



Educational Activities Building Renovation and New Construction

Penn State Capital Campus, Middletown, PA

Budget: \$15M

Client: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Associate Architect

The new project greatly expands the purpose of the original EAB to house general activities from many campus departments, particularly the need for large lecture class facilities. The building program calls for three 120-seat general classrooms, a 50-seat general classroom, and program-specific spaces including a fine arts practice space, photo lab and 18,500 SF of laboratory space for electrical and civil engineering programs.

The transformation of the program from a simple addition to 'new and old buildings in temporary coexistence' and eventually to a new stand-alone building changed the approach to siting and design, resulting in new siting studies for other locations on campus. After studying options, the client and architect agreed to keep the building in its intended location. The two buildings are linked by a delicate, all-seasons passage that can be removed when the earlier building completes its design life.

Consistent with the theme of the building's engineering programs, the design expresses the structural, electrical and mechanical system of the building, such as structural elements expressed in the laboratory corridors and electrical and mechanical systems exposed in the ceilings.

The new building features a gallery that extends the length of the building, connecting all public and classroom spaces. The gallery offers continuous seating and social areas along its 300' length. It provides specific display areas for thesis projects and a view to existing campus buildings and the planned campus mall.

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