

Program Summary:

A total renovation of the oldest building on a university campus providing proper facilities for studio arts, including painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, and 3D.

Program Statement:

Built in 1926, the building housed engineering shops on the historic quad's southern end, adjacent to the Mississippi River Escarpment. These shops were instrumental in constructing the first buildings on campus. As the engineering program expanded, the shops were no longer needed and were taken over by the art department. In a haphazard Bohemian style, space was repurposed for various art disciplines. The renovation objective was to restore the historic facade, adhering to preservation guidelines. The plan aimed to establish connectivity between the four wings. Many existing art studios and instructional spaces were updated and modernized, and offices and restrooms added. The interior retained an industrial look with exposed structural elements. Historic research enabled analysis of the 1926 design documents/photos, allowing the recreation of windows and door openings to resemble the original aesthetic. The 1926 design was one-story with basements beneath each of the four wings. In the 1960s, two wings were expanded with a second floor. To comply with building codes and enhance accessibility, a bridge, elevator, and stairs were added to the wings. The sloped grade area between the wings became courtyards, with the gallery and new south entry as the central focal point. The industrial aesthetic design incorporates steel sections and angles for bridges and handrails. Wood elements and exposed concrete were placed to serve as screens for courtyards and stairs, enhancing visual appeal.

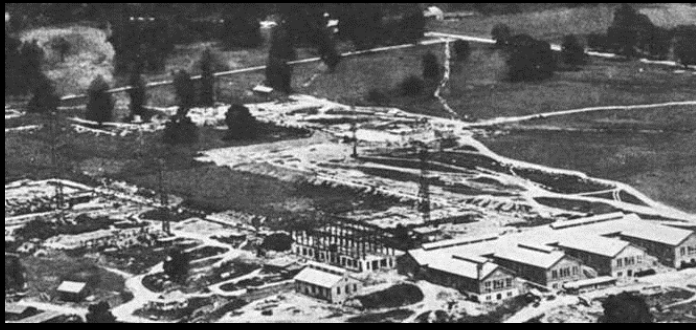
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Building Area: (sf)
64,219 sf

Cost per Square Foot:
\$253 / sf

Construction Cost
\$16,251,118.00

Date of Completion:
September 13, 2022

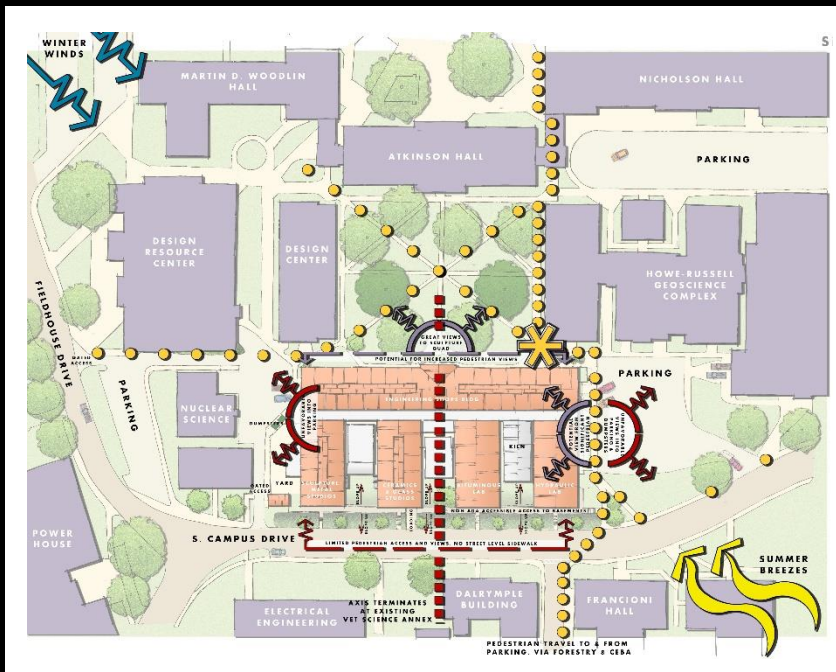


RR80.02

Art & Design Complex

The art and design gallery serves as the new south entry to the historic campus quad, strategically positioned to accommodate the major student pedestrian circulation path. This thoughtfully designed entry not only provides access but also showcases captivating art exhibits, infusing the art and design complex with a sense of excitement and engagement for students. The plaza also provides future opportunity for the display of outdoor sculpture.





RR80.03

Site Analysis and Historical Evaluation

During the building analysis, the historical significance of the first structure in the historical quad was uncovered. Originally constructed as engineering shops, this building accommodated various engineering disciplines and played a vital role in fabricating other structures within the quad. Situated at the south end of the quad, the building is positioned on the Mississippi River escarpment. Subsequent road construction led to raising the roadway, which impacted the lower-level spaces and the area between the wings. Originally designed by Theodore Link, the building showcases the Italiante style with its brick facades and terra cotta roofs."



RR80.04

Site Plan and Design Drawings

The site of the engineering shops building had been neglected for many years, and the roadway to the south was elevated above the lower levels of the building. As a result, this created a unique condition, requiring the construction of a new entry bridge and site enhancements to facilitate access to the plazas via connecting design elements. During the site analysis, a major student pedestrian circulation path that went around the building was identified. In response, the site design creates a new path through the building across the bridge and extends into the new gallery, thus enhancing circulation.

RR80.05

Floor Plans

The renovation planning parti aimed to preserve the existing historic floor plans while creating new code-compliant spaces, administrative areas, stairs, elevators, and a connecting bridge for the wings. Additionally, the plan created a new south entry into a new gallery space, replacing a poorly designed addition. Each of the two south wings on the west end received an additional floor in the 1960's, which has now been connected to the wings and all three floors through the installation of an exterior stair and bridge. The structure previously added in the plaza between the western wings was seamlessly integrated with skylights and remodeled windows. The courtyard between the east wings now serves as a covered kiln yard, while the previously existing east-west corridor has been transformed into a gallery showcasing student work.





RR80.06

North Facade / Entry Lobby

The north facade faces the historic quad immediately adjacent to the sculpture quad. A newly paved plaza extends the length of the building, providing an excellent vantage point for viewing the sculpture quad. The windows and doors that were replaced were meticulously detailed to match the existing historic profiles. In addition, the masonry was restored, and the clay tile roof was repaired. Steel frames around the new masonry opening in the north entry corridor with glass allow views into administrative areas and conference rooms.

RR80.07

Administrative / Conference

To preserve the existing north entry corridor, openings were carefully cut through the brick walls, offering views and access into the administrative suite and the main conference room. These openings were framed with steel sections, incorporating structural glass to maintain transparency between the spaces and facilitate interactions with the dean and conferences. The administrative visitor's desk is positioned in front of the original brick walls, while the dean's suite is located at the end, separated by a glass wall. The deliberate decision to leave the brick unpainted serves the purpose of preserving the historical essence of the former Bohemian-style studio arts, allowing for a meaningful historical reference to remain intact.

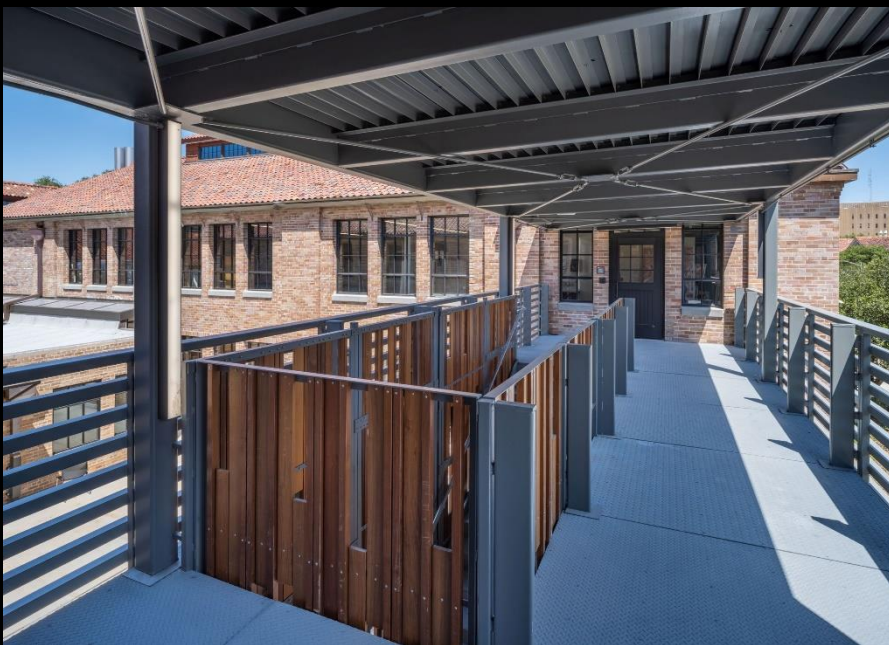




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Courtyards / Connecting Bridges

The historic photographs reveal how the courtyard areas between the building wings were unsightly and underutilized. The design concept aimed to transform them into functional and visually appealing level courtyards and plazas. Connectors and stairs were strategically incorporated between the four wings, facilitating access to the lower level and effectively enhancing the aesthetic by resolving the previously unsightly gaps between the wings. The sloped edge between the wings serves as a reminder of the Mississippi River escarpment upon which the building is situated. The bridges and stairwell assist with code compliance for exiting from the wings and enable the incorporation of an industrial aesthetic by exposing steel elements on the exterior of the building, effectively connecting interior and exterior spaces.



RR80.09

Stairs / Connecting Bridge

The stair and bridge elements connect the four wings along the south facade, incorporating exposed structural steel and steel angle handrail and guardrail elements, complemented by vertical wood features. These design details are in keeping with the exposed structural steel throughout the building's interiors, which was in the original engineering shops.



RR80.10

Wings, Stairs, Connectors and Bridge

The four wings extending south onto the escarpment had dead-end conditions at their southern ends. Two of the four wings are two stories, while the other two are single-story structures with basements beneath all four wings. To overcome the lack of connectivity at the south end of the wings, the design incorporates connecting elements that span across the wings and create retaining walls to level the courtyards between the wings. The one-story wings allow for stairs down to the basement level, featuring steel angle guardrails and a solar valance at the roof level. On the two-story wings, a bridge is created at the second level, connected by a stairwell with steel angle guardrails descending to the basement level. Wood elements define the stairwell areas, while concrete columns support the bridge structures at the basement level.

RR80.11

South Entry through Art Gallery

The addition of the new south entry bridge provides a pathway across the basement level, leading to a newly created plaza that serves as the south entrance. This entrance is marked by a distinctive steel column and beam entry element displaying the facility's name. It leads through a plaza towards a new gallery element nestled between the existing center wings. The gallery extends above the flat roofs, allowing for abundant natural light to filter in through clerestory windows. As visitors enter the plaza through the south stairwell, they are greeted by the south-facing glass, which adds a welcoming touch and offers glimpses of the interior space beyond.

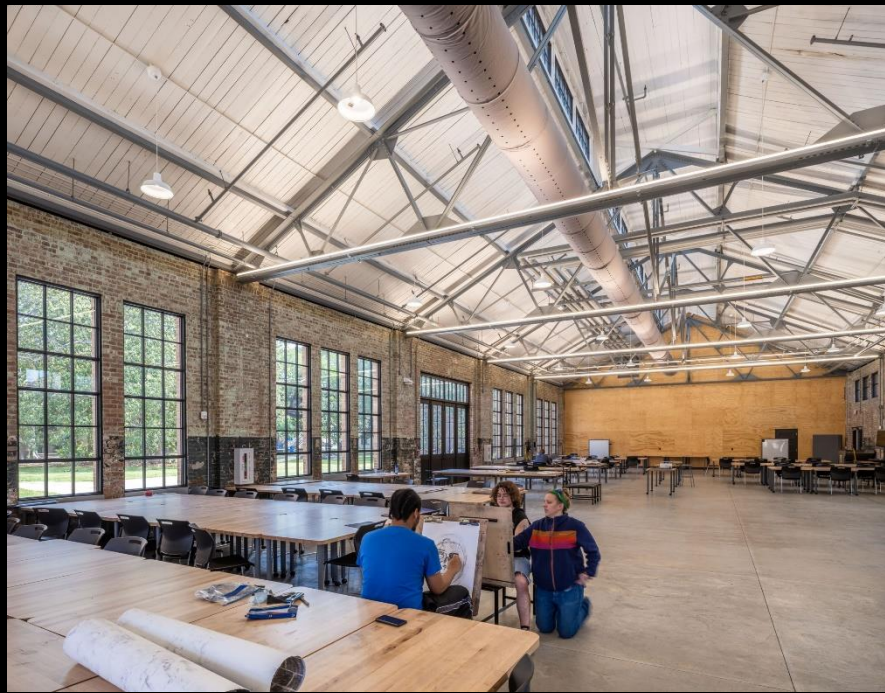




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Gallery Corridor

The main east-west corridor runs along the northern edge of the four southward-extending wings. This corridor serves as a connection point to the two large east-west gable roofs, which are bifurcated by the north entry. The corridor allows access to the various art studios and serves as the art display walls for student projects throughout the year. Windows incorporated into the corridor design enable visual access to the art studios, fostering a sense of engagement and showcasing the creative process to passersby.



RR80.13

Drawing and Foundation Studios

The main studios within the east-west gables feature north-facing glass panels that offer views of the sculpture quad. The exposed steel truss roof members help define the prevalent steel aesthetic used throughout the renovation. All mechanical, electrical, and structural systems were intentionally left exposed, as was the design of the original engineering shops.