

State University of New York at Albany

University Hall
Albany, New York



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This new entry, admissions and administration building is a small unique campus element, a pavilion placed within a tree-lined outdoor room. It is located off-center, as a counterbalance to the campus' signature carillon. Its square plan is twisted off the rectangular order of the campus buildings to address the arrival of visitors as they approach along the Collins Circle roadway. This rotated orientation of the building allows views from existing building spaces and highlights its contrapuntal relationship to the backdrop of the Campus podium. It will be a discrete sculptural object in the formal, landscaped foreground.

Counterpoint to the existing monumental peristyle buildings by Edward Durell Stone, and breaking any connotation of an average small office building are critical aspects of our design. The uniform, serpentine glass curtain wall and the angled metal clad entry piece establish these contrasts and heighten the sculptural distinction of our concept.

The concrete repetitive three dimensional grid of the existing building is opposed by a new strategy of shifting reflections capturing the changing colors of the seasons and sky. Rotating the building off the existing grid amplifies the reflective dynamic of the wall as one approaches the campus.

Welcoming human proportions are then re-established in the axial, metal clad entry piece. Here occur the expected rhythm of windows and doors, providing clear orientation for entry.

Anchoring the center of the new building is a full height, cubically proportioned atrium. Interior offices and building circulation are organized around, and illuminated by the atrium, its skylight and its clerestory windows. The visitors center opens directly to the atrium.

A concentric progression of scales is established from the broad campus landscape, to tree lined quadrant, through the serpentine envelope to its destination in the stable, grand public atrium space. It serves a variety of functions: visitor orientation, administrative offices, advancement events, exhibits and press conferences. It is intended to be the campus living room, a benchmark and memorable place of entry to the University at Albany.

1 View of entrance from Collins Circle

2 Aerial view of University Hall and academic podium



Serpentine glass curtain wall

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University Hall and the campus carillon



Conference area

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Key Project Information

- Serves as the primary point of orientation and entry to the main campus
 - Sculptural counterpoint to existing late modernist campus
 - University President and executive administration suites
 - 50' high public Atrium
 - new center of campus gathering
 - 100 person visitors center
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- completion 2005
 - gsf 47,000
 - construction cost \$11,250,000



Atrium