



Key Project Information

Type:	Renovation
Project Size:	21,400 SF
Market Segment:	College/University

With their lease coming to an end, New England School of Acupuncture saw the opportunity to improve their teaching and learning environment. DRA was hired to survey the existing facility and develop a program to ideally house the functions of the school, clinic and pharmacy/bookstore. Our design team listened to faculty, staff and students to fully understand how the spaces are used and what improvements could be made.

With a program in place, DRA examined several potential sites for program fit, projected quality of space, potential for growth and configuration efficiency. Specific considerations included, purchase vs. rental, location (parking and proximity to public transportation) and flexibility for change. Ultimately, the third floor of an old mill building was selected. The design of the chosen site reflects NESAs philosophy (founded in the Oriental Medicine tradition), efficiently combines classroom learning with clinical practice and fully integrates technology. Particular attention was paid to circulation, lighting, air quality and feng shui principles. The new space is lit with full spectrum lighting and natural sunlight. Reception, and administrative offices are housed at the northern end of the building while the bookstore and library are centrally located. Lecture rooms and the student center occupy the southern portion with clinical practice rooms facing east.

DRA maintained its "green practice" by recycling and relocating some of the HVAC, windows, doors, light fixtures, millwork and cabinetry. Because of the limited budget, NESAs received donated systems furniture.