Neilson Library Redesign

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The current Neilson Library building is situated in the heart of the Smith College campus, making it a hub of intellectual, social and communal activity. My programmatic goals for the design of a specific space within the building involve utilizing the slight grade change to encourage continuity between center campus and the science quad. By incorporating outdoor study space, an amenity I found the campus desperately needs, there is an increase in circulation in and around the building as well as the opportunity for more intentional locales in which students have the opportunity to study, share a meal, hold a conversation, engage in group activity or give a presentation. The indoor spaces were designed to emphasize openness as well as the overarching theme of continuity engaged throughout the entire space. I wanted to also take advantage of the fantastic views, at all times of day however specifically at sunset, that occur over the science quad and Paradise Pond. My hope is that the visual simplicity translated through the structural elements and design aesthetic will allow the space to accentuate its surroundings and provide a flexible environment in which students have the opportunity to be most successful.