The David M. Rubenstein Forum at the University of Chicago is New York–based Diller Scofidio + Renfro’s first project in town. Known for designing Manhattan’s High Line and striking museums like The Broad and ICA Boston, here DS+R created a new conference center for intellectual exchange among scholars, researchers and visiting dignitaries. The building is clad in zinc and glass and combines a two-story base with eight slender stories of offset, stacked volumes. This skewed silhouette creates a dynamic mix of formal and informal spaces while avoiding obvious perceptions of “front” or “back.” As one ascends, views expand toward downtown and the lake.

Rubenstein Forum replaces the 1959 midcentury modern Charles Stewart Mott building designed by Schmidt, Garden & Erikson. The University is busily transforming its properties along the Midway Plaisance, with the Tod Williams and Billie Tsien-designed Logan Center for the Arts and a new “study hotel” breaking ground down the block. It is also indicative of a continued south-ward push of campus development, including the expansion of dorms and medical facilities into fast-changing Woodlawn.

Further reading:
DS+R unveils a tower of cantilevers for the University of Chicago.
Rubenstein Forum, Architect’s project page.