

BEST OF
2007
AWARDS

Syracuse University, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication

PROJECT OF THE YEAR: Higher Education

The campus-within-a-campus of Syracuse University's journalism school had a 40-year-old star legacy that never came to fruition as a result of cost overruns. When the university decided to complete the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications campus, the third building was expected to not only provide additional space for the prestigious school's programs, but connect the two existing buildings in a respectful and complementary way.

The \$22.5 million Newhouse III, which opened in September, joins Newhouse I, designed by IM Pei in 1963, and Newhouse II, designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in 1972. Both projects were severely scaled back at the time of construction.

The \$15 million lead donation for the project, the largest in the university's history, again came from the S.I. Newhouse Foundation and the Newhouse family, while the rest was raised through fundraising. The university selected New York-based Polshek Partnership to design a gateway building that would defer to the classically-inspired modernist building by Pei, with the eastern facade of precast concrete and resembling the materials, geometry, color, and proportions of the older building. On the west side, lacking a historical background, the facade is entirely different: an undulating facade is covered in gossamer-like glass the entire length to highlight the idea of transparency and bring light inside the building. J.D. Taylor Construction Corp., the Syracuse-based construction manager on the project, had to use bent steel beams to accommodate the shape. Behind it, a three-



story skylit axial atrium acts as a new interstitial zone, the heart of the school's campus. In addition, a sky bridge connecting Newhouse I and II is also part of the project. Construction started in the fall of 2005.

The new building was to serve as the face of the mini-campus to Syracuse alumni and others seeking continuing education.

In addition to two 50-seat classrooms, the 75,000-sq-ft new building functions as a central hub for the school. Facilities include student lounges, a conference center, a 100-seat screening room, an additional auditorium, editing and media rooms, a career education center, campus organization offices, and a Food.com dining area.

Polshek incorporated the 45 words of the text of the First Amendment to the Constitution, recognizing freedom of speech, in a silk-screened ceramic frit at the base of the curved glass curtainwall.

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Key Players

Owner: Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Architect: Polshek Partnership Architects, New York

Construction Manager: J.D. Taylor Construction Corp., Syracuse, NY

Structural: Severud Associates, New York

MEP/FP/Elevator: Peterson Engineering, Syracuse, NY

Lighting: Brandston Partnership, New York

Landscape: Quennell Rothschild & Partners, New York

Acoustics, AV: Cerami & Associates, New York

Civil: Stearns & Wheeler, Cazenovia, NY

Curtainwall: R.A Heintges & Associates, New York