School’s building director celebrated for “Greening MIT”

HUNDREDS OF DONORS AND LABORERS, along with an award-winning architectural firm, built MIT Sloan’s new building, a project 13 years in the making.

Cindy Hill, the School’s director of capital projects, was part of the team from day one.

In March, MIT honored Hill with an MIT Excellence Award for Greening MIT for her commitment to making the new building, including the Joan and William A. Porter 1967 Center for Management Education, the most energy-efficient building on the Institute’s campus.

Construction on the building, designated E62, lasted three years. Hill was behind the job for the decade lead-up to groundbreaking.

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Center for Management Education, Cindy led a team of the School’s faculty and staff through a thoughtful process that took into account the needs of our entire community and, importantly, the environmental needs of MIT,” said John C Head III Dean David Schmittlein. “She did this with a commitment, drive, and passion that serve as inspiration to the School.”

Hill was involved in the program study that determined the School’s needs for a new building. She helped choose the architect, Moore Ruble Yudell; represented MIT Sloan’s needs and concerns in every step of the design; and worked closely with MIT facilities to make sure the building was delivered on time and under budget.

The building has been praised by students, faculty, and staff for its usability and livability.

Sustainability features include:
• a building envelope that is designed to be highly insulated and airtight;
• an HVAC system that utilizes chilled beams and radiant panels to regulate temperature;
• an integrated lighting system that provides dimming of office lights and shade control in response to occupancy and daylight conditions;
• extensive bicycle parking;
• photovoltaic solar panels on the uppermost roof; and
• a flexible design of faculty offices and classrooms that can be redesigned when necessary for the next 100 years.

“Cindy played a large role in making this a green building, constantly advocating and seeking solutions which enhance the building’s environmental impact,” Paul Asquith, the Gordon Y Billard Professor in Finance, wrote in nominating Hill for the MIT Excellence Award. “These included multiple features, such as the green roof, which, without her, would not have happened, the solar panels, and the insulation system.”

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“It gives students a home,” she said. “This is where you will find the most people at any time during the day. There are many places to just sit and talk or quietly study. In the same way we want faculty bumping into each other, we want students to have that opportunity, too. There are lots of ways they can study, collaborate, and network.”

Hill has worked at MIT Sloan for 25 years, with roles in the MBA program and educational services prior to joining capital projects.

The MIT Excellence Awards honor staff members who fulfill the goals, values, and mission of the Institute through their extraordinary work at MIT. This year, 19 people and three teams were honored at a March 1 awards ceremony in Kresge Auditorium.