The new home of the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, The Keller Center marks the rebirth of an iconic modernist campus building. Originally designed by the architect of Radio City Music Hall at the Aon Center, Edward Durell Stone, Chicago’s own Farr Associates led an $80 million restoration of the 1963 building. New windows soften the monumental limestone building and a four-story atrium opens up its core and floods the interior with natural light. A new social hub forms around a grand staircase composed of local trees felled by the emerald ash borer, sourced by artist and U of C faculty member Theaster Gates. It functions as a collaborative workspace or just a nice spot to relax.

Energy-saving adaptations such as a green roof, solar panels and a rainwater-capture system earned The Keller Center LEED Platinum certification from the US Green Buildings Council. It has also attained the rigorous Living Building Challenge Petal certification, making it one of the most eco-friendly buildings in higher education.

Further reading:
The Keller Center. University of Chicago, Harris Public Policy.
The Keller Center architect’s page.