

REDEFINING BUSINESS EDUCATION:

How Texas A&M's Mays Business School
is Designing the Future of Learning



**Mays Business School at Texas A&M University
has a remarkably clear mission: building a better
future through business.**

Building on the traditions and core values that define Texas A&M's legacy and drive its success - Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service - the business school is pioneering a new model for business education rooted in collaboration, flexibility, and real-world alignment. Fueled by its ambition to become the preeminent public business school in the nation, Mays Business School is meeting the changing demands of modern business and transforming educational standards with a bold new symbol of innovation on the university's West Campus: the new Wayne Roberts '85 Building.

Kirksey
ARCHITECTURE

A New Landmark for Learning

The Wayne Roberts '85 Building is an 81,000-square-foot, four-story building that sits adjacent to the Wehner Building and the West Campus Library. The new facility was purpose-built for connectivity, and together, all three buildings outline the ConocoPhillips Collaboration Plaza - a new destination to encourage interaction between students, faculty, and visitors.

Situated a bus ride from the center of campus, Mays Business School often struggled with visibility and lacked a natural arrival point. The Roberts Building changes that, creating a destination that fosters engagement and strengthens the school's presence within the broader university landscape.

According to Mays Business School Dean Nate Sharp, "The Roberts Building has changed everything. It makes a statement. It looks and feels preeminent."

Design That Mirrors the Modern Workplace

Texas-based design firm Kirksey Architecture worked closely with Texas A&M and Mays Business School to design a building that reflects the evolving nature of work and education. The goal was to move beyond traditional classroom and office models to

create a space that supports active learning, collaboration, and flexibility, reflecting a shift toward more agile, team-based environments in both academic and corporate environments.

The new building features open, light-filled spaces, minimal private offices, and configurable learning studios equipped with advanced technology. Huddle spaces, informal gathering zones, and collaboration rooms provide students and faculty with options for how and where to work. The building also incorporates StudioPod rooms, access to daylight, enhanced acoustics, and inviting staircases that promote movement and prioritize well-being.





Designed to mirror contemporary office environments, the building blurs the line between classroom and workplace. Its fourth floor houses the Center for Executive Development, providing a purpose-built space for corporate clients and industry leaders. These interactions bring business to campus and allow students to engage with real-world challenges in a professional setting.



"By changing the way students and faculty inhabit the campus, Texas A&M is creating environments that more closely resemble modern offices," said Gary Machicek, partner and managing director of design at Kirksey Architecture. "The Roberts Building reflects how modern business, learning, and class instruction are evolving."

This student-centered approach allows for flexible teaching models and supports peer-to-peer learning. It also facilitates connections with former students, executive learners, and corporate partners, helping students build relationships and skills that extend beyond the classroom. In both form and function, the Roberts Building positions Mays as a business school built for the future of work.

The Student Experience Reimagined

The Roberts Building is designed to engage students through transparency, flexibility, and interaction.



"There are timeless elements of learning," said Dean Nate Sharp. "We know students learn better with natural light, in groups, and with flexible interaction."

Glass-walled classrooms and open layouts make learning visible, fostering a culture of collaboration between students and faculty. The three-story Kay '02 and Jerry Cox '72 Atrium, connected to the ConocoPhillips Collaboration Plaza, serves as both a daily hub and a reconfigurable event space for up to 250 people.

Eight technology-equipped learning studios and smaller huddle rooms support team-based learning. Every aspect of the design mirrors professional settings and eases the transition from classroom to career.

Daylight access and wellness-focused design features contribute to a comfortable and student-centered environment. With few faculty offices in the building, informal interaction is encouraged, reinforcing the building's role as a space for active, modern learning.

An added benefit of the Roberts Building's heightened visibility on West Campus is the increased accessibility of business education to students in other disciplines, such as engineering, science, and architecture.

Mays' Commitment to Excellence

Rising to the top ranks of public business schools is a long-term goal, and Mays has been building toward that for years. The Wayne Roberts '85 Building is a strategic addition to that effort, helping to elevate the school's visibility, attract top talent, and foster innovation. "Facilities matter," said Dean Nate Sharp. "They're a critical part of the path to preeminence."



“The type of teaching and learning we expect to be most impactful in 2025, 2045, and beyond is happening here,” said Dean Nate Sharp.



The Roberts Building serves as a tool for recruiting top students and faculty, supporting interdisciplinary collaboration, and enabling professional “collisions” that spark entrepreneurial thinking. In its first six months open, it has become a key stop for visitors and prospective students -- a campus destination that showcases the school’s vision of building a better future through business.

The building also reinforces the lasting connection former students have with Mays. For many, their time at Mays evokes memories of studying in the West Campus Library or late nights walking the halls of Wehner. This new building will present a new generation of graduates with lasting memories and core experiences. That sense of tradition and momentum comes together in the name

Wayne Roberts, Class of '85, has long given generously across campus, though often anonymously. “Wayne has given all over campus but never put his name on anything,” Sharp said. “We feel that his story – first-generation college student, successful entrepreneur, and always giving back – is inspiring and mirrors Mays Business School’s values and identity. It’s the perfect fit.”

A Model for the Future of Business Schools

The Wayne Roberts '85 Building reflects a broader shift in both business and higher education toward flexibility, transparency, and collaboration. From its adaptable learning studios to wellness-focused design elements and technology-enabled spaces, the building supports how students and professionals expect to learn and work today.

Gone are the siloed classrooms and faculty offices of traditional academic buildings. In their place is a dynamic, open environment built to foster interaction and engagement. “The type of teaching and learning we expect to be most impactful in 2025, 2045, and beyond is happening here,” said Dean Nate Sharp. “These are timeless elements.”

The building also reinforces a key philosophy: that business is a team sport. Every design decision, from open circulation to visible

group work, encourages collaboration and prepares students for the demands of modern organizations.

The Wayne Roberts '85 Building is more than a building; it's a strategic investment in the future of Mays Business School.

With its student-centered design and forward-looking vision, the building advances Mays' goal of becoming the preeminent public business school in the nation.



By redefining how business education looks, feels, and functions, the Roberts Building positions Mays at the forefront of a changing landscape where collaboration, innovation, and real-world relevance are not just ideals but everyday practice.