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Atrium addition to the Student Union Building

Description

The hearthstone of our campus, the [Student Union Building](#) is the only building on campus that is for the students, by the students, with the students. It creates a common space for everyone enrolled at SUNY New Paltz to engage and reflect during their time here.

- The Student Union first opened in 1971 with 103,800 square feet
- The Atrium addition to the Student Union has added approximately 15,000 square feet of new space and 12,000 square feet of renovated space
- The Atrium is the largest campus-managed project in the College's history
- The Student Union is home to:
 - [Campus Media Center](#)
 - [Campus Bookstore](#)
 - [Center for Student Development](#)
 - [Dining Services](#)
 - [Disability Resource Center](#)
 - [ID/Meal Plan/Conference Services](#)
 - [Student Association](#)
 - [Student Information Desk](#)
- Over the last three years, the Student Union averages 4,700 reserved events a year
- The Student Union is connected to the Haggerty Administration Building through the lower-level walkway

Features

Including the new Atrium addition, there is currently a total of:

- 12 meeting rooms (9 existing renovated and 3 new small meeting rooms)
- 3 large event venues (2 existing renovated and one new)
- 1 large multipurpose room that holds 500 standing/350 seated (existing room with newly renovated entrance, referred to as MPR)
- 1 medium size multipurpose room/lounge that holds 200 standing/125 seated (newly constructed, referred to as 62/63 Conference Room)
- 1 large dividable meeting room that holds 300 standing/200 seated (existing space that had no renovations, referred to as Lounge 100)
- 16 student club offices, not including the radio/TV/newspaper/student association/campus ministries offices (not part of renovation – pre-existing spaces)
- Entertainment Commons with billiards & air hockey tables (new space)
- Lounge areas (some new, some renovated)
- TV viewing area (new)
- A large atrium lobby (new)

- HQ at the Student Union service desk (new)
- WiFi throughout Atrium (new)
- PC station in Atrium lobby with 10 terminals (new)
- PC station on lower Atrium level with 3 terminals (new)
- Second story sun-filled Scholars Perch area (new)
- Bookstore
 - Renovated entrance from Atrium lower level
 - Bookstore space gutted & renovated by Validis Resources (apart from the Atrium project)
- Four new food service venues were renovated in the food court
- Commuter free day-use & rental long-term lockers in lower level (new)
- New Campus Card Services office in renovated space
- Student Activities office (renovated)
- Disabilities Resource Center (renovated)

Design accolades

The design of the Atrium has won several awards, including a [2009 American Architecture Award](#) from [The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design](#), together with [The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies](#), and [Metropolitan Arts Press](#). Established in the 1990s, the award programs honor and recognize outstanding new achievements and innovation for new architecture.

Green elements

The Student Union Atrium addition and renovation is a sustainable high performance building designed to reduce energy consumption and provide a healthy and enlightened interior environment. The project employs a number of green design elements that make the building sustainable and reinforce the design themes. The U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) was used as a guideline in the design of the project.

Some of the green elements include:

- Glass enclosure to harvest daylight, providing daylight to at least 75% of spaces
- Use of lighting controls to minimize daytime energy use by electric fixtures
- Use of energy efficient LED lights to wash perimeter walls at night
- Heat recovery in the upper portion of the building volume to reduce heating needs
- Radiant heating and cooling
- Low water consumption plumbing fixtures
- Use of natural and recyclable materials such as New York bluestone, concrete floor with recycled glass aggregate, and wood doors and architectural trim
- Use of building materials with low VOC (such as paints and adhesives) to improve interior air quality
- Maintain open space on campus by developing in a denser area
- Recycling and/or salvaging of construction demolition
- Use of building materials that are extracted, harvested, recovered or manufactured within 500 miles of the project site
- Use of renewable materials and certified woods

Project backstory

- The Student Union Building had no substantial renovations performed since its opening in 1971
- There were no sightlines in the existing building, making it impossible to know who occupied the space or where they were
- There were no casual lounge or recreation spaces in the building
- The building lacked small group study and meeting rooms

- There were limited dining options
- The existing Brutalist architecture needed to be offset by something bright and open
- There were no commuter study spaces or locker facilities
- The bookstore needed to be open and inviting

Budgeted cost

\$13.4M

Sources of funding

- A special state appropriation of \$10M was secured by State Senator John J. Bonacic & State Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill ('77)
- Campus Auxiliary Services contributed \$1M plus \$700,000 for food court renovations and furniture
- State University Construction Fund & SUNY New Paltz contributed the balance of funds for the project
- Validis Resources contributed \$387,600 in renovations to the bookstore

Construction Management & Oversight

State University of New York at New Paltz

- **Garry Nack, Construction Manager**
- **Megan Smailer, Campus Architect**
- **John McEnrue, Director of Facilities Design & Construction**
- John Shupe, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management
- Brian Pine, Director of Facilities Operations & Maintenance
- Gary Buckman, Assistant Director of Facilities Operations & Maintenance
- Kim Nelson, Assistant Director of Facilities Operations & Maintenance
- Kirk Timperio, Plant Utilities Engineer 3

College Representatives

- Steven Poskanzer, College President May 2003 – June 2010
- Donald Christian, Interim College President
- Steven Deutsch, Director of Campus Auxiliary Services
- Mike Patterson, Director of Student Activities & Union Services
- David Farbaniec, Director of Procurement
- Mary Kastner, Director of Design, Print & Mail Services
- Mike Malloy, Director of Environmental Health & Safety
- Jay Palen, Assistant Director of Telecommunications
- Scott Schulte, Assistant Director of Fire Safety
- Emily Trapp, Director of Institutional Media Services

College Advisory Committee

- L. David Rooney, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Ray Schwarz, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
- Marigo Farr, Student
- Chris Utzig, Student
- Sue O'Driscoll, former Director of Student Activities & Union Services
- Mike Patterson, Director of Student Activities & Union Services
- Portia Altman, Director of Disability Resource Center
- Brian Obach, Associate Professor and Environmental Task Force Representative
- Steve Deutsch, Director of Campus Auxiliary Services
- John Shupe, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management
- John McEnrue, Director of Facilities Design & Construction

- Jeff VanDenburgh, State University Construction Fund

Architect

ikon.5 architects, Princeton, NJ

ikon.5 architects are known for their award-winning designs for museums, higher education, libraries, performing arts, and corporate offices. Based in Princeton, NJ, ikon.5's practice extends to Louisiana, Delaware, and New York.

- Joseph Tattoni
- Arvind Tikku
- Ben Petrick
- Shawn Daniels

General Contractor

Niram, Inc., Boonton, NJ

- Roman Graure
- Tony Puntasecca
- Boban Novkovic

Project Engineer

Chazen Companies, Poughkeepsie, NY

- Richard Chazen

Furniture Distributor

EvensonBest, LLC, Albany & New York, NY

- Vernon Evenson
- Donna Kletecka

Furniture Designs

- **Womb Chair** by *Eero Saarinen in Atrium main level, chairs in 2nd floor conference rooms*
Eero Saarinen (1910 – 1961) was a Finnish American architect and product designer, now considered one of the masters of American 20th Century design.

The son of architect and Cranbrook Academy of Art director Eliel Saarinen and his wife, textile artist Loja, Eero Saarinen studied fine arts in Paris and architecture at Yale. He formed a close relationship with Florence Knoll and Charles and Ray Eames, all students at Cranbrook. His ability to vary his style based on the demands of his clients and projects resulted in designs that incorporate simple sweeping curves or machine-like rationalism.



Saarinen's notable projects include the TWA terminal at JFK International Airport, New York; Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C.; and the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. His collaboration with Knoll resulted in such iconic products as the Tulip Chair and Womb Chair, which have remained in production since the 1950's. The Womb Chair displays his flair for challenging rules, breaking molds and setting new standards for comfortable modern design. It is designed to facilitate a relaxed sitting posture, providing emotional comfort and a sense of security – hence the name "Womb." His furniture design won him the Museum of Modern Art and Design Center Stuttgart Awards in 1969.

- **Egg Chair** by *Arne Jacobsen in lower level game room*
Arne Jacobsen (1902 – 1971) trained as a stonemason before studying architecture at the Kongelige Danske Kunstakademie in Copenhagen. He is known as one of Denmark's most

influential 20th Century designers and architects. Both his buildings and products combine modernist ideals with a Nordic love of naturalism.

Most of Jacobsen's architecture projects were conceived as total works of art, which meant that he designed a building down to the most minute detail, creating carpets, furniture, lighting, fabrics and wall coverings specifically for those buildings. Jacobsen was one of the first designers to introduce Modernism to Denmark. He created such notable buildings as the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen and the Rothenborg House. In his later life, Arne Jacobsen was a professor of architecture at the Skolen for Brugskunst in Copenhagen.



The Egg Chair was designed for the SAS Royal Hotel in 1958 and is regarded as a Design Classic of the 20th Century. This organically shaped chair has since become synonymous with Danish furniture design throughout the world. Because of the unique shape, the Egg guarantees a bit of privacy in otherwise public spaces. Among Jacobsen's awards are the Grand Prix at the 1957 Milan Triennale and the 1968 International Design Award from the American Institute of Architects.

- ***Bird and Diamond Chairs by Harry Bertoia in Scholars Perch***
Harry Bertoia (1915 – 1978) was a sculptor and designer with a unique genius for inventing new forms.

Italian sculptor, university lecturer and furniture designer, he displayed a unique stroke of genius with his patented Diamond Chair and Bird Chair designed for Knoll in 1952. He was an inventor of form using industrial materials, such as steel rods, to create a design icon. Bertoia's chairs are functional sculptures.



The Bird Chair is a high-backed model developed from the Diamond Chair that looks like a bird with spread wings. Its organic, human-friendly form helped to create a new look for modernism. His Model 420 Diamond Chair for Knoll was so successful that it allowed him to on the royalties and devote the rest of his life to his love of sculpture.



live

In his lifetime, Harry Bertoia was awarded the Craftsmanship Medal from the American Institute of Architects, as well as AIA's Gold Medal. All of his work bears the hallmarks of a highly skilled and imaginative sculptor, as well as an inventive designer, deeply engaged with the relationship between space and form.

Signage

- Signage was designed to compliment and help showcase the building design
- Timely Signs, Kingston, NY