



Association of College Unions International

For more information, please contact:

Martha J. Blood
ACUI Director of Corporate Partnerships
812.245.8070
mblood@acui.org

Four college union projects receive 2007 ACUI Facility Design Awards

March 27, 2007 (Atlanta, Ga.) — At the Association of College Unions International annual conference, four recipients were honored with the 2007 ACUI Facility Design Award of Excellence:

- Perkins+Will, University Student Union at South Dakota State University
- Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, The Kanbar Campus Center at Philadelphia University
- Holzman Moss Architecture, Texas Tech Student Union at Texas Tech University
- Ambia, Student Union and Recreation Center at Central Washington University

The ACUI Facility Design Awards recognize excellence in the design of student-centered facilities that support campus community building and student learning. Entries, submitted by the architect firms, were judged not only on the basis of the facilities' appearance, but also on the process used to arrive at the design and how the new or renovated facility has impacted the campus.

South Dakota State University and Perkins+Will began an \$8 million renovation of the University Student Center in April 2004, which included adding 26,000 sq. ft. On Oct. 21, 2005, the new union opened its doors.

"The new student union has elevated to fill its roll as the beacon of student life, a home away from home, and the place to be on the South Dakota State University campus," said Jeff Stebar, Perkins+Will.

Now seen as the "beacon" of campus, the University Student Union is designed much like a town square, offering a "main street of store fronts for student activities, student government, bookstore, information desk, and administrative offices," said Stebar. Not to mention that by using the same materials from the original union, Perkins+Will was able to create a seamless expansion, from both the exterior and interior. With all the work dedicated to bringing life back to the University Student Union, both the university and Perkins+Will are honored to receive the Facility Design Award.

"Our expansion project resulted in a union that is the surging pulse of student activity on our campus," said Jennifer Novotny, director of student activities. "We are truly honored by this award. [It] was a recognition of the diligence and passion of all those who contributed in some way to the project. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with a firm that recognized what a union should and could be."

After just over five years, Texas Tech University opened its newly renovated Student Union Building on Sept. 6, 2006. The project, which cost \$34.5 million, renovated 106,600 sq. ft. of the original building and added another 95,250 sq. ft.

With The Gathering Pavilion serving as "a meeting place and focal point" for the Student Union, "a series of pavilions, arcades, entry blocks, and pitched tiles roofs create connections between the building and its immediate surroundings," said Douglas Moss, Holzman Moss Architecture.

According to Moss, traffic in the union has nearly doubled since the completion of the project and involvement in student activities has increased.

Receiving the Facility Design Award was exciting for all those from Holzman Moss Architecture and Texas Tech University that worked so diligently to bring a new, modernized union to campus.

"I was thrilled that Holzman Moss and the Texas Tech Student Union project were honored with the Facility Design Award," said Matt Ducatt, union director. "Not only is the building aesthetically beautiful, but also its functionality serves the students and the campus community extremely well. It is a union director's dream!"

After realizing that the existing college union was too small, Philadelphia University decided to construct a completely new union. The 74,000 sq. ft., \$17 million Kanbar Campus Center opened Sept. 30, 2006.

Designed as a "campus street," the building connects the "academic precinct with recreation and athletics facilities," said Nicole Day, Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. "Providing the university with a new front door and a campus living room, the building provides open, flowing multi-use spaces, robust access to technology, and incorporates sustainable strategies."

Philadelphia University takes pride in its union and was pleased when it, along with Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, won the Facility Design Award. "It was a proud moment for me to accept the award on behalf of the university," said Tim Butler, director of the campus center and student activities. "We went through a long process in order to make The Kanbar Campus Center happen. It has been a major accomplishment to meet this need in our campus community. One facility really can change a campus."

Central Washington University opened its new, 228,000 sq. ft., \$58 million Student Union and Recreation Center on April 26, 2006. The building "is an undeniable success," with a "combination of services and amenities now available to the entire university community" that are "redefining campus culture," said Todd Tovani, Ambia.

An interior pedestrian mall provides a centerpiece for the union, providing "direct visual connectivity between many of the uses in the building as well as linking the main campus pedestrian corridor with the gateway to the university, residence halls, and substantial parking areas," Tovani said.

The Student Union and Recreation Center also includes a 1,000-seat ballroom, 350-seat theater, climbing wall, four basketball courts, and fitness areas. With a student union that has "something for everyone," Central Washington University was proud to receive the Facility Design Award as recognition of the hard work that went into creating the Student Union and Recreation Center.

"[The award] represents carefully considered work by passionate people who never lost sight of their vision," said John Drinkwater, senior director, campus life and student facilities development. "As we share this honor, it is understood that it belongs to a community which holds as its most significant tenet; student development and belonging."

Founded in 1914, ACUI is a nonprofit educational organization that brings together college union and student activities professionals from hundreds of schools in seven countries. Its members work on urban and rural campuses, in two-year and four-year institutions, and at large and small schools. They are students and administrators whose mission is to build campus community. ACUI enriches them all through education, advocacy, and the delivery of services.