

The Face of Things to Come

New Ambulatory Care Building Sports Unique Façade

In planning for the façade of the new Ambulatory Care and Medical Education Building, the architects first took a look back. The Gothic design of the Medical College and the adjacent buildings of New York Hospital was inspired by the Palace of the Popes at Avignon, France.

“In the older buildings, there was a tremendous amount of masonry with small windows with arched tops,” says Todd Schliemann, design partner at Polshek Partnership Architects. “We noticed as you travel north that the masonry gives way to more glass, diminishing the brick-work and increasing the light.

“Light and air in Gothic architecture were equated with health,” says Mr. Schliemann. A glass façade seemed to be the appropriate design approach. But, he



THE FACETED GLASS FAÇADE IS NEARLY COMPLETED ON THE NEW AMBULATORY CARE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION BUILDING.

says, a strictly glass building “would be too bland and staid.” The idea of faceting the glass on the north and east sides arose to create a crystal elegance and a warmer, more inviting building. The south side of the new building maintains much of the stippled white brick evident on the rest of the campus.

A water-white glass that has a low iron content was used to make the color a soft white rather than the green (caused by the iron content) usually associated with clear glass. The architect also used a ceramic frit (a powdered glass material, which creates a glazed white finish when applied to glass) to maintain a consistency of color. “The faceting of the glass adds a lightness to the building,” says Mr. Schliemann.

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Keeping Up Appearances

LOCAL LAW 11 WAS PASSED IN 1998 to ensure the maintenance and repair of all buildings throughout the City. At Weill Medical College, Joe Bain, project manager, Facilities Development, heads an ongoing program to inspect and make any needed repairs to the façades of all Medical College buildings. “There are two parts to this process,” says Mr. Bain. “First you inspect for unsafe conditions, and then you go back for maintenance and repair.” Local Law 11 obligates building owners to erect sidewalk bridging and scaffolding whenever there is the potential for hazardous conditions for passers-by. Work is nearing completion on the 1300 York Avenue building, Olin Hall, Lasdon House and the S-Building.

Lecture Hall A-250 Gets a Makeover

Lecture Hall A-250, and its twin, A-950, were built in the late 1960s and sorely needed updating. “The chairs were like sitting in the cheap seats at a ballpark,” says Medical College architect Gwen Glass, Project Manager. “They were tiny and really uncomfortable. In addition, we needed to update the room to accommodate the growing need for distance learning with our campus in Qatar.”

In Summer 2004, the cosmetic and distance learning phases of A-250 were completed before students returned for the school year. “This past summer we took down the ceiling and addressed the mechanical systems to better control heating and air conditioning,” says Ms. Glass. “The room looks terrific and now we hope to do the same for Room A-950.” ●



COURTESY OF LUDWIG MICHAEL GOLDSMITH, ARCHITECT'S

Pumped Up!

New Fitness Center Opens at Lasdon House

THE FITNESS CENTER ON THE SECOND FLOOR of the Jacob S. Lasdon House opened on September 13, drawing rave reviews from students. Occupying what were previously two apartments, the 1,500-square-foot facility is outfitted for cardio-fitness and strength training. The center is open to residents of Lasdon House, as well as Medical College and graduate school students who live in adjacent dormitory buildings or off campus.

“This new facility was completely student-driven,” says Andrew Kane, director, Housing, Weill Cornell Medical College. “Initially, the fitness center was to occupy less space and scheduled for construction following the full renovations of Lasdon

House. However, students asked us to allocate a larger area and move up the date so that current residents could begin to enjoy the facility as soon as possible. So we did.”

Early on in the planning process, students appointed representatives to participate in the design and selection of equipment. “The students’ ideas were very well formulated; they contacted outside vendors to identify appropriate equipment,” says Mr. Kane. “We really wanted it to be something that the student community would like.”

One room is dedicated to cardio-fitness, complete with treadmills, elliptical trainers, stair climbers, stationary bicycles, as well as a strengthening and conditioning area. The second room houses a variety of stacked weights, free weights, pulley equipment, barbells and dumbbells. The cardio-fitness room is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to accommodate students’ schedules. The strength training room is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The new facility was constructed with resilient rubberized flooring, soundproofed walls, and special air conditioning and air

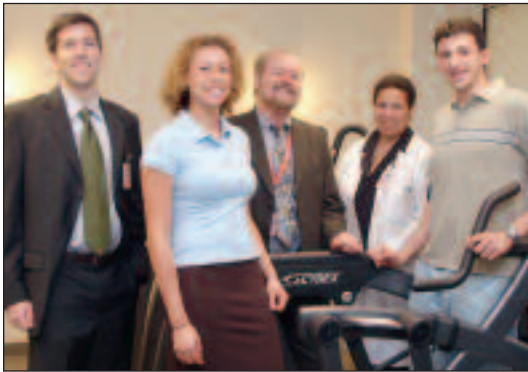


PHOTOS BY WEILL CORNELL ART & PHOTO

ABOVE: THE STUDENT FITNESS CENTER IS WELL EQUIPPED WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART CARDIO-FITNESS AND WEIGHT TRAINING APPARATUS.

handling ventilation units. It is also equipped with security cameras.

During this semester, the fitness facility in Olin Hall will undergo an upgrade and the floor of the basketball court will be resurfaced. •



ANDREW KANE, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING; FITNESS REP BARBARA SCHRECK, THIRD-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT; BARRY DUGNAN, SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR FACILITIES FOR THE MEDICAL COLLEGE; CAROL STOREY-JOHNSON, MD, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN OF EDUCATION; AND FITNESS REP HARMA TURBENDIAN, SECOND-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT, SHOW OFF THE CARDIO-FITNESS EQUIPMENT.

Ambulatory Care Building Façade

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“The façade appears both translucent and reflective simultaneously.”

The building is also energy efficient due to the special glass and frit construction and because the façade predominantly faces north. The frit also goes a long way to help control the amount of energy used. The façade is essentially a chevron pattern of repeated V shapes that also contributes to the visual interest of the building.

“This building will be welcoming and reflective of the compassion and care found inside,” observes Mr. Schliemann. •



Project Schedule

CONSTRUCTION SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2005

PROJECT	LOCATION	SEP-05	OCT-05	NOV-05	DEC-05
YORK AVENUE AMBULATORY CARE BUILDING	York Avenue	[Orange bar spanning all months]			
LASDON HOUSE UPGRADE	Lasdon House	[Orange bar spanning all months]			
CARDIOLOGY LABS RENOVATION	A-3	[Orange bar spanning Sep, Oct, Nov]			
CELL BIOLOGY EXPANSION	A-5	[Orange bar spanning all months]			
PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS TRAINING FACILITY	575 Lexington		[Orange bar spanning Oct, Nov, Dec]		
PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATION BILLING OFFICE	575 Lexington	[Orange bar spanning all months]			
WMC-Q LIAISON OFFICE	575 Lexington		[Orange bar spanning Oct, Nov, Dec]		
OAC EXPANSION	LC-0, D-0		[Orange bar spanning Oct, Nov, Dec]		