

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Richard Stockton College of NJ Cited for Outstanding Design of New College Facilities

National Publication Features Six Different Projects

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**GALLOWAY TWP NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is in the process of its most comprehensive phase of construction since the main campus opened here in 1971. According to *American School & University* magazine, those projects were among the best in the United States, as six of them were featured in the recent “Educational Interiors Showcase” special issue.

The magazine gave a special citation to the new 154,000 – sq. ft. Campus Center, on schedule to open in spring, 2011. In addition, outstanding design recognition was given to the Living/Learning Community housing complex, the redesign and renovation of Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium, the renovation and addition to the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, “adaptive re-use” of an outdoor courtyard to an indoor atrium and the conversion of the former swimming pool to an art gallery and office space.

The magazine interviewed Donald E. Moore, associate vice president for operations, concerning the changes in the way educational interiors have been designed in the last 20 years. “Flexibility of a space is now much more prominent since institutions are becoming more flexible in their academic offerings,” said Moore, a resident of Jackson, New Jersey. “As offerings evolve, so must (Stockton’s) ability to deliver spaces that readily support such evolution...but at a reasonable cost.”

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The Campus Center, which received a “special citation” by the magazine, is a prime example of Moore’s philosophy. In addition to serving the traditional function of student recreation, entertainment and space for student organizations, the Center is to provide a central location for “one-stop shopping” of student business, such as the bursar’s office, student records and financial aid. The building, designed by Kehrt Shatken Sharon Architects, is three stories tall with a “Grand Hall” atrium, a theatre and space for food and social functions. The Hall includes a large fireplace and murals depicting the four seasons of Stockton’s location within the Pinelands National Reserve.

The Campus Center addresses Stockton’s longstanding shortage of classroom space by opening up areas in the main existing campus buildings currently housing offices slated to move to the Campus Center. The Center was cited for its use of environmentally sustainable building materials and design. The magazine award jury said of the building; “Unique and dramatic spaces; creative use of materials and daylight; high performance sustainable features.”

The magazine cited “outstanding designs” for the following:

- **Complex of six “Living/Learning Community Residence Halls.** These three-story buildings each contain a ground floor common social lounge, study areas and laundry facilities. Each residence suite has a kitchen and living room and private bedrooms. Environmentally-sustainable geothermal systems are used to heat and cool the buildings.
- **Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.** The renovation of the existing space in the Library and a rooftop addition was cited. The space, designed by Blumberg Associates, incorporates several dramatic expressions such as a wood entrance reminiscent of the boxcars that transported Holocaust victims, and the display of authentic train rails transported from Europe.
- **Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium.** This 6,000-sq. ft. space was completely gutted and reconfigured. A 276-seat tiered seating arrangement was installed and the main entrance has relocated to the second floor. A two-story glass viewing wall provides a backdrop of pine forest and lake. The architect was Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects.
- **Courtyard/Atrium conversion.** An underused virtually inaccessible outdoor courtyard space had been sandwiched between two buildings. The conversion designed by Paulus Sokolowski and Sartor Architecture (PSS) will transform the space into a two story interior atrium suitable for academic programming, events and community gatherings. An embedded flooring design will depict endangered plant and animal species found on the Stockton campus.
- **Swimming pool Adaptive Reuse, addition and renovation.** This is a creative reuse of a building originally designed to house a pool which is being replaced. The structure itself will remain and two floors of academic and administrative space will be constructed along with a new art gallery. PSS is the architect for this project.

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