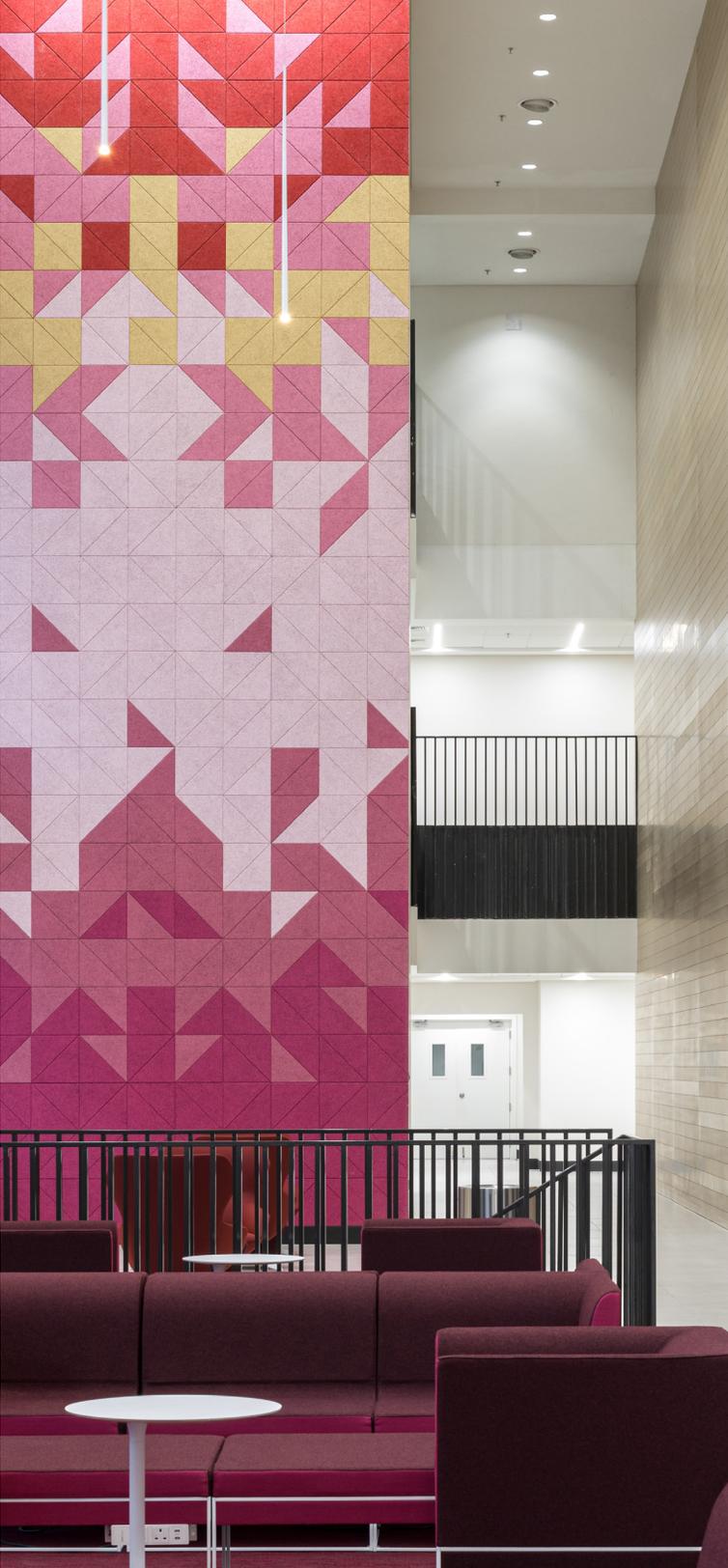
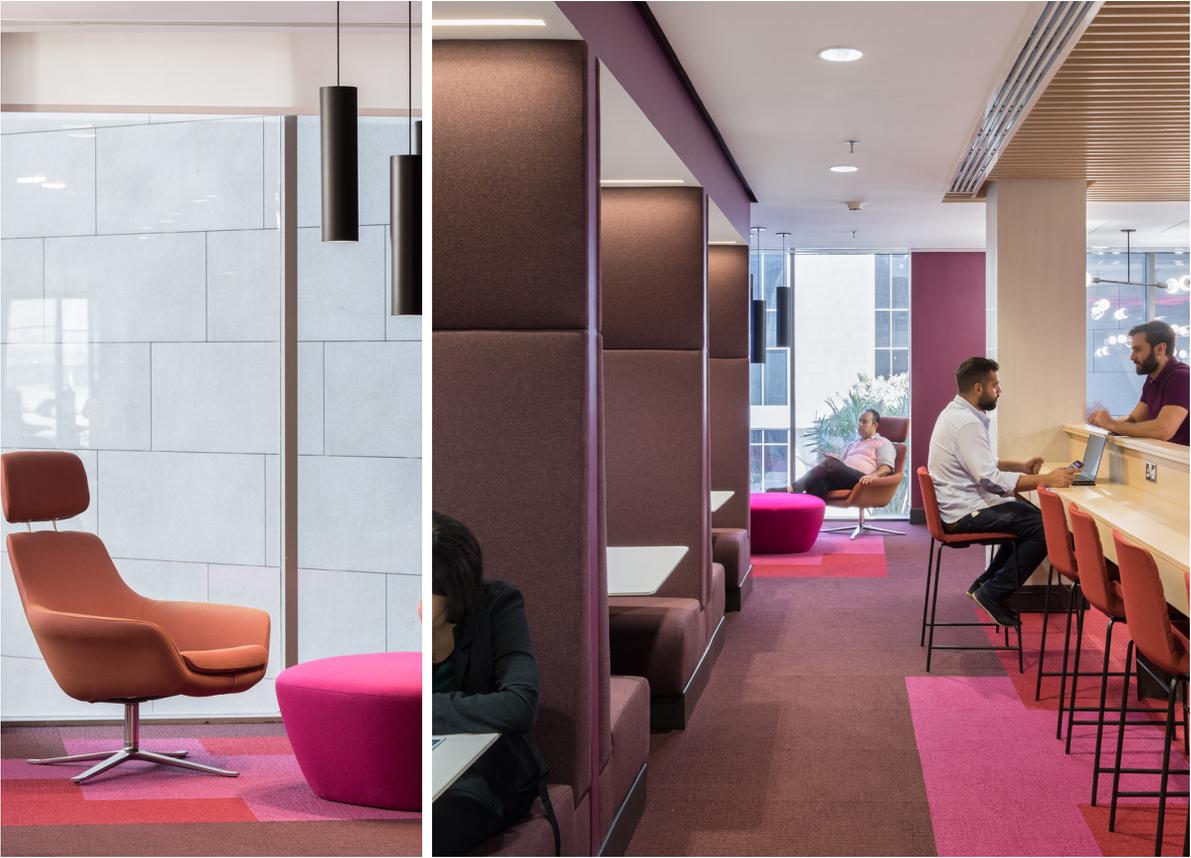
## EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE

Bold, architectural expressions assembled with bespoke details suggest an established confidence for this new university and reflect the high-caliber education and experiences found at AIU.



**COLOR AS IDENTITY**

Students are guided through campus by colorful, spatial landmarks which echo qualities of desert seed pods through the exploration of nuanced, tonal shifts - creating visual movement and emphasis.





## DIVERSITY OF SETTINGS

A diverse, curated collection of settings and postures support the activity both preceding and following lectures. Opportunities to connect and collaborate, or retreat to reflect and focus are positioned within vivid landmark environments.





## SUPPORTING SPONTANEOUS CONNECTIONS

Light-filled atria feature soaring, linear wood walls with patterning reflective of the university's logo. Generous, occupiable bridges connect the faculty offices and classrooms, providing opportunities to support and encourage more casual, authentic connections.

## PLATFORMS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE EXCHANGES

At the heart of the campus is the state of the art auditorium, whose presence projects a confident permanence. Sheltered beneath the protective wood canopy, a range of vibrant blue chairs serve as an encouraging prompt for powerful exchanges between students and global leaders.





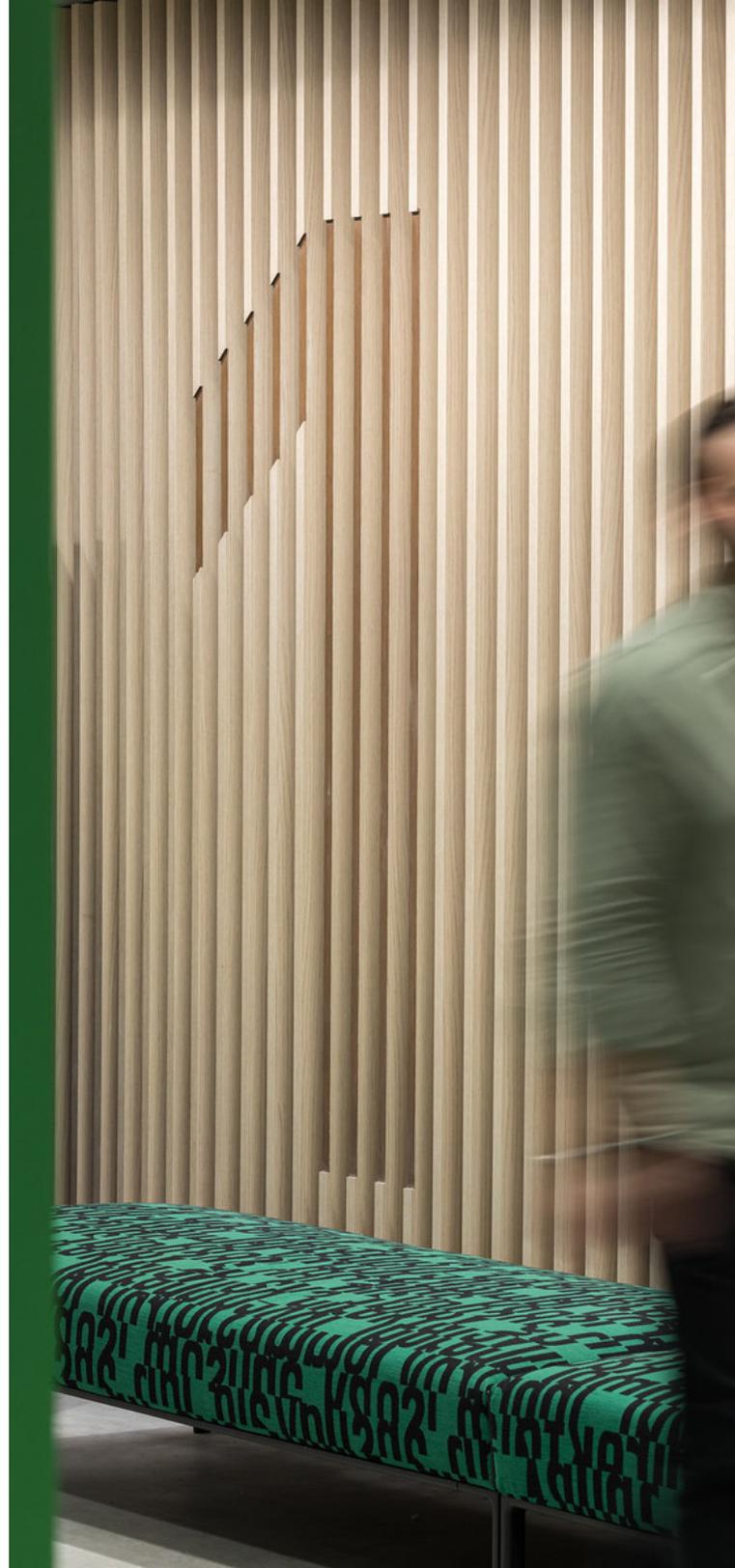
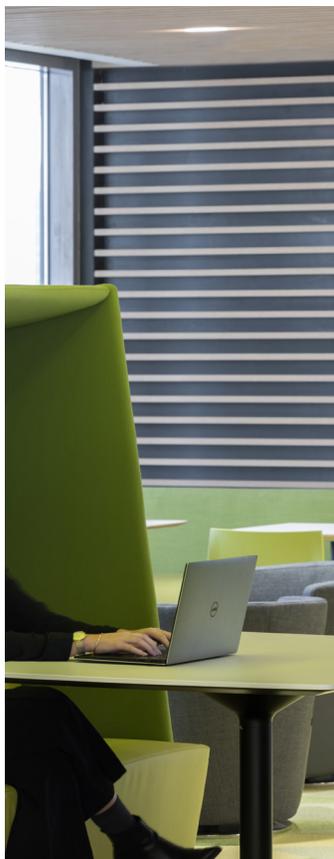
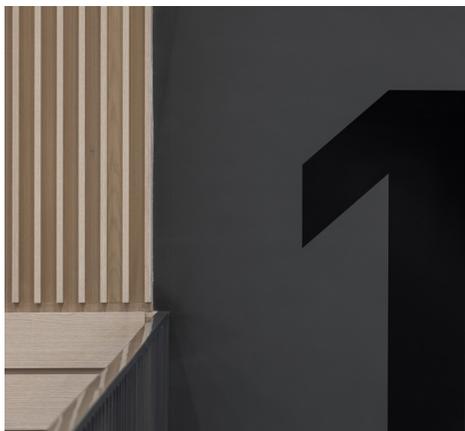
## FOSTERING COMMUNITY

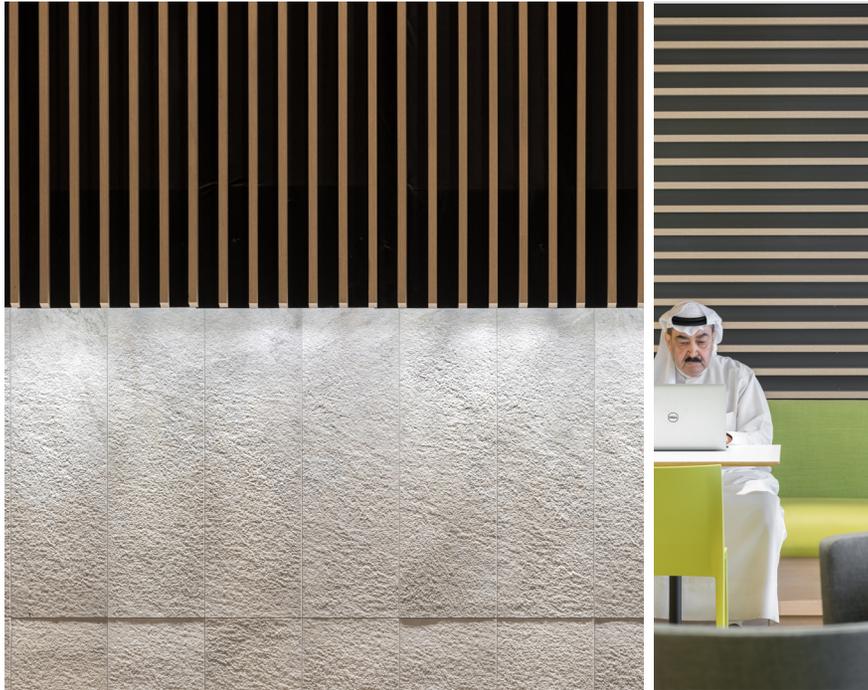
The Student Union offers a mix of spaces and tools that encourage and enable this community of commuters to stay on campus and foster connections with their broader student network.



## WAYFINDING TOOLS

Thoughtfully integrated architectural wayfinding devices are used in tandem with color to support students, staff, and guests as they navigate the campus.





### **RESILIENT SURROUNDINGS**

A unified campus experience was achieved through the selection of enduring architectural materials. These confident materials were applied through the lens of longevity and executed with consistent and refined detailing.



### OASIS FOR LEARNING

In response to the region's harsh climate, the daylight-filled library serves as the campus' communal nexus. Under the protective wood canopy, students explore and disseminate ideas. This essential learning process is reflected through the use of color and pattern.





### **ENERGIZED DESTINATION FOR LEARNING**

The targeted use of yellow and the shift in color concentration is leveraged to emphasize moments of energy and collaboration, as well as moments of heightened focus. These punctuated spatial offerings support students throughout their curated learning journey at AIU.

