

West Virginia University Student Recreation Center

Morgantown, W. Va.

Striking a balance between aesthetics and function, this project was carefully programmed to meet the needs of 22,500 users as a campus gateway structure. Funded by a student-approved fee increase, the Student Recreation Center is a social hub, and serves as a major recruitment and retention tool for West Virginia University.

Existing cross-campus paths feed two entry plazas/gathering spaces. These spaces are linked by an indoor pedestrian "free zone" that draws passersby through the heart of the facility. This long internal public streetscape overlooks activity spaces, gyms and pools, and draws users to a large central reception counter. A 50-foot-high climbing wall ascends the facility's three levels at its center, and is illuminated with abundant natural light from clerestory windows. Surrounded by fitness equipment at its base, the wall rises up between intimate overlooks and balconies that include the free-zone lounges, stairs, circulation bridges and a juice bar/lounge area. A jogging track circles the top level, providing a constant visual sense of movement and activity. Exterior views to the surrounding hills and nature areas are available from the fitness areas, track and leisure pools. The open building organization also allows staff to provide efficient customer service.

The center's brick and split-faced concrete walls and curved metal roof respond to the campus context. Rich interior colors, textures and furnishings help create a warm and inviting atmosphere.



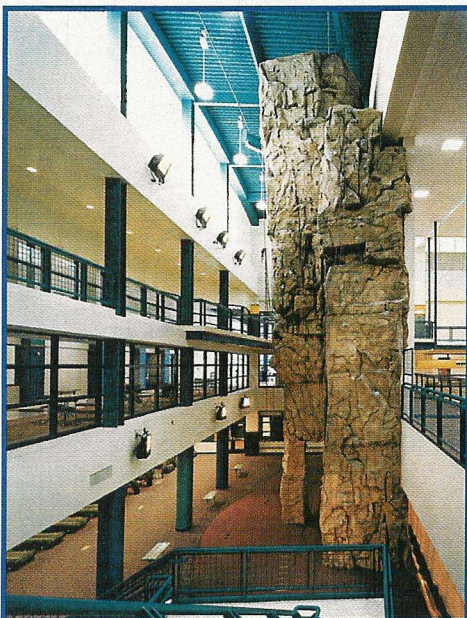
Photos by Michael Houghton/Sudaflo

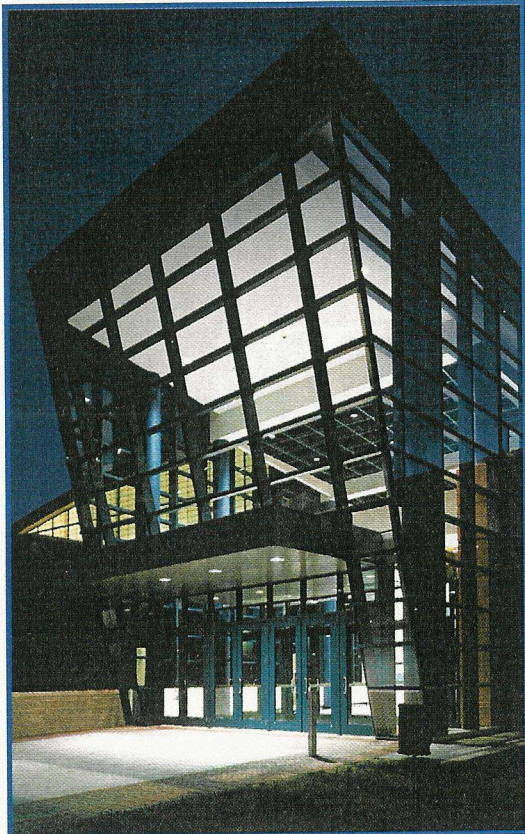
Integrated onto a tight, sloping site overlooking a nature area, the center's three levels are sculpted into the hillside.

Activities and spaces are visually connected, encouraging users to try new activities while providing opportunities for social interaction.

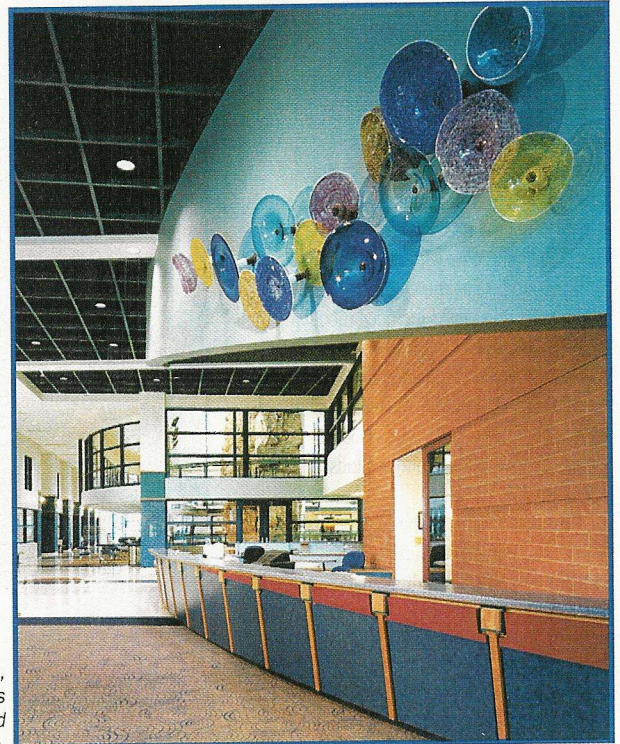


A 50-foot-high climbing wall ascends the facility's three levels at its center, and is illuminated with abundant natural light from clerestory windows.





The nighttime glow of these windows serves as a campus beacon of activity to passersby.



Rich interior colors, textures and furnishings help create a warm and inviting atmosphere.



Extensive glazing in the natatorium offers users multilevel interior visual connections and exterior views.

Architect of Record:
 Moody•Nolan Inc.
 Columbus, Ohio

Aquatic Design Engineer:
 Counsilman/Hunsaker
 and Associates
 St. Louis, Mo.

**Programming/
 Operational Consultant:**
 Brailsford & Dunlavey
 Washington, D.C.

Cost: \$30 million
Square Feet: 170,000
Occupancy: July 2001