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Curved Steel Roof Tops Off New University Events Center

With a growing student population approaching 6,200, the University of Wisconsin -- Green Bay was finding it increasingly difficult to accommodate its NCAA Division I athletic programs and recreational activities all under one roof.

So the state-funded institution engaged the architectural firms of Venture Architects (a joint venture of Kahler Slater and Zimmerman Design Group) and Moody Nolan, Inc. to design a new events center addition and develop plans for remodeling some 25,000 square feet of existing space for use as student locker rooms, athletic team locker suites and recreational offices.

The \$33 million Kress Events Center, which incorporates the original Phoenix Sports Center, opened late last year in conjunction with the start of the

women's basketball season. The centerpiece of the expanded complex is a 4,000-seat arena that houses the school's women's basketball and volleyball programs, while providing a permanent venue for musical performances, commencements and convocations.

Meets LEED Silver standard

Designed to a LEED Silver standard, the 170,000-square-foot center also features a 12,000-square foot fitness center with a three-lane elevated walking and jogging track, a practice gymnasium, and a turf gymnasium for recreation, intramurals and athletic practices. Also included are administrative offices for the school's athletic department, athletic locker suites, sports medicine and training rooms, classrooms, video rooms and press rooms. Some of the sustainable design strategies incorporated in the center include extensive natural lighting, use of materials with recycled content, and low maintenance landscaping.

CASE HISTORY



BUILDING: **KRESS EVENTS CENTER**

LOCATION: **GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN**

OWNER: **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**

ARCHITECT OF RECORD: **VENTURE ARCHITECT**

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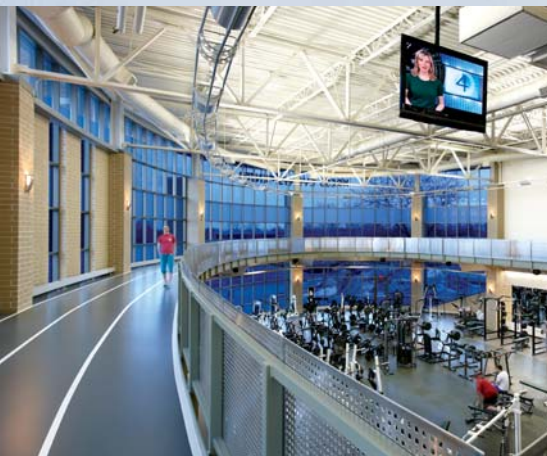
ARCHITECTS AND THE ZIMMERMAN

DESIGN GROUP)

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT: **MOODY NOLAN, INC.**

CONTRACTOR: **MIRON CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**

FABRICATOR: **PHD ROOF DOCTORS**



Construction of the new events center and the remodeling of the existing recreational and sports facilities have been instrumental in revitalizing the school's image, suggests Jeffrey Piette, Kahler Slater's project manager. "We wanted the new center to be an attractive, highly visible addition to the school," he said, "as well as a source of pride for students, faculty,

staff and community members seeking expanded opportunities for fitness and recreational activities.”

The Phoenix Center, with seating for 1,200, was a run down, four-court gym before the university embarked on the remodeling and expansion initiative. “The existing building was very dated and in need of repair”, Piette recalled. “The basketball courts saw extensive use every day and really weren’t at a Division I level of quality.”

In projecting a new look for the building, home to a broad range of recreational and intramural programs, Piette and his design team focused on the front side of the facility to bring it closer to the campus core and to make it more accessible to the student body.

They also created a dramatic sweeping curved roof for the events center and practice gym in keeping with the building’s contemporary lines. Early in the design process, Piette’s team considered a thermoplastic roof membrane, but subsequently rejected the material, citing its incompatibility with a contemporary, curved look.

Metal was best choice

“As we looked at our material options, it quickly became apparent that metal would be our best choice,” said Piette, who specified about 51,000 square feet of coated-steel, standing-seam roofing. “We learned that each 327-foot-long roof panel could be rolled on easily as one continuous, non-seamed section. More important, we liked the sturdy, clean look of metal—a material we felt would serve the university well for many decades to come.”

The Kress Events Center was built against a wall of the old Phoenix Center, which required the architect to specify bricks that would match those in the old building. “We wanted them to blend in so that the two buildings look like they belong together,” Piette said. “You might say the buildings look



SPECIFICATIONS

ROOF PANEL TYPE: STANDING SEAM, COATED-STEEL & ARCHITECTUAL STANDING SEAM

SIZE: 24-GAUGE

COLOR: GOLD

like brothers, one big and one small.”

Jeff Krueger, the Kress Events Center’s director of operations, believes the entire city of Green Bay is benefiting from the expanded sports and recreation complex. “This is huge for the community, not just the university,” he said. “The center has received rave reviews from students, faculty and the community-at-large. Everyone agrees that the complex provides the ideal setting to work out, practice and compete.”



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