



# An Oasis for the MIT Community: Building 14 Courtyard

## Quick Facts

**Architects:** Kennedy & Violich

**Landscape architects:**  
Stephen Stimson Associates

**Total square feet:** 6,020

**Fundraising goal:** \$3.5 million

# 1,000+

Daily visits to Hayden Library and the courtyard in Fall 2021

**A revitalized community space in the heart of campus provides accessible, inclusive, open-air collaboration and social space.**

With a significant architectural and landscape redesign, the Building 14 courtyard offers a beautiful outdoor respite for the community, welcoming people from all walks of life at MIT – students, staff, and faculty from any school, any discipline – and beyond.

Since its opening, the courtyard has hosted gatherings both formal and informal, including a student-run book exchange, department and program welcome events, Division of Student Life social events, and countless lunches, coffee breaks, and impromptu study sessions.

Thanks to the renovated courtyard, and the new Courtyard Cafe, students now have new dining options in this area of campus, a central gathering space where they might encounter a community event or run into friends, and a relaxing retreat from the fast pace of life at MIT.



Photos: John Horner

**“Whenever I visit the Courtyard Café, there is a special pleasure in seeing MIT people take a rare moment to pause – to appreciate each other’s company, to enjoy the natural light, to relax in the beautiful new space. The past two years have been a vivid reminder that coming together in person is a powerful part of learning and growth. The new courtyard is an ideal place to connect, exchange ideas and gather new energy – the kind of mutual inspiration that is the soul of MIT.”** –L. Rafael Reif, President

## Design Highlights

- Redesigned entrances and a paved stone walkway winding throughout the courtyard create accessible space for all visitors to enjoy.
- A new enclosed porch provides a three-season community space, with a wall of accordion-fold windows that open and close to the elements.
- The porch’s perforated sun screen casts shadows that look like sunlight coming through the tree canopy.
- New shade trees and plantings capture rain and reduce the load on drainage systems.

## Naming Opportunities

### Entire courtyard – \$3 million

A gift of \$3 million officially names the entire 6,020-square-foot courtyard, which has been known as Lipchitz Courtyard in recognition of a gift of sculptures by Jacques Lipchitz to the Institute. This is an opportunity to support an inclusive space for events, casual conversation, or quiet contemplation.

### Porch – \$1 million

An enclosed 1,900-square-foot area at the east end of the courtyard, the porch provide flexible, three-season community gathering space. A gift of \$1 million names this unique space that blends inside and out, with large windows that open to the elements in warmer months.



[Watch a video about the reimagining of the Building 14 Courtyard](#)

## For More Information

Kaija Langley  
Director of Development, MIT Libraries  
klangley@mit.edu | 617-452-2123