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Architects offer (genuine) hot takes on the hottest of topics: artificial intelligence.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



From the right questions to the right choices

A college professor I greatly admired once advised that writing is all about making choices. At the end of every sentence, every paragraph, every scene and every chapter, he reminded, everything depends on the writer making choices that are true to the hopes, fears and motivations of the characters taking life on the page. But to make the right choices, we have to ask the right questions. Would this character actually do this? Does this reaction make sense within the context of the situation?

Every project in this year's Architectural Showcase embodies a revealing story about the human condition, as each design choice is undoubtedly made in the interest of supporting the needs and wants of its intended inhabitants. For all these windows facing east, we might deduce that humans appreciate the light from the rising sun. Or these clean lines and towering ceilings might indicate that humans appreciate a sense of spaciousness in their dwellings.

In our feature on the implications of artificial intelligence for sports architects (page 26), Hughes Group principal Lynn Reda suggests that first and foremost, her profession needs to "develop the skills in asking the right questions and having a dialogue with the AI." Reda's sentiments bring us back to the agency that lies in asking the right questions, for in the absence of the boundless curiosity of the human spirit, what is AI but a latent cursor awaiting input?

Perhaps the irony of AI is that its creators have tasked it with emulating the human mind. (Remind me why we need an artificial brain when we're all born with a real one?) At least for now, AI isn't capable of creating beautiful, habitable spaces like those you'll find herein. It doesn't create within the context of the known universe, it's not inherently curious, and it doesn't actually have any questions of its own to pose. Therefore, at least in my mind, whether AI brings good or evil to the world depends solely upon what questions we ask it, and what we do with its responses.

In the meantime, take a step back from the fever dreams of AI — those both wondrous and terrifying — and take stock in the fact that you are here, in this moment, in this body and (hopefully) entirely immersed in the print version of *Athletic Business* magazine. Take a breath, turn the pages, and let your mind wonder on the human questions and choices that led to the realization of the facilities featured in the 36th annual Architectural Showcase.

Andy Berg
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Author's Guidelines:

Athletic Business will consider manuscripts that are not offered to other publications. Preferred length is 500-750 words (columns) or 1,000-1,250 words (features). Please submit manuscripts to Andy Berg at the mailing address above or send via e-mail to editors@athleticbusiness.com

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Obstacle Course Expands Fitness Program, Benefits Youths

Photos courtesy of Railyard Fitness



Tabatha Wethal (tabatha@athleticbusiness.com) is online managing editor of *Athletic Business*.

By Tabatha Wethal

Children as a fitness group are different from their gym-going elders. They're not there to burn calories or get in their steps, and they're not going to be active for activity's sake. For kids, the fitness has to be fun.

"Kids are concrete thinkers and adults are abstract thinkers," says Railyard Fitness Inc. founder Lee Spieker. "Adults, we exercise for our health, which is an abstract. Kids exercise for two reasons: It's got to be fun, or they're making an adult happy. They don't choose to do abstract things."

In order to make fitness more conceptually concrete for kids — but flexible and safe for parents and instructors — Spieker created a portable, indoor obstacle course in 2007 that's made out of plastic modular pieces that can be configured and reconfigured to create multiple climbing, crawling, balancing and jumping obstacles.

Youth fitness director Tasha Buchanen has been using a Railyard system at Clarksville (Tenn.) Athletic Club for years. She says it was an item she had to have when she took on the job in 2012 because of

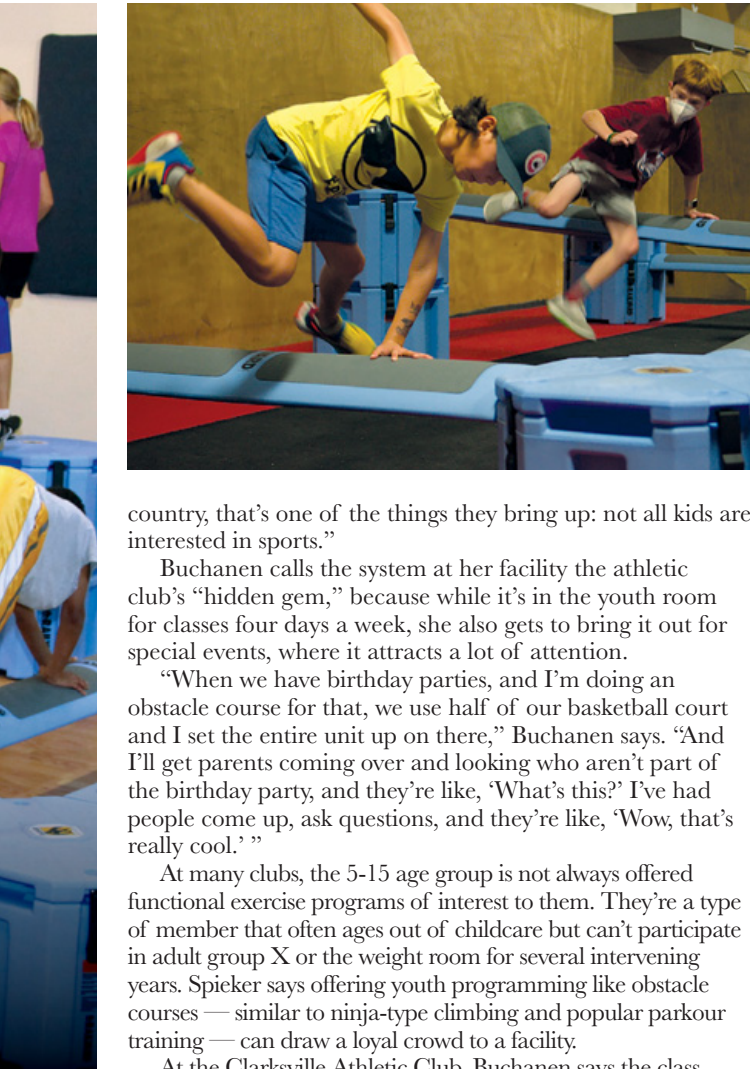
the fun — and program flexibility — it offers.

"It's so versatile, there's so many things you can do with it. It's not just like you set one course and leave it. There are so many different options for this," she says. "And so many different age groups. Before COVID, we had a 2- to 3-year-old program. I had those 2- to 3-year-olds on the unit and we had 15 kids in the class. It was amazing for them. They loved it."

The Railyard system includes four parts: a 9-inch platform, an 18-inch platform, a 7-foot rail that's reversible (flat on one side and round on the other), and the rubber latching platform tops that lock the whole thing together.

Hidden gem

In a fitness facility setting, the Railyard system offers three clear benefits: variety for programming, encouragement for returning members, and appeal as an athletics alternative. Spieker explains: "It's not a sport. You can suck at sports, but you cannot suck at exercise. Even in schools today, and I do workshops for physical education all over the



country, that's one of the things they bring up: not all kids are interested in sports."

Buchanan calls the system at her facility the athletic club's "hidden gem," because while it's in the youth room for classes four days a week, she also gets to bring it out for special events, where it attracts a lot of attention.

"When we have birthday parties, and I'm doing an obstacle course for that, we use half of our basketball court and I set the entire unit up on there," Buchanan says. "And I'll get parents coming over and looking who aren't part of the birthday party, and they're like, 'What's this?' I've had people come up, ask questions, and they're like, 'Wow, that's really cool.'"

At many clubs, the 5-15 age group is not always offered functional exercise programs of interest to them. They're a type of member that often ages out of childcare but can't participate in adult group X or the weight room for several intervening years. Spieker says offering youth programming like obstacle courses — similar to ninja-type climbing and popular parkour training — can draw a loyal crowd to a facility.

At the Clarksville Athletic Club, Buchanan says the class offered there not only brings the kids back, but their parents, too.

"A lot of kids in our program kind of help their parents come to the facility because they want to come to class," Buchanan says. "That's a huge plus. We do get feedback from the parents that sometimes when they're not feeling it, their kids are, and their kids kind of help them come because they say, 'I want to go to Kids in Motion.'"

The system isn't designed exclusively for children. Spieker says current adult users include the San Francisco 49ers, the Chicago Bears, the Penn State football team and Wisconsin's volleyball team. He says it's also in use at nine police athletic academies. "Police and firefighters, this is how they perform their jobs. They run at something, they duck, they climb, they crawl and train for an active profession."

Mental health movement

Making the Railyard all the more relevant for today's generation of kids are the mental health benefits that having fun and building functional movement skills bring. "If you're a young child, you have confidence in the way you move, and self-esteem because you accomplish a certain thing," Spieker says.

In Clarksville, Buchanan says she's seen the system pay off similarly. "Not every child wants to run. Not every child wants to move," she says. "A lot of the kids look forward to using the unit and they like the way they feel afterwards. And they see themselves getting stronger." 📢

THE SCORE

95

Percentage rate of compliance regarding the use of proper waste receptacles achieved by fans at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium

91

Percentage of nearly 4 million pounds of Mercedes-Benz Stadium waste diverted from landfills during fiscal year 2022

Source: CNBC

24

Number of semi-trailers full of sod needed to replace 80,000 square feet of outfield grass at Milwaukee's American Family Field following Morgan Wallen concerts April 14 and 15

Source: Milwaukee Brewers

77

Percentage of 1,000 Americans surveyed who say they now feel pickleball is a sport for both old and young people

Source: Offers.Bet

80

Number of years separating the youngest and oldest participants among the more than 3,000 who competed in the US Open Pickleball Championships at East Naples (Fla.) Community Park in April

Source: Fort Myers News-Press

10

Age of Stewartville, Minn., fifth-grader Reese Lechner, who signed a name, image and likeness deal with her local gym, The Performance Center

Source: Post-Bulletin, Rochester, Minn.

734,500,000

Size, in dollars, the global connected gym equipment market reached in 2022

3,761,900,000

Size, in dollars, the global connected gym equipment market is projected to reach by 2028

Source: IMARC Group

3,400,000

Economic impact, in dollars, to Warren County made by Western Kentucky University football, volleyball and soccer events held from late August through November 2022

Source: Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

274

Number of individual cases logged in the Gender-Based Violence in Sports Database since 1974, with more than half involving college or professional football players

75

Percentage of those cases — regardless of whether the perpetrator was charged, arrested or convicted — in which the accused athlete or coach was allowed to remain with the team and continue to work or compete

Source: Brookings Institution

5

Number of athletic departments, of the eight in the NCAA Division I Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, that are led by women

Source: The Christian Science Monitor

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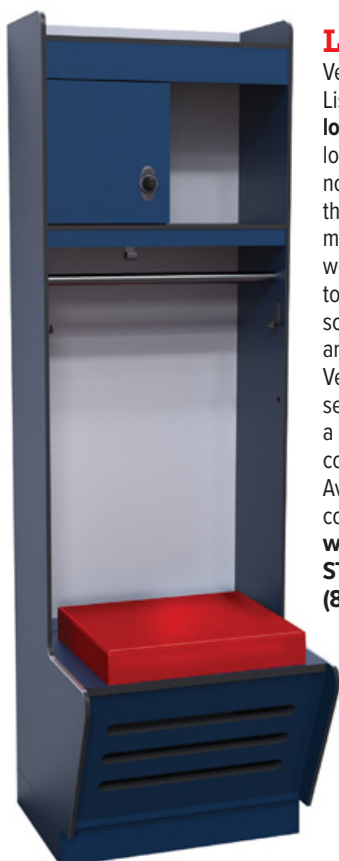
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Artificial Intelligence



Andy Berg (andy@athleticbusiness.com) is executive editor of *Athletic Business*.

By Andy Berg and ChatGPT-4

In the spirit of our feature on page 26 that discusses the impact of artificial intelligence on athletic facility design, we decided for this edition of Tech Roundup to see how AI stacked up as a journalist. We asked ChatGPT-4 to produce an 800-word piece, in the style of *Athletic Business* magazine's Tech Roundup, about AI-powered products as they might relate directly to the endeavors of our audience. For starters, the chatbot didn't hit word count, there were numerous factual

errors (if blatant fictions), and the writing style leaves a lot to be desired.

While we're not sure you'll find much of real value in the information offered herein, we felt that June's Tech Roundup was a safe and fitting space to perhaps persuade our readers that we flesh-and-blood editors over here at *AB* still provide you with valuable insights that HAL 9000 cannot. Below you'll find verbatim (annotated by a human editor) ChatGPT-4's response to our prompt:



ChatGPT-4 is OpenAI's most advanced system.

Produce an 800-word piece in the style of Athletic Business magazine's Tech Roundup about AI-powered products that are impacting the athletics, fitness and recreation industries.

AI technology is making a significant impact on the athletics, fitness, and recreation industries. From improving athletic performance to enhancing the customer experience, AI products are transforming the way we approach these industries. In this Tech Roundup, we'll explore some of the most innovative [We're not sure who is making the claim "most innovative" here.] AI products that are making waves in these industries.

Athletic performance

AI technology is helping athletes to reach their peak performance levels by providing personalized training and real-time feedback. One such product is the Pivot app [After extensive Googling, we were unable to actually find a "Pivot app" that matches this description.], developed by Pivot Sport, which uses AI algorithms to analyze an athlete's movements and provide personalized

training plans. The app also offers real-time feedback to help athletes improve their technique and reduce the risk of injury.

Another AI product [The repetitive use of “Another AI product” to begin multiple paragraphs strikes us as middle-school-level writing.] that’s making a significant impact on athletic performance is the Smart Court [SmartCourt], developed by PlaySight. This system uses AI to analyze and track player movements and provides detailed feedback to players and coaches. The Smart Court is used by professional tennis players and coaches to improve their game and track their progress over time. [ChatGPT-4 has reached the conclusion that SmartCourt is a tennis-centric offering possibly based on a few images on the PlaySight website of tennis players. However, the SmartCourt platform is actually aimed at all sports, from baseball to football to tennis.]

Fitness tracking

Fitness tracking has become an essential part of many people’s lives, and AI technology is making these tools more accurate and personalized. One such product is the Halo Band, developed by Amazon. [We prompted ChatGPT-4 for this information on May 7, but Amazon actually scrapped its Halo fitness tracking device April 23.] This fitness tracker uses AI to analyze users’ activity, sleep, and body composition, providing personalized recommendations to improve their health.

Another AI product [Again!] that’s changing the fitness tracking game is the CAROL bike. This stationary bike uses AI to provide personalized high-intensity interval training (HIIT) workouts that are tailored to users’ fitness levels. The bike also uses AI to adjust the resistance automatically, ensuring that users are always challenged but never overworked. [A rather simplistic explanation of CAROL’s offerings, but relatively accurate.]

Customer experience

AI is also transforming the customer experience in the fitness and recreation industries. One such product is the AI-powered gym management software, developed by Virtuagym. This software uses AI to provide personalized recommendations to gym members, such as workout plans and nutrition advice. The software also provides real-time feedback to gym managers,



helping them to optimize their facilities and improve the overall customer experience. [Again, a rather simplistic description of what Virtuagym does.]

Another AI product [Yet again!] that’s enhancing the customer experience is the InnoWave fitness kiosk. [A number of Google searches turned up nothing on this company or product.] This kiosk uses AI to provide personalized workout plans to users, as well as real-time feedback on their form and technique. The kiosk also offers a range of interactive features, such as virtual coaching and fitness challenges, to keep users engaged and motivated.

Virtual reality

Virtual reality (VR) is another area where AI is making an impact on the athletics, fitness, and recreation industries. One such product is the Hydrow rowing machine, which uses VR to provide an immersive rowing experience. The machine features a large screen that displays realistic scenes of waterways around the world, providing users with a unique and engaging workout. [Some VR products most definitely leverage AI, but Hydrow does not appear to be a true (headset-powered) VR experience, nor could we find any mention of AI on the manufacturer’s website.]

Another VR product [Argh!] that’s changing the game is the BoxVR fitness game. This game uses AI to provide personalized workouts

based on users’ fitness levels and preferences. The game features a range of music tracks and workout routines that are designed to keep users motivated and engaged. [BoxVR is a game for Meta’s Oculus Rift headset and is more consumer-facing technology that wouldn’t typically be featured in an *Athletic Business* Tech Roundup column.]

In conclusion, AI technology is revolutionizing the athletics, fitness, and recreation industries. [Rarely would we ever end an article with “In conclusion.”] From improving athletic performance to enhancing the customer experience, these innovative products are transforming the way we approach these industries. As AI continues to advance, we can expect to see even more groundbreaking products that will further enhance our fitness and recreational activities.

[In conclusion (psych!), we hope this experiment has enhanced your confidence in *AB* editorial. Tech Roundup will return in its normally authored form next month.] 📧



Differential Treatment of Coaches Under Investigation Costs University \$800K



Elizabeth Ellis (top) and Nina Bilotti are students in the Sport Management program in the David B. Falk College for Sport and Human Dynamics at Syracuse University, where attorney John Wolohan (jwolohan@syr.edu) is a professor of sports law.

By Elizabeth Ellis, Nina Bilotti and John Wolohan

One area of sports law that seems to receive little attention is Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII is a comprehensive federal law that makes it illegal for an employer to “discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual’s race, color, religion, sex, or national origin” (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-2(a)).

Title VII is regulated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which is charged with investigating discrimination claims in hiring, firing, training, compensating, designating work assignments, promoting, demoting, or any other employment activity. If the EEOC is unable to settle alleged violations, the EEOC or the complaining party may file suit in federal district court.

A recent case illustrating how Title VII can protect coaches is *Telma Hall v. Alabama State University*, Case No. 2:16-cv593-JTA.

Investigatory inconsistency?

Telma Hall was employed as Alabama State University’s head softball coach from October 2005 through May 2014. As head coach, Hall was responsible for recruiting, budgeting and reporting NCAA violations. Beginning in the summer of 2013, she also worked as an adjunct

professor. During her employment at ASU, Hall also attended graduate school.

On March 2 and 3, 2014, ASU president Gwendolyn Boyd received two emails from parents of softball players complaining that Hall did not provide sufficient food to the athletes during team travel, that athletes were left on a bus, and that practice hours prevented students from eating in the cafeteria. Based on the emails, Hall was placed on paid administrative leave, banned from campus and prohibited from having any student contact, thus preventing her from serving as an adjunct professor or participating in the graduate-level classes in which she was enrolled.

ASU athletic director Melvin Hines recommended to Boyd that Hall be suspended. This recommendation was reached after consultation with Boyd, ASU general counsel Kenneth Thomas, and human resources personnel. ASU eventually terminated Hall’s employment on May 2, 2014. On Oct. 21, 2016, the NCAA issued a Public Infractions Decision announcing an agreement between enforcement staff, ASU and Hall that the softball program had exceeded practice time limits established by the NCAA.

Hall challenged her termination under Title VII, arguing that ASU discriminated against her based on her gender and in retaliation for complaining about differential treatment based

on gender in violation of Title VII. In addition, she claimed that ASU paid her less than similar male employees, denied her contracts with the same terms/benefits, and provided her with less financial support for her sport than it provided her male counterpart — the head baseball coach. Finally, Hall claimed that ASU subjected her to stricter scrutiny than male counterparts within the university, including the head baseball coach.

In support of these claims, Hall noted that during her time at ASU, the baseball coach was compensated with a base salary more than three times Hall's salary, a car allowance, a signing bonus, and additional performance bonus opportunities that Hall did not have. More importantly, the baseball coach was under investigation for NCAA violations after a parent complained that he had been requiring his athletes to use performance-enhancing drugs. Despite those complaints, ASU did not ban the baseball coach from campus or from contact with students during his particular investigation.

Since the school's investigation into her behavior was similar to that of the baseball coach, Hall argued she should have been subjected to the same protocol. Additionally, Hall pointed out that other male coaches were not suspended during investigations

even after allegations of sexual relationships with students, and NCAA violations concerning student welfare. Therefore, Hall argued that ASU treated her differently than similarly situated employees.

Establishing a Title VII violation

In reviewing the facts, the court held that to establish a Title VII violation, Hall had to establish that a) she belongs to a protected class (female); b) she was qualified to do the job; c) she was subjected to an adverse employment action; and d) her employer treated similarly situated employees outside of her class (males) more favorably.

Based on the facts, the court ruled in favor of ASU with respect to Hall's pay and incentives claim, program budget claim and termination claim, because there was enough evidence presented to give legitimate reasons for the differences in all the issues. For example, the baseball coach's pay and incentives were higher based on his experience and success rate. The court also found that differences in the baseball and softball programs justify a difference in their budgets. Finally, the court concluded that there were multiple reasons, including inferior performance, given for Hall's termination.

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While a paid suspension can be a useful tool for an employer to hit pause and investigate an employee accused of wrongdoing without fear of Title VII liability, the court found that the actions ASU took with Hall constituted a serious and material change in the terms, conditions or privileges of her employment.

The court, however, did find evidence that Hall suffered an adverse employment action when ASU applied different work or disciplinary rules to Hall compared to the male coaches. In support of this finding, the court noted that Hall was banned from campus and therefore unable to access her files or participate in the investigation into her behavior, and denied any opportunity to respond to allegations. Unlike male coaches under investigation, Hall was banned from campus and deprived of the employment benefit of tuition-free classes. Additionally, the ban resulted in her adjunct teaching contract not being renewed.

ASU argued that because Hall continued to get paid during her suspension, she did not suffer any adverse employment action. In rejecting this argument, the court noted that while a paid suspension can be a useful tool for an employer to hit pause and investigate an employee accused of wrongdoing without fear of Title VII liability, it found that the actions ASU took with Hall — suspending her, barring her from contact with all students, preventing her from teaching classes, stopping her from taking her own classes, denying her access to her own files — constituted a serious and material change in the terms, conditions or privileges of her employment. Therefore, the court ruled there was sufficient evidence to conclude that Hall's suspension was an adverse employment action because she was not being fully compensated as she had been previously.

A trial jury concluded Dec. 14, 2022, that Hall's gender was a motivating factor in ASU suspending her from her coaching position and awarded her \$800,000.

Discrimination takes many forms

What lessons can college and athletic administrators learn from the jury's verdict in *Hall v. Alabama State University*?

First, it is important to remember that Title VII protects employees from not only gender discrimination, but also from discrimination due to an employee's race, color, religion or national origin in hiring, firing, training, compensating, designating work assignments, promoting, demoting, or any other employment activity. Therefore, it is essential that employers do not discriminate against employees based on their race, color, religion, gender or national origin.



Second, as noted in *Hall*, there may be legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for treating employees differently. For example, the baseball coach's pay and incentives were higher based on his experience and success rate. Multiple reasons, including inferior performance, were given for Hall's termination. However, college and athletic administrators must be aware that in the absence of a legitimate nondiscriminatory reason, the reason for the different treatment is assumed to be unlawful discrimination.

Finally, it must be noted that even though not an issue in this case, Title VII protects not only employees, but applicants, as well. For example, Brian Flores' race-discrimination lawsuit against the NFL is based on Title VII and the claim that the Rooney Rule is a sham. Therefore, Title VII not only protects existing employees from discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender or national origin, but job applicants, too. 📌



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Solving, Not Selling: A Better Approach to Client Recruitment for Personal Trainers



Chris Stevenson (chris@stevensonempowers.com) is owner and founder of The Empower Group in Westlake Village, Calif.

By Chris Stevenson

Personal training is a great way to help members reach their health and fitness goals. It can also be a significant revenue stream for a facility. To build a successful personal training program, a personal trainer must consistently prospect for new clients. Often this is one of the most challenging tasks for a personal trainer.

I don't think I have ever met a personal trainer who said, "I got into this industry because I can't wait to sell personal training." Sometimes, personal trainers even see the term "sales" as a bad word.

Let's face it. People become personal trainers because they love the industry and want to help people change their lives. They don't do it to become salespeople. The Catch-22 is that if a trainer doesn't sell packages, that trainer will never have clients, regardless of skill and desire to make a difference in a member's life.

As owners and operators, it is essential to consistently remind trainers not to think of it as "selling" but simply "solving" people's problems. While the actual sales process is a topic for future discussion, this article focuses on how a trainer should approach members in a way that provides an excellent experience for member clients and themselves.

Prospecting is an art. It is not enough to tell your trainers to go out there and book some

introductory sessions. As leaders, we must provide the coaching and tools a trainer needs to do this effectively. Here is a five-step process you can use with your trainers to give them the tools to successfully book significantly more intro sessions.

1. Regular engagement

One of the first keys for trainers in booking more introductory sessions is to make themselves recognizable. The more members are around someone, the more comfortable they feel with that person.

Encourage your trainers to spend time on the floor talking with members. Suggest that they spend time at the front desk helping check people in. Point out that trainers who work out at the facility can not only engage with members but also see things from a member's point of view. Have them participate in group exercise classes either by taking classes themselves or assisting participants. (Another good practice is to have the group exercise instructor introduce the trainer to the class participants.)

When members decide they want to sign up for personal training, they are likely to inquire about the trainers who have made themselves present.

One of our trainers was particularly good at this. She smiled and greeted everyone she passed

Never tell a member that what they are doing is wrong. That can be off-putting and offensive. Offer some constructive advice. Members appreciate that.

in the facility. At one point, a woman inquired about doing some training and specifically asked for her to do the intro session. When asked why she requested her, the woman said the trainer always said hi and smiled at her. Being engaging and friendly goes a long way.

Encouraging your trainers to be more present is the first step in creating opportunities to generate personal training leads. One thing to note: Make sure you follow all applicable laws and regulations regarding compensation when asking your trainers to spend time on the floor or in classes.

2. Rapport building

Working with a trainer takes a lot of trust. Trust comes from building rapport. Coach your trainers to spend time building rapport, as opposed to simply going up and asking a member to do a session.

This begins by executing step one above, but in this second step, the goal is to start building a relationship. Look for an opportunity to engage. Do not interrupt. When the time is right, a trainer should make a proper introduction and learn more about the member. Start by exchanging names. Ask how long they have been a member. How do they like the facility? These and similar questions provide the opportunity to get to know a member.

In addition to the questions, the trainer should share some personal information, such as how long they have worked there, where they are from and why they love the facility. This allows a member to get to know the trainer.

Notice that nothing about actually doing a session has yet to be mentioned. That is deliberate. This step is to build a relationship and establish a comfort level between member and trainer.

3. Workout habits

If step two is done effectively, it's time to move on to step three. It is now appropriate to talk about a member's health and fitness. This may be asking about the member's typical facility habits. How often do they visit, and how much time do they typically spend per visit? What are their preferred exercises? Again, the trainer should ask good questions and listen actively. Think of this as a causal, on-the-spot, health and fitness intake.

After this step, a trainer should know a lot about the person, as well as the individual's health and fitness habits. The critical thing to remember is that, just like step two, this is a casual conversation.

4. Helpful advice

In this step, a trainer should use what they

have learned about the member, combined with observations, to give some initial advice or make a small recommendation.

It may look like this in practice: "I noticed you were working on legs today. Your deadlift form looks pretty good. Deadlifts are one of my favorite exercises. Is it okay if I give you a simple tip to make your lift even more effective?"

Never tell a member that what they are doing is wrong. That can be off-putting and offensive. Offer a tip. While giving the tips and working with the member, ask the following questions: "Can you feel that more now? Do you see how doing it like this is helpful?" Offer some constructive advice. Members appreciate that.

5. Schedule a session


If all has gone well up to this point, it is appropriate for the trainer to offer an introductory session or trial. Different facilities offer different things, but for this article, let's assume the offer is a single complimentary personal training session.

After providing the initial advice, the trainer should use dialogue such as this to book a trial session: "Are you aware that you get a complimentary training session as part of your membership? I would love to show you more exercises like this. Can I set you up with a complimentary session with me?" It is entirely appropriate and acceptable to ask at this point. It is also okay to be more assumptive and say, "Let's set up a complimentary session to work together more."

If the member says yes, book a day and time for the session. If the member says no, that's okay, too. The trainer should let the member know to reach out if the member ever wants to do a session. The trainer should also remind the member that they now have a new friend at the facility and to reach out with any questions.

Simplified, these steps call for trainers to make themselves well known in the facility, build rapport with members, learn about members' health and fitness habits, offer some advice, then invite them to try working together.

It is also essential to remind trainers that sometimes a sales cycle is longer. It is okay if the first series of interactions doesn't end with a booked session. The trainer has built the foundation for a relationship that can be nurtured. There will be more opportunities to work together as time goes on.

When this process is done well, it isn't sales at all. It is helping a member solve a problem. It is an excellent experience for the member and the trainer, and will ultimately lead to an effective personal training program. 



Gunshot Detection Systems Aim to Hasten Active Shooter Response Times

Photo courtesy of Databuoy



Andy Berg (andy@athleticbusiness.com) is executive editor of *Athletic Business*.

By Andy Berg

The terrifying videos posted online following a mass shooting event typically depict pure chaos, as people try to flee a bad actor armed to the teeth with lethal weaponry. They are depressingly common these days — both the shootings and the viral digital documentation. Gun violence has permeated nearly every public common, from places of worship to hospitals to schools to shopping malls, and sports venues are no exception.

While operators of sports facilities at all levels are tasked with providing patrons with an exciting and comfortable game-day experience, they're also responsible for matters of life and death. To keep everyone in their venues safe, operators deploy a variety of tools and strategies — staff training, metal detectors, video surveillance systems — to mitigate the ominous threat that seems to be always lurking just off camera in the United States in recent years.

One of the tools that many venues are implementing to shorten response times to these types of incidents are gunshot detection systems, which aim to immediately identify the sound of a gunshot and locate the source of the threat. Here's a look at how one company aims to quell the chaos should the unthinkable happen on a future game day.

How it works

Founded in 2006, Databuoy is named after the company's early work with the United States Navy. The nautical term, Data Buoys, refers to a network of sensors moored in the ocean that

support passing ships. Databuoy's sensor networks are land-based, but are similarly "moored" to reliably persist, detect and serve passers-by. The company's technology is founded on a series of research and development programs sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), for the Army and Navy, which sought to detect gunshots on the battlefield.

However, in 2013 Databuoy turned its focus to public safety with a commercial gunshot detection system that can be deployed indoors or outdoors, making it an ideal solution for sports venues that see large crowds of people congregating at entrances and within interior concourses.

COO Alex Chermak says his company actually sought to refine a system that could be deployed in both indoor and outdoor environments largely because a majority of school shootings begin outside the building, and immediate detection is the key to stopping the violence as quickly as possible.

The Databuoy system is built on an expansive acoustic library that has been collected on Databuoy's sensor hardware with tens of thousands of rounds fired and millions of hours of sensor operations. When the system detects a loud sound, it references that sound against this acoustic library to ensure it is an actual gunshot. Outdoor sensors are usually spaced 40 to 60 yards apart and work in tandem with a camera system that can immediately capture footage after gunshot detection.

Biggest challenge

Chermak says Databuoy customers identify speed and localization as the biggest challenges when detecting gunshots. “So, where did it come from exactly and how fast can you get me that information?”

Databuoy currently has a system installed at Las Vegas’ Downtown Fremont Street, and the system has detected gunfire events at that location.

“What we’ve found at the Fremont location, and another in Annapolis, Md., is that the responders are getting the information that we provide in about 10 seconds,” Chermak says. “And what they’re getting is the location within 6 feet of where that shot came from. And if there’s video, they’re getting video three seconds before and after, so they can see what’s going on. They’re getting all of that in 10 seconds. The first 911 call isn’t processed for at least a minute, and that time saves lives — not only for those who could be shot, but for the person who has been shot.”

The whole process is automated and the alert is immediately sent directly to command centers, as well through cellphone texts to verified subscribers.

While detecting the first shot is important, collaboration with local law enforcement and security teams is equally so.

“Private security certainly is the buyer of this thing,” says Chermak, “but it’s a joint effort between the security firm associated with whatever that venue is — whether it’s a casino, or entertainment venue, or sporting venue — and the police department so that everybody’s getting the right information and can respond appropriately.”

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommends that the most effective way to train staff to respond to an active shooter situation is to conduct training exercises. Local law enforcement are an excellent resource in designing training exercises, but DHS recommends the following elements for training staff to respond to an active shooter incident:

- How to recognize the sound of gunshots
- How to react quickly when gunshots are heard and/or when a shooting is witnessed
- How to evacuate the area
- How to identify where to hide
- How to act against the shooter as a last resort
- How to react when law enforcement arrives
- How to adopt the “survival mindset” during times of crisis
- How to ensure local law enforcement and first responders are involved in training exercises



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Now Open: On-Campus Summer Camps



Michael Popke
(michael@twolakesmedia.com)
is founder of Two Lakes Media and a frequent contributor to *Athletic Business*.

By Michael Popke

This summer marks the 28th year the University of Denver is offering summer camps, introducing sports and wellness activities to area kids. For 13 weeks, from late May to mid-August, 200 participants between the ages of 5 and 11 will attend the university's Pioneer Athletic Super Summer (P.A.S.S.) Camp and experience what it's like to play on NCAA Division I fields, courts and ice rinks. Programs are focused on everything from yoga and martial arts to soccer, golf and ice skating, and each week's offerings differ. What's more, P.A.S.S. Camp is a licensed childcare program.

No wonder all of the 2023 sessions sold out almost immediately this past spring.

"There was a need from faculty and staff at the university — and then, obviously, from some of our partners in the community — for childcare during the summer," says Stu Halsall, DU's associate vice chancellor of the James C. Kennedy Mountain Campus, Wellness, and Recreation, who oversees summer camp programs. "And there's certainly a business component to what we do. I mean, we have to support many other programs through revenue generation with this type of programming, in part because we do not have a student fee structure."

But revenue generation isn't enough to drive successful camps. "I don't think that should be the answer for why you do this," Halsall says. "I think

it should be based on a need from your community, providing a childcare solution for faculty and staff, engaging with alumni. I've always tried to think of what we do as part of our mission, something more strategic to the university than the dollars-and-cents equation. I'm not discounting that; I just don't think it can be the only factor in play."

Not all fun and games

Certainly, summer camps offer a way to fill otherwise-dormant sports and recreation spaces on campus while boosting revenue and jumpstarting student recruiting. But funding and staffing issues can be a significant challenge. P.A.S.S. Camp and the University of Denver's smaller, more specialized gymnastics and ice hockey sports camps, for example, require about 120 staff members each summer — most of them students from club sports and athletics, as well as education majors, area teachers looking for summer work and retired educators who miss interacting with kids.

Funding and staffing shortages were enough to halt — at least temporarily — the summer camp program at Old Dominion University this year. Based at the university's Student Recreation Center, Big Blue Summer Camp combined theme-based academic endeavors with physical activities for about 80 kids between the ages of 6 and 12 per week. By partnering with other on-campus

For more information about NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation, visit www.nirsa.org



Photos courtesy of the University of Denver

entities, participants learned about bugs (entomology department), writing (education department), sea life (coastal and physical oceanography department), cooking and baking (food services) and other subjects.

And — after receiving initial startup funding from the university in 2009 — the camp was entirely funded by ODU's campus recreation department and needed to remain self-sufficient. This year, however, officials recognized the need to pay camp counselors a higher wage than in years past while also covering the soaring cost of lunches for campers, and they had to give Big Blue the red light.

"It was a really hard decision for me," says Jean McClellan-Holt, associate director of recreation, programs and wellness at Old Dominion. "I created this camp back in 2009 and built a great reputation in the community. When it finally sunk in, I thought, 'Camp is over for good,' and I will be honest, I cried. But now, I'm thinking that maybe it's not completely done."

One option, she says, involves teaming up with Kidcam Camps, a NIRSA associate member that partners with colleges and universities, parks and recreation departments, and other public and private entities to offer fully staffed weekly day camps that incorporate sports, creative arts, STEM concepts and other activities.

Kidcam is entering its 49th summer and runs 10-week camps at more than 30 locations in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky — including Kennesaw State University, Western Kentucky University and Middle Georgia State University. With more than 400 seasonal employees (mostly teachers, coaches, and college and high school students) and 4,000 campers, Kidcam is accredited by the American Camp Association and provides a turnkey summer camp operation.

The organization pays a college or university to rent space, via either a flat fee or a shared-revenue arrangement. Kidcam, in turn, generates revenue via participant registration fees that cover staffing, meals and more.

"We're relatively new to the university sector," says Melissa Conner, Kidcam's president, adding that expanding beyond the Southeast to more institutions of higher education is a top priority. "In the past three years, there's been an increased recognition [among campus recreation professionals] that, 'Hey, we can do a program like this, we can showcase our facility to a younger audience, and we don't have to do it ourselves.'"

"We support universities by participating in some of the events that are happening on campus," adds Kandi Patterson, Kidcam's vice president of operations

and new site development. "We look for ways to not only build the camp but also to build the brand for the university with younger kids."

'Important for a lot of kids'

Campus recreation professionals considering launching a summer camp or restructuring an existing one should consider their community's specific needs and commit to meeting them for reasons beyond financial concerns. Here are three other tips:

- **Know the rules.** They are going to be different based on locale. "You have to understand the requirements within your city," Halsall says. "In Denver, you can offer a single-sport camp, and it's exempt from childcare licensing. But the type of programming we offer, which is multisport, has to be licensed."

- **Engage on- and off-campus partners.** Whether performing background checks on camp staff members or planning specialty programming and field trips, communication and cooperation with local law enforcement professionals, human resources officers and others will be critical.

- **Plan ahead.** Will the rec center gymnasium be resurfaced next summer? Is on-campus greenspace slated for development? How will routine maintenance and other university requests for space impact camp schedules? "We try to be five years out in our thought process, minimally, for what we're doing and developing," Halsall says, adding that outreach via hiring fairs and other strategies is critical to making sure camps will be fully staffed when they open. (Kidcam Camps typically require about an 18-month startup time.)

Summer camps, when strategically developed and implemented, can leave a lasting impact on colleges, universities and especially campers. Just ask McClellan-Holt, who hasn't given up on bringing summer camps back to Old Dominion.

"It's important for a lot of kids," she says, recalling one Big Blue Summer Camp excursion to a local medical center to tour the Nightingale helicopter, a regional air ambulance. "I remember this one camper, engrossed in a conversation with the flight nurse for I can't tell you how long. Her mom, who is a professor on campus, told me her daughter came home from camp that day and said she wanted to be a flight nurse. Not just a nurse, but a *flight* nurse. That sticks with me." 📺

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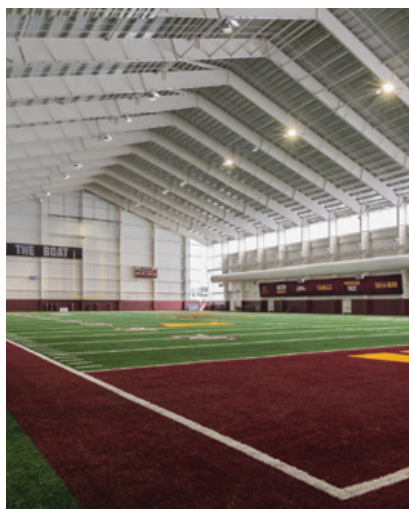
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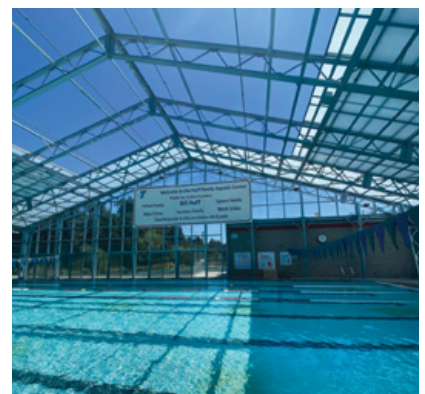


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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Creating Real Opportunities for Sports Architects

BY PAUL STEINBACH AND ANDY BERG

Before “60 Minutes” devoted two of three segments during its April 16 broadcast to artificial intelligence (that’s roughly 40 minutes by our calculations) ... Before Geoffrey Hinton, the “Godfather of AI,” left Google shortly thereafter to warn of the dangers of a technology he helped create (“Paging Dr. Frankenstein”) ... Before actor/investor Ashton Kutcher told a business panel May 1 to embrace AI or risk being shuttered (and we’re pretty sure he wasn’t punking) ... Before Hollywood screenwriters went on strike for the first time in a decade May 2, their grievances including a fear that AI-generated scripts might write their profession completely out of the picture (“The End”) ...

Before any of that, *Athletic Business* executive editor Andy Berg summoned ChatGPT — an increasingly popular AI chatbot designed to take instructions and provide a detailed response — and asked it to author a feature-length article for *AB* on synthetic turf in the style of senior editor Paul Steinbach. Not for publication, mind you. Just for, you know, fun! The result was sufficiently on point as to be nothing short of terrifying — for one of the two editors in particular. Your own intelligence should suffice to inform you which one.

While the AI-generated article captured Steinbach's lyrical prose to near perfection (no small feat), it didn't quite have all its facts in order, nor the perspectives of informed industry professionals.

Berg's impromptu experiment nonetheless got us to thinking (while we can still think for ourselves): What impact is AI going to have (or likely already having) on sports architecture? To find out, we went decidedly old school — we asked human beings for their opinion. Here's a sampling of what leading architects are noodling over in terms of AI and the future of their profession.



Emily Parris



Adam Bastjan



Lynn Reda



James Braam



Viktors Jaunkalns



Jack Patton



Erik Kocher



EMILY PARRIS, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, SASAKI

“When it comes to artificial intelligence, I am genuinely torn between completely fascinated and utterly terrified. I find myself back in design school seated next to an incredibly talented peer whom I am both inspired by and also forced to compete with. Until recently, I had always envisioned the concept of AI in a manner that benefitted me, ‘Maybe I can get a robot to number these doors and label my drawing sheets.’ More recently however, this introverted desk mate has been flashing some sophisticated design concepts and pulling from the most exotic and relevant precedent projects. It is becoming more and more clear that her interests are not in document production.

“There are going to be incredible opportunities to partner with AI moving forward. As a designer who has played competitive sports my whole life, I feel like I will always have the upper hand because I can relate to the human experience through memory and emotion, but maybe my design concepts could benefit from a first-time view of the world with endless access to case studies and examples of blended first-year imagery.”



ADAM BASTJAN, LEAD DESIGNER, KAHLER SLATER

“While some see AI in the design world as a threat to both creative and pragmatic solutions for sports architecture, I firmly believe that technology will not replace the architect in the design process. Personally, I see AI as another tool that has the potential to complement and integrate with many other technological advances that have popped up in the industry over the last few years. Kahler Slater is already using AI ‘systems’ to streamline our automation efforts around repetitive production tasks, which has allowed our designers more time to focus on creating unique and memorable design solutions for our clients.

“When used in an interactive and iterative way, where the designers have full control over the narrative, AI can help them visualize space and building form in new ways. When done correctly, the overall design process can better align the goals and vision of each individual project, and create thoughtful and customized solutions that solve the challenges our clients face every day.”



LYNN REDA, PRINCIPAL, HUGHES GROUP ARCHITECTS

“In my opinion, AI is exciting. While at first glance it appears to threaten our profession, over the last several hundred years, all manner of ideas and technology have ‘threatened’ the profession — the most recent ‘threat’ being computer drafting and 3D modeling. Each time, the profession has adapted and become stronger through the process.

“Good project teams require diversity of skill levels and abilities. Perhaps we don’t have the same proportion of drafters to designers, and, sure, computer-aided drafting allows for far more precise documents. However, it still requires human interaction to be effective. AI responds to the inputs we give it. For example, if you ask for ‘a building that evokes happiness,’ the first response is a facade with a smiling emoji on it. Not exactly high design.

“The challenge for us as architects, problem-solvers and environment-shapers is to find ways to use AI that continue to improve the way we design and provide benefit to our clients. Perhaps AI can take on code compliance in a way that streamlines permit reviews. Maybe AI can provide better clash-detection, or reduce construction schedules, thereby reducing costs to owners.

“Regardless, it is imperative that we as architects embrace AI before it embraces us. It is on us to develop the skills in asking the right questions and having a dialogue with the AI, to use the tool with meaningful human revision and refinement, allowing us to become even more creative in our design solutions for every type of building we design. I see AI as an opportunity to enhance the visioning process, improve dialog and provide a new tool to explore creativity in an open-minded, innovative way.”



JAMES BRAAM, DESIGN PRINCIPAL, HDR

“The ability to imagine with clients and studio teammates — asking ‘what if?’ — is one of our best methods of collaboration. And while it’s natural to be intimidated by the unknown, we’re discovering AI as a supplemental instrument to test, listen and engage with clients, even including its words to influence our sketches. Our Denver studio embraces this way of thinking. We used AI resources such as Veras and Midjourney on a natatorium project to explore this question of ‘what if?’ We’re embracing exploration of AI and see its potential, yet ultimately, we rely upon our own skilled evaluation, intuition and design authorship to evaluate the outcome.”



VIKTORS JAUNKALNS, PARTNER, MJMA ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

“We hope that AI will be able to help us in a couple of key areas of design. We are faced with several overlapping issues of environmental sustainability and the need to accelerate our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Given our energy-intensive building types, we are hoping that AI will help us model the many decarbonization options of alternative energy sources, direct us in combining high-performance materials and help us in selecting building systems based on embodied carbon. Our building types are also important pieces of social infrastructure that are increasingly defined by a public engagement process. We are hoping that AI will be a research tool to analyze the collective needs of community groups and support the needs of equity-seeking indigenous and racialized communities.”



CHATGPT

Reached one million users within five days of its launch, and 100 billion users within its first two months



FACEBOOK

Took 15 years to reach 2.3 billion users



JACK PATTON, PRINCIPAL, RDG PLANNING & DESIGN

“Excitement around practical and potential application of artificial intelligence is growing rapidly in our industry of architecture, planning and design. Its direct impact on sports architecture is robust in selected parts of our design process — elevation studies, form manipulation, and translating blocking to 3D. This application of what is called augmented intelligence and augmented algorithms — kinds of AI lite, as I see them — saves time in many of our standard processes by automating the implementation of known standards and options in our designs and documents, allowing time for more detailed design and form-making the old-fashioned way. We use this data-based intelligence to crank out 100 options of a given facade, from which we pick the best and then develop only those further. Similar with stadium seating, evaluating the best sightlines and structural geometry. Powerful.

“While not yet profoundly impacting the outgoing design expressions from our firm — all new buildings in 100 mouse clicks or less, right? — the advent of ChatGPT will soon clearly change the way some of our clients and employee prospects communicate with our team.

“AI design solutions today are figments of one’s imagination — a pretty picture without structure, support or integration into our real world. That will change over time. When designing with AI, most people do not understand what they just created. They know what the image looks like, but even with the image, you can’t get to the real world directly from a virtual one — at least not yet.


In the current marketplace, AI tools upsize a low-res image, idea, design, building plan, etc., into a larger-format, higher-res image through a process called hallucination. The ‘machine’ sees a red dot next to a blue dot — think pixel — and based on the number of these colors in the area, it makes a data-based decision or interpretation for creating the new dot — well, dots, plural, as there may be millions of new pixels — in either the color red, blue or purple. Simple and logical, perhaps, but it is interpretation, not creativity. Hallucinations. Wow. Not the artist’s new stroke.

“This is an exciting and intriguing time. AI is not inherently good or evil, but it can be used for either. So, for me, AI is weird, wild, wacky and maybe wonderful all at the same time.”



ERIK KOCHER, HASTINGS+CHIVETTA ARCHITECTS

“I am a part-time futurist and have been contemplating how sports and recreation will be designed and played long after I am gone. At the moment, AI has become a hot topic in architectural firms as to whether it will improve or diminish design. Our firm has tested several available AI software programs and finds most have limited value at this time. Currently, I have not seen any AI software that relates specifically to sports and recreation design. That said, many components of a recreation center can be considered repetitious — basketball and volleyball courts, swimming pools, multipurpose rooms — so AI might eventually be used in the development of sports facilities. Of course, this entire message was created using ChatGPT.”

While the individuals (real people, we assure you) whose names appear in the byline of this article admittedly launched this discussion from a mental state that could best be described as giggling past the graveyard, we are comforted to find that at least a few of the sports architects we consulted share some of our anxieties while most expressed ways to embrace AI technology, continually identifying its potential benefits to their firms, clients and profession at large. Certainly, there’s comfort in reaching out to our friends in the industry and receiving conscientious and prompt, if not instantaneous, replies replete with deep thought and — dare we say — personality. 

GAINING SPEED. GAINING ON US?

By Andy Berg

Four months after my initial playful experiments with various artificial intelligence platforms, I noticed that Bing AI had become much faster in producing responses to my queries — a sign that developers continue to make speedy progress in refining these AI models.

As such, I began asking Bing to complete more sophisticated tasks, such as designing renderings for a new community recreation center in Tucson, Ariz., that includes a pool, a gymnasium, a fitness area and some outdoor fields. The results definitely resembled something close to what I’d asked for (1). When I asked Bing AI to render a 10,000-seat basketball arena for Tucson, Ariz., that uses lots of wood in its construction, the results were perhaps less conventional (2).

Turns out, Ron Heims, RDG Planning & Design’s principal-in-charge of design technology, was doing much the same experimentation at roughly the same time. Heims instructed Midjourney to “Design a floorplan for a 100,000-square-foot collegiate recreation center with an Olympic-size pool, indoor track, six basketball courts and six racquetball courts in an urban context.” Midjourney came back with four images (3).



“Crazy interesting,” says RDG colleague Jack Patton, “but not too much to work with at this time in a practical sense.” Patton adds this caveat: “When using Midjourney, all information entered into its system and all outputs from its platform are owned by Midjourney. The text, the graphics, along with each iteration — owned by them and no one else. Hmm.”

I began playing with various language-based artificial intelligence models in January. Initially, I queried ChatGPT, asking it to do relatively simple but quirky things like write a short poem about a Big Mac (it was past lunchtime and I was hungry) or write a song about my dog. The results were interesting, if a bit trite — inferior compared to what a professional poet or musician would do with these prompts. That said, this was just six short months ago, when the general public was relatively unaware — if aware at all — of the potential or risks associated with artificial intelligence platforms such as ChatGPT, Microsoft’s Bing AI, and Google’s Bard.



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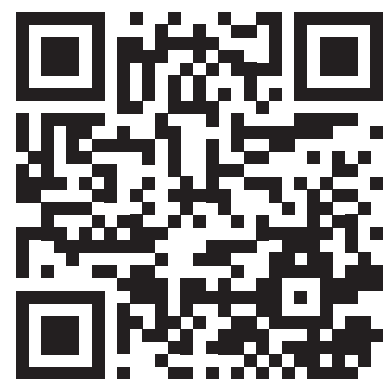
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Forty-three athletics, fitness and recreation facilities — all constructed or renovated within the past three years — are highlighted in Athletic Business' 36th annual Architectural Showcase. This summer, the facilities will be judged by a panel of leading sports, fitness and recreation facility architects, with 10 projects named Facilities of Merit™ in our 43rd annual awards program. Winning projects will be presented in the October issue of Athletic Business and honored at AB Show 2023, Nov. 1-4 in Baltimore, Md. The Suppliers list in the right margin on the facing page represents advertisers that appear in this issue and that supplied products to one or more of this year's Showcase projects. The QR code at the bottom of that page links to special online presentations of each project.





SUPPLIERS



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Digital Experience

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ALABAMA A&M EVENT CENTER ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Nola I VanPeurse Architects
Huntsville, Ala.

DESIGN ARCHITECT

Moody Nolan
Columbus, Ohio

SEATING CAPACITY: 6,000

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 109,108

COST: \$50 million

OCCUPANCY: November 2022

The new Event Center for Alabama A&M University has a unique opportunity to celebrate the past, inspire the future, and serve today's students, athletes and a community that demands the flexibility of a contemporary, multi-use event and athletic facility.

The facility connects the built and natural surroundings by incorporating traditional brick and stone masonry and Tuscan columns, and creating views of the campus and landscape. To enter the Event Center, visitors are presented with a choice. To the left is a monumental external stone staircase connecting an entry on the concourse level. Comfortable landings with seating and lighting allow for pre- and post-event gatherings that take advantage of the elevated views. To the right is a celebration of Georgian architecture and scale. Impressive Tuscan columns frame the entry into the main lobby, where visitors are able to access the event floor or circulate up to the elevated concourse. This entry sequence also provides a backdrop for photos that capture the past, present and future of a student and university.

Once inside the building, tall ceilings and ample gathering space define the main lobby. Both of these characteristics are seen throughout the building. Classrooms and a lounge area with an illustrated timeline of the university's history are found just past the main open stair. This space is used by students and athletes alike, allowing for energy and activity on non-event days.



① The building exterior features brick and stone masonry and an illuminated monumental stair connecting the entry and concourse levels.

② ③ Tall ceilings and photo backdrops define interior gathering spaces.



Photos by Cory Klein Photography

- ④ The Event Center's seating bowl holds 6,000 spectators.
- ⑤ Bold logos, school colors, signage and even lighting help with wayfinding.
- ⑥ The Bulldogs' spacious personal stalls surround the perimeter of otherwise intimate locker rooms spaces.

RALPH S. O'CONNOR CENTER FOR RECREATION & WELL-BEING EXPANSION JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

BALTIMORE, MD.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

GWWO Architects
Baltimore, Md.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

MJMA Architecture & Design
Toronto, Ont.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 30,000

COST: \$19.5 million

OCCUPANCY: October 2022

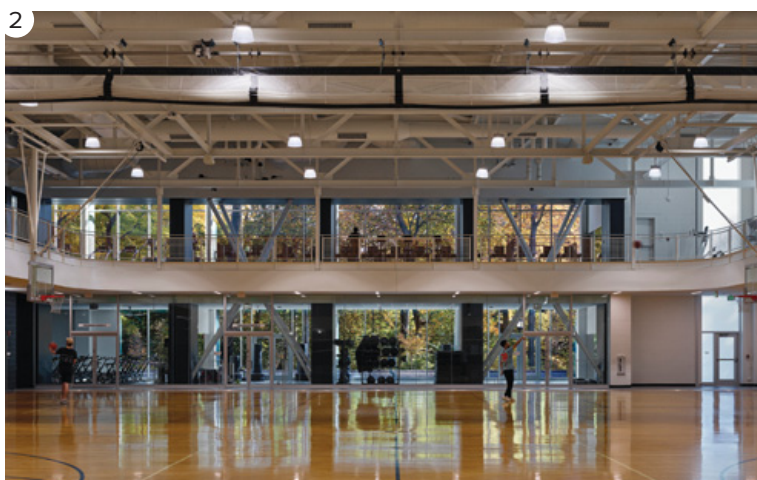
The comprehensive reuse and addition of the Ralph S. O'Connor Center enriches the campus fabric, serving as a transformative face at the Homewood Campus north gateway. The addition increases the center's original interior space by 15,000 square feet and renovates 15,000 square feet of existing space. The project enhances the cardio, weightlifting, and flexible program spaces of the center while giving new emphasis to wellness, social interaction and experiential education.

The design creates new opportunities for gathering and contemplation. The north and east orientations allow visitors views of a serene forest garden. While lifting weights, shifting into warrior pose or simply moving through the building, the sense of wellbeing is heightened. On the lower level, the original gymnasium is now light-filled, as are fitness spaces on the upper floors. The skylit central stair with broad landings is a point of orientation, providing places to meet with open views of the cardio, fitness and program rooms.

Openness, connectivity and accessibility are governing principles of the design. The inviting main entrance on the north facade presents a modern identity and features expanses of glazing over two levels, a long floating porch canopy, and a stepped seating area for students to gather. Along the east, a wide walking path creates a social corridor that runs alongside the wooded Bufano Sculpture Garden and connects the plateau upon which most of the university is built. A glass curtainwall defines this elevation, creating strong visual connections between passersby, building occupants and the pristine natural setting.



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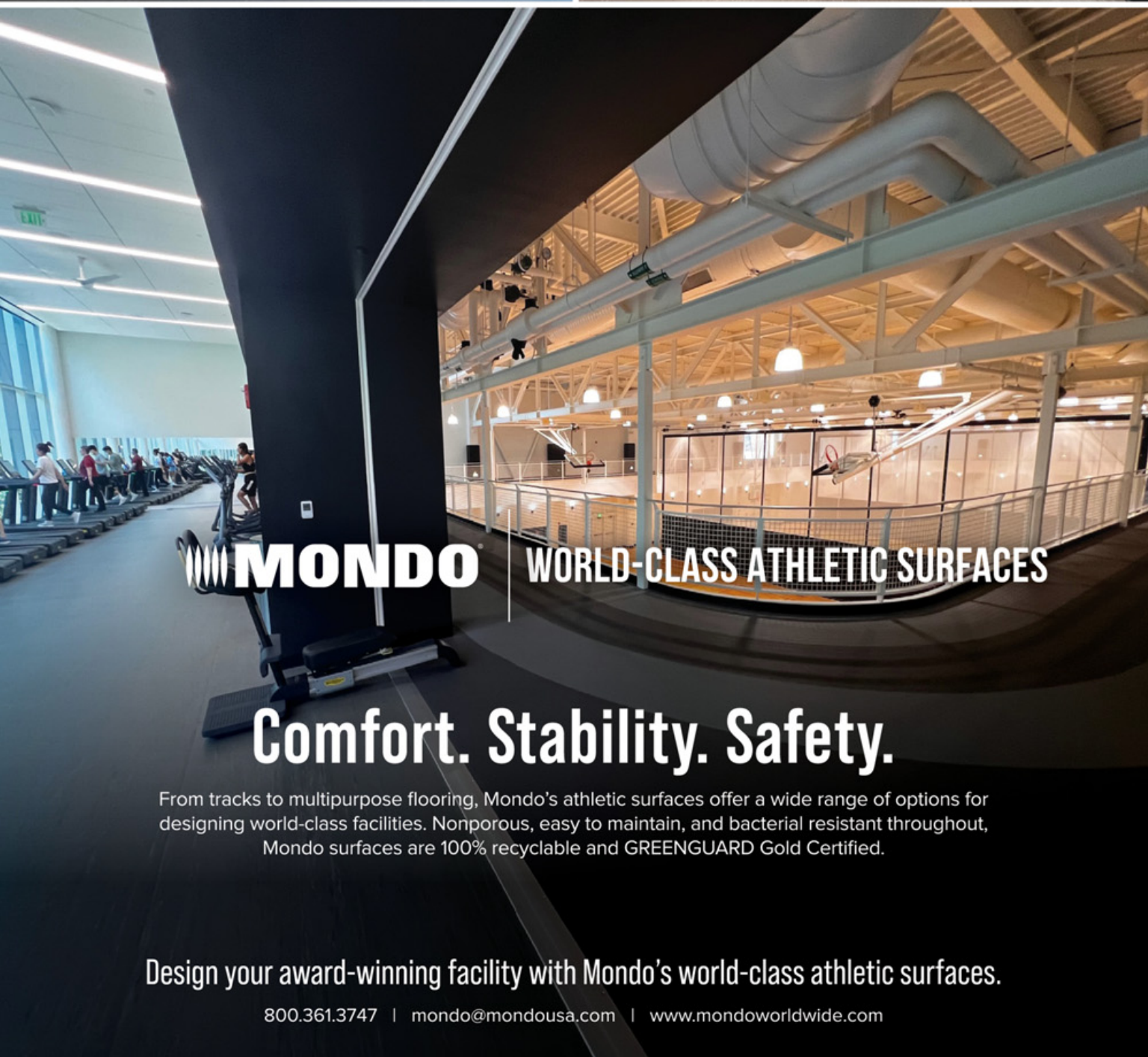
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Photos by Tom Holdsworth

- ① The renovated O'Connor Center serves as a new transformative face for Johns Hopkins.
- ② Located on the lower level, the original gym is now light-filled.
- ③ A skylit central stair with broad landings is a point of orientation for facility visitors.



Johns Hopkins University
Ralph S. O'Connor Center for Recreation and Well-Being



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BASEBALL STADIUM COMPLEX BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK VESTAL, N.Y.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

CSArch
Albany, N.Y.

DESIGN ARCHITECT

Fawley Bryant Architecture
Sarasota, Fla.

SEATING CAPACITY: 1,500

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 84,000

COST: \$60 million

OCCUPANCY: April 2022

Binghamton University aimed to create a classically intimate baseball experience by safely positioning fans as close to the action as possible; employing high-end audio-visual systems, excellent lighting levels and color rendition; and providing access to major-league-quality amenities.

The project includes stadium seating around a turf field. An elevated boardwalk connects the two-story field house to the NCAA tournament-ready press box with hospitality lounge, VIP suites, concessions, a team store and restrooms. Extending down the third base line, berm seating was added along with an umpire locker room and visiting team restrooms.

The 38,000-square-foot field house was designed to incorporate new strategies for training and developing the total student-athlete. On the ground floor of the two-story structure is a team locker room with custom lockers, a team lounge, a nutrition area, a HIIT room, coaches locker rooms, indoor batting tunnels with retractable netting, and an athletic training space with hydrotherapy pools.

The second level efficiently lays out coach and staff offices, video rooms, monitored study space, conference rooms, support spaces and a multipurpose team meeting room with stadium seating overlooking the field. The smart locker rooms were designed for effective player reception, flow and visual connection among teammates. The final result is the culmination of various components, including player health and safety, program culture and traditions, and ingress and egress needs for efficient movement between training spaces.



1



2



3

Photos by David Lamb Photography

- ① Berm seating down the third base line was added, along with an umpire locker room and visiting team restrooms.
- ② Custom lockers and lounge areas highlight the ground-level team spaces.
- ③ A hospitality lounge is one of the major-league-quality amenities available within the stadium complex.

*THIS SUMMER, DON'T LEAVE
YOUR LITTLE LEAGUERS
IN THE DARK*



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GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION CENTER ATLANTA, GA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

The S/L/A/M Collaborative
Atlanta, Ga.

DESIGN ARCHITECT

Perkins&Will
Denver, Colo.

SEATING CAPACITY: 7,300

(basketball), 8,000 (concert)

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 200,000

COST: \$85 million

OCCUPANCY: September 2022

Georgia State's new state-of-the-art convocation center boasts the flexibility to host athletic events, convocations, commencements, conferences, concerts and esports. It represents a major upgrade from the Georgia State Sports Arena, which was constructed in 1972 and only seated 3,500.

The center was designed to accommodate multiple users through intuitive and practical design solutions. The multilevel facility features a club room and suites on the concourse level for event attendees, while the floor level features locker rooms, as well as nursing and sports medicine rooms for students and student-athletes.

The facility gives Georgia State basketball a home court in downtown Atlanta, allowing the program to better recruit on a national level. It also includes the latest in lighting technology, acoustics and building control systems. Wayfinding is integrated into the facility's design, giving a sleek finish that does not detract from the architecture. The masonry and cement flooring make for easy maintenance and cleaning, while the ample floor-to-ceiling glass windows welcome natural light and offer guests a visual connection to the downtown Atlanta skyline.



- 1 The state-of-the-art, multilevel facility hosts everything from athletic events to esports, with the school's external flame present in multiple forms on the exterior.
- 2 Cement flooring allows for easy maintenance, and floor-to-ceiling windows offer guests great views of the Atlanta skyline.



Photos by James Steinkamp

③ Panther pride is conveyed in lobby mural art.

④ ⑤ The arena offers several viewing options.

⑥ At 7,300 seats, the new center easily eclipses the spectator capacity of its predecessor.

WALKER SPORTS AND ABILITIES CENTRE BROCK UNIVERSITY THOROLD, ONT.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

MJMA Architecture & Design
Toronto, Ont.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Raimondo + Associates Architects
Niagara Falls, Ont.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 204,000

COST: \$95 million

OCCUPANCY: February, 2022

The Walker Sports and Abilities Centre served as the key venue of the 2022 Canada Summer Games, a biennial multisport event that represents the highest level of national competition for Canadian athletes. The facility served as the central hub of the games and hosted a variety of events, such as beach volleyball, box lacrosse, indoor volleyball and wrestling.

The three main sports halls – a quadruple gymnasium, a 1,000-seat spectator arena and a practice arena – are arranged in a triangular fashion, taking cues from the site's corner lot geometry. In order to humanize the vast 160,000-square-foot building footprint, the interiors have been designed with numerous interconnections that afford views through the building and bring daylight into the inner spaces. The mezzanine of the quadruple gymnasium features a World Athletics-certified 200-meter indoor running track.

Distributed over two stories of space, the center of the plan hosts various agencies, such as the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario (CISO) high-performance training center, the Brock-Niagara Functional Inclusive Training Centre, and the Brock University Centre for Sport Capacity, which will serve world-class athletes, Brock University varsity athletes, sports and physiological researchers, and community members.

The facility's form and location reflect its role as a major hub for Brock University, the municipalities of Thorold and St. Catharines, and the surrounding area. As a key venue that balances and unifies community, campus and competition uses, the WSAC will increase access to sports, recreation and wellness services for the broader Niagara Region.



1



3



Photos by Scott Norsworthy

- ① The building's three main sports halls are arranged in triangular fashion, reflecting the site's corner lot.
- ② A quadruple gymnasium complements the facility's spectator and practice arenas.
- ③ Treated and shaded, glazing nonetheless provides expansive views of the surrounding Thorold community.



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UNIVERSITY RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY FORT MYERS, FLA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Harvard-Jolly Architecture
Fort Myers, Fla.

DESIGN ARCHITECT

Hastings+Chivetta Architects
St. Louis, Mo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 45,955

COST: \$16.3 million

OCCUPANCY: February 2020

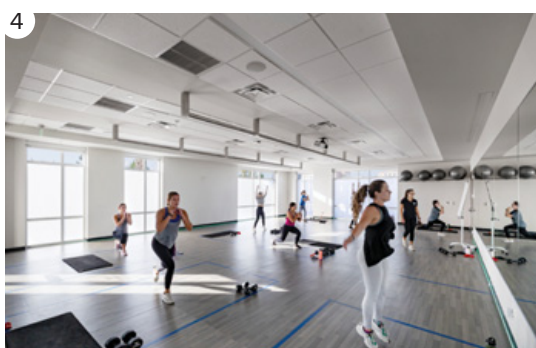
Designing and equipping the building with systems that will be needed to keep pace with the Florida Gulf Coast's record-breaking enrollment required purposeful expertise and dedicated collaboration between the design team and the university. The sleek contemporary look, supported by a generous number of north-facing windows and expansive aluminum framing inside and out, makes a distinct architectural statement in contrast to the more traditional campus. The 40-foot-tall cantilevered roof over the main entrance and the building's front elevation is designed to the scale of its eventual size of 100,000-plus square feet. Designing for today while equipping for tomorrow was a key priority for the owner and project team.

Numerous first-floor amenities include indoor basketball courts, a strength and conditioning room and two studios for fitness classes. A mezzanine cardio deck on the second floor offers expansive views of the wooded and wetland campus through ribbons of floor-to-ceiling glass. An outdoor fitness area in front of the facility serves as an ideal venue for school and community events.

Nestled amidst the dense Everglades, mangrove estuaries, mature Florida palm trees and the indigenous beauty of the 807-acre campus just south of Fort Myers, the student-centric recreation center drew more than 13,000 people during the first 10 days after opening and will continue expanding along the building's spine to support the wellbeing of students, visitors, faculty and staff for years to come.



- 1 Nestled within southwest Florida's indigenous beauty, the facility makes a distinct architectural statement, with a cantilevered roof element scaled for the center's future expansion.
- 2 The second-floor cardio deck offers expansive views of campus through floor-to-ceiling glass.



Photos by Sam Fentress

③ The gym welcomes natural light from three angles.

④ ⑤ Group fitness areas accommodate traditional class programming, as well as functional options such as suspension training.

⑥ Visual connectivity between program areas was a key design consideration.

MAVERICK PARK UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA

OMAHA, NEB.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

HDR Inc.
Omaha, Neb.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Lempka Architects LLC
Lenexa, Kan.

SEATING CAPACITY: 1,500
(baseball), 650 (softball)

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 43,700

COST: \$23.5 million

OCCUPANCY: March 2021

Maverick Park is the first on-campus home for the University of Nebraska Omaha baseball and softball teams. Tal Anderson Field (baseball) and Connie Claussen Field (softball) include 1,500 and 650 fixed seats, respectively, with berm seating available. The number of seats corresponds to typical spectator sizes for each sport, encouraging an activated, enthusiastic atmosphere during games on both fields. Solar orientation is an often-overlooked consideration in creating equitable fields, with baseball fields more frequently capturing the ideal orientation for gameplay. At Maverick Park, the north/south topography remains constant, allowing each field to occupy one of the two ideal orientations.

The complex's arrival sequence guides fans along an ascending path to the open concourse. The Y-shaped pavilion containing fan amenities rests on the concourse. From the covered concourse, patrons descend into either seating bowl. A covered, open-air second deck opens to both fields. The remainder of the pavilion consists of press and broadcast facilities for each field. A distributed audio system creates an all-engaging fan experience across both.

Cast-in-place concrete seating bowls and synthetic turf fields are carved into the hillside, creating a durable environment ready for heavy use by both the university and the community. The primary building material of white cement stucco and radiused geometry echoes the recently completed Baxter Arena to establish a family of athletic facilities. The press box and pavilion are economically structured with a hybrid system of load-bearing concrete masonry units and a steel frame.



1



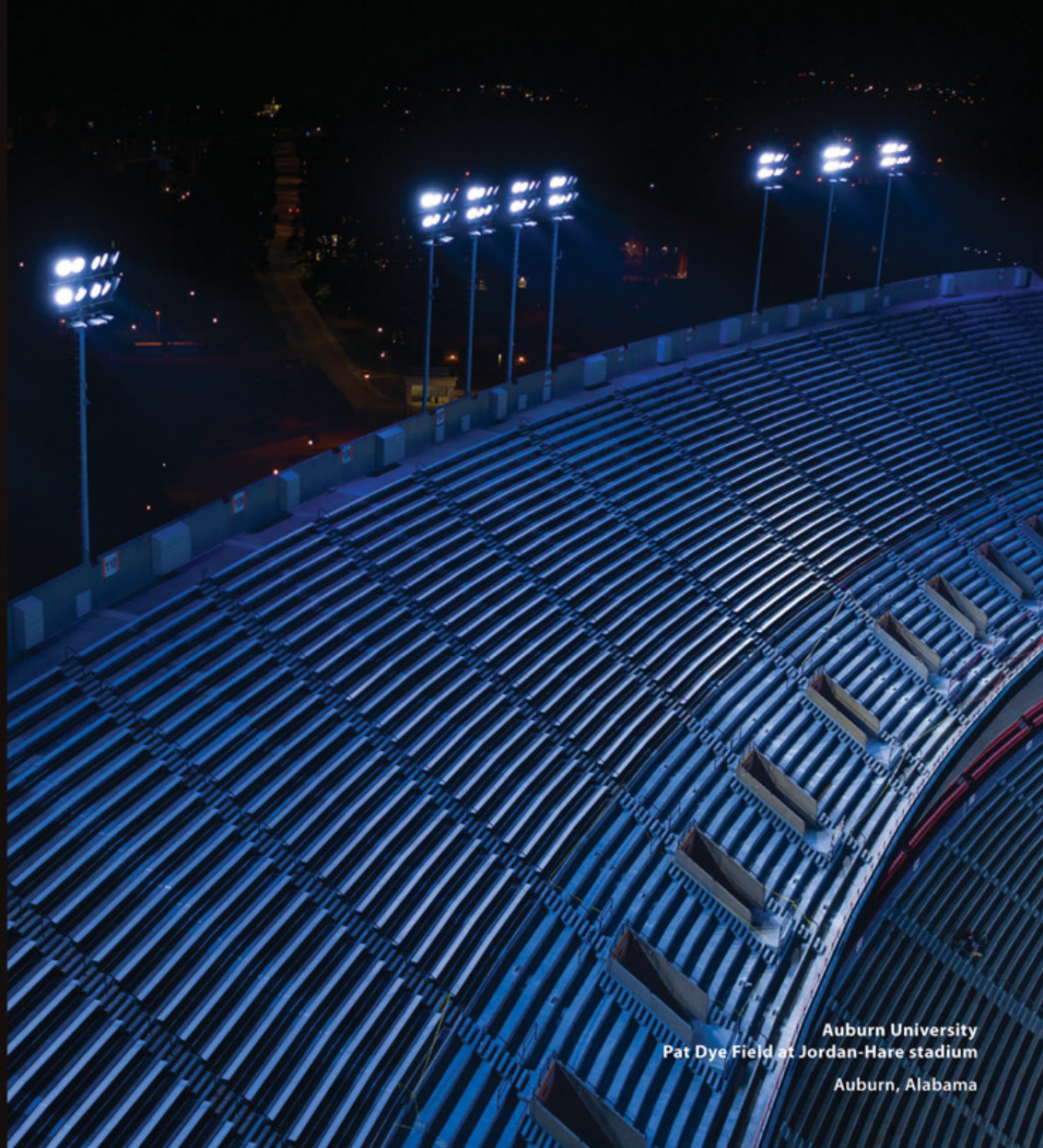
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Photos by Tom Kessler and Dan Schwalm

- ① Maverick Park's north/south topography remains constant, allowing both the baseball and softball fields to take advantage of ideal solar orientation.
- ② Fans approaching the complex are greeted with landscaping and statuary.
- ③ Carved into a hillside, both cast-in-place seating bowls are accessed from a covered concourse above.



Auburn University
Pat Dye Field at Jordan-Hare stadium
Auburn, Alabama

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LIMA, PERU

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Sasaki
Watertown, Mass.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 187,000

COST: \$32 million

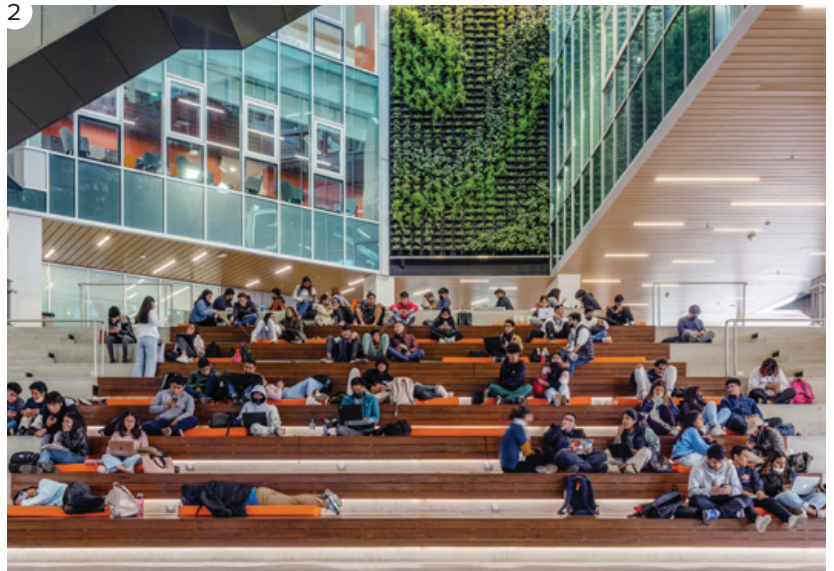
OCCUPANCY: October 2022

The Universidad de Lima is a leading institution in Peru committed to the formation of professionals and civic leaders who will make a positive impact on the country. Since its founding in 1962, the institution has broadened its academic programs and experienced significant student population growth.

The design team began with a comprehensive campus master plan that creates a programmatic and a physical framework, providing an implementation plan and design guidelines for the optimization of existing infrastructure and the development of new buildings and landscapes for campus renewal and expansion. The institution's first-ever student recreation and wellness center brings the master plan vision to life by becoming the new crossroads on campus.

For many years, the university offered few student services and recreation programming for a 25,000-person student body. To address this, a new recreation and wellness center was identified as part of the first stage of the campus development. The center includes nutrition, counseling, physical therapy and weight training for athletes, as well as informal recreation space within the multipurpose gym, which doubles as an event space for up to 600 people.

The completed project has transformed the physical campus and student life experience. The building and plaza create a student destination that incorporates recreation, nutrition, counseling, physical therapy, weight training, and flexible event spaces. As a major engine of campus activity, it is a place where students and faculty gather throughout the day to socialize, study and recharge.



- ① ③ A comprehensive master plan provided guidelines for the development of new buildings and landscapes for campus expansion and renewal.
- ② A stadium-like stair feature is just one area in which students and faculty gather to socialize, study and recharge.



Photos by Eleazar Cuadros and Renzo Rebagliati

- ④ A full variety of workout options are offered and intermingled.
- ⑤ A rooftop walking path connects the exterior to the interior.
- ⑥ Generous glazing modernizes traditional activity spaces while showcasing Lima's landscape.

RICHARD L. DUCHOSSOIS ATHLETIC AND RECREATION CENTER, WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY LEXINGTON, VA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

CannonDesign
Arlington, Va.

SEATING CAPACITY: 1,100

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 165,000

COST: \$48 million

OCCUPANCY: November 2020

Etched into Washington and Lee University's mission statement is a commitment to help students prepare for lifelong positive journeys. In an exciting move, Washington and Lee renovated and expanded its Duchossois Athletic and Recreation Center as a means to unite its recreation, physical education and collegiate athletic programs. The result is a dynamic, cutting-edge space for students and staff.

Spanning five floors, the Duchossois Center offers remarkable resources, including leading-edge fitness areas, racquetball and squash courts, three gymnasiums, expanded multipurpose rooms for group exercise, locker space, and an athletic training facility, along with myriad spaces for athletic training. The building strategically reorganizes programming spaces to maximize all possible adjacencies and synergies for end-users.

The rejuvenated facility now serves as an exciting space for student life and wellness, a campus visual icon, and a tool for student and athlete recruitment and retention. The project empowers the university to help students live healthy lives for decades to come.



1



2



3

Photos by Paul Burk Photography

- 1 Washington and Lee University expanded its Duchossois Athletic and Recreation Center to unite the recreation, physical education and collegiate athletic programs in one building.
- 2 The five-floor center includes myriad spaces for fitness and athletic training.
- 3 The facility offers three gymnasiums, expanded multipurpose rooms for group exercise, and racquetball and squash courts.



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SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY WELLNESS CENTER

SAINT LEO, FLA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

S3 Design Architecture Inc.
Braintree, Mass.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

G.B Collins Engineer, P.A.
Palm Harbor, Fla.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 60,000

COST: \$17.3 million

OCCUPANCY: April 2022

The Wellness Center at Saint Leo University is a physical representation of the university's mission, serving students and the greater community in mind, body and spirit. The facility is a place of support, engagement, personal development and celebration for the campus community and offers university services focused on health and wellbeing. The holistic wellness center provides recreation and fitness programs, a clinical health center, counseling services, and university ministry services.

The building occupies a rare Florida hillside with dramatic views of Lake Jovita. The massing exploits the surroundings to blend into the landscape as it steps down the hill, breaking into multiple volumes connected by a glass spine. The forms embrace two outdoor features: a campus-facing contemplative garden and an outdoor recreational pool terrace. The facility nestles against a line of historic camphor trees that form a natural edge, transforming the pool terrace into an outdoor room. Furthermore, framed views were carefully aligned with several iconic trees to pull nature into the building. Finally, the circulation spine cascades down the hill, creating a gathering space that unites the facility by connecting the various activity spaces and culminating with views of the infinity edge pool blending into the expansive lake beyond.

The design establishes a language representing a transition between the past and the future. The front mass presents a contextual interpretation of the traditional architectural style of the campus core. This expression is pierced by elements framed in glass and wood-grained panels that increase and become more open and contemporary as the building descends the hill toward views of the lake.

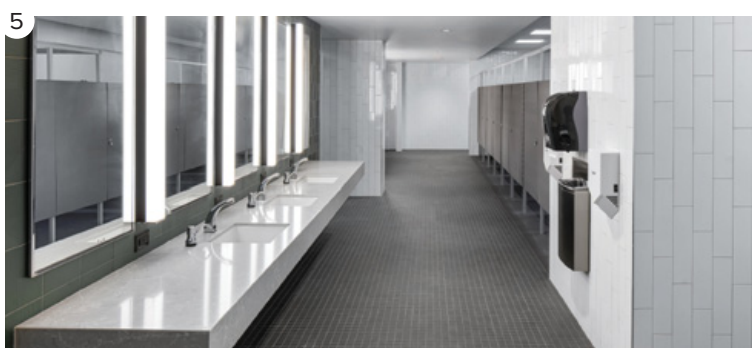


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- 1 The building exploits and blends into its surroundings, with its massing breaking into multiple volumes as it steps down the hill.
- 2 An infinity pool's edge blends into the backdrop of Lake Jovita.



Photos by Seamus Payne and Salvatore Canciello

- ③ ④ Nature surrounds the facility and is visible through floor-to-ceiling windows in major activity spaces.
- ⑤ Restrooms project the clean, modern appearance of a high-end health club.
- ⑥ Even the two-story gymnasium connects to the landscape through a wall of glass.

AZTEC RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Smith Group
San Diego, Calif.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 138,000

COST: \$61 million

OCCUPANCY: August 2022

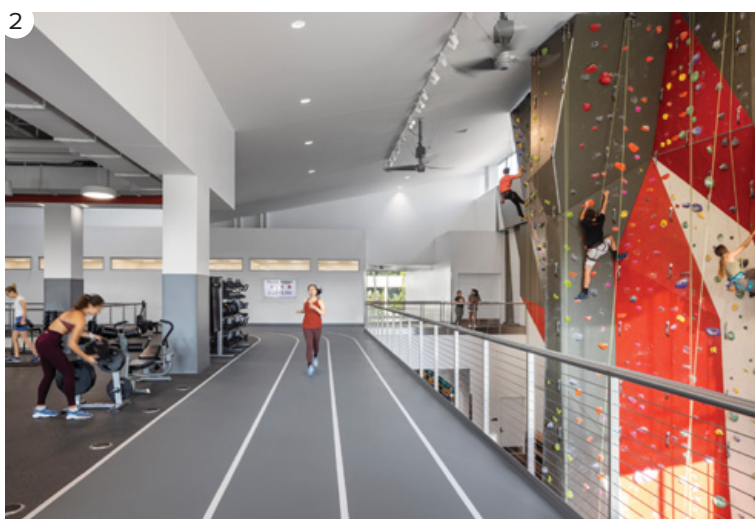
The expanded and renovated Aztec Recreation Center reflects the voice and the needs of SDSU students, prioritizing a wide range of wellness activities and meeting sustainability goals. A 40-foot climbing wall, fitness studios, athletic courts, yoga rooms and cycling studios create a vibrant and active space for student wellness.

While the existing Aztec Recreation Center (opened in 1997) was constantly abuzz with students and activity, the Associated Students, who own and operate the building, sought to expand the facility to offer a more holistic wellness experience and a place that would serve as a “living room” for the west side of campus. Inspired by the Eight Dimensions of Wellness, the goal was to renovate and expand the ARC to be more than a place to work out, offering a full range of wellness activities and spaces not previously offered, all while operating sustainably and achieving LEED Platinum with the input of student organizations.

Importantly, the ARC has always served as a source of social connectivity for students. One of the design goals was to capitalize on this and create a central hub (spine) that promotes a sense of belonging and camaraderie. SDSU envisioned the expanded and reimagined Aztec Recreation Center to be engaging for a broad cross-section of the student population, inclusive for students of all backgrounds and inviting to non-traditional recreation center users.



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Photos by Pink Media Productions

- 1 The expanded and reimagined ARC is designed to be inclusive to SDSU students of all backgrounds, including non-traditional recreation center users.
- 2 The second-level jogging track passes by a weight training area and the upper reaches of a 40-foot climbing wall.
- 3 Inspired by the Eight Dimensions of Wellness, the goal was to provide a full range of activities and “living room” spaces not previously offered.

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WOLTOSZ FOOTBALL PERFORMANCE CENTER AUBURN UNIVERSITY AUBURN, ALA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Goodwyn Mills Cawood
Auburn, Ala.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

HOK
Kansas City, Mo.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsillman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 233,000

COST: \$91.9 million

OCCUPANCY: January 2023

Dedicated solely to Auburn University's football program, the Woltosz Football Performance Center is the largest athletics project in school history. Covering 12 acres, the facility includes two full-sized natural grass outdoor fields, a 95,300-square-foot indoor practice facility with a full-sized synthetic turf field, and the 25,000-square-foot player-development lab featuring strength and conditioning equipment and training space.

The complex features a sports performance weight room, locker rooms, team and position meeting rooms, lounge areas and recruiting spaces.

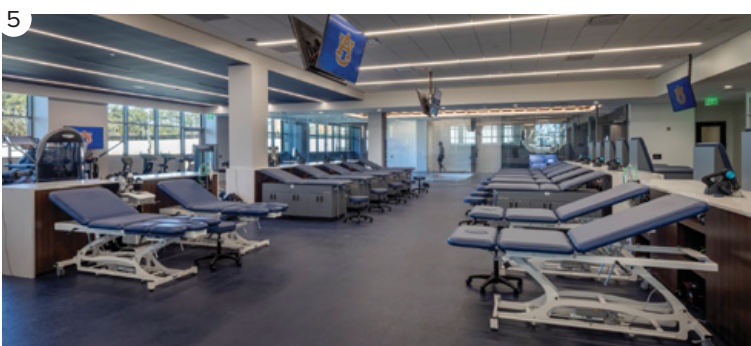
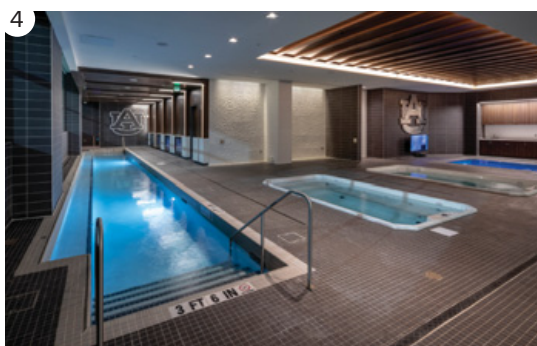
The design reimagines the college football locker room with the introduction of two separate but adjacent locker rooms for unique purposes. The "huddle" locker room features 125 lockers (each with a zero-gravity chair), plus a lounge, a barbershop and space for players to relax. The "armory" is a dedicated changing area for players to prepare for practice, with direct access to practice areas, equipment storage, laundry and showers.

The facility also houses the program's sports medicine and nutrition offices, football administration offices, social media suite, recovery suites, equipment room and laundry. Laboratory and equipment spaces were designed for the implementation and advancement of football technology related to on-field performance, monitoring, sports medicine and equipment inventory. A remote video command suite features 19 elevated field cameras, a perimeter field GPS anchor array for on-field player tracking, a full-body scanner for on-field performance analysis and equipment customization.



① The football-specific facility is the largest athletics project in Auburn University history.

② Natural light enlivens the strength training floor and turf incline.



Photos by Christy Radecic

③ Racks give way to a stretch of yard-marked sprint surface.

④ ⑤ Recovery areas feature aquatic therapy and ample athletic training space.

⑥ A lounge overlooks the 95,300-square-foot indoor practice facility with full-size field.

WELLNESS AND SUCCESS CENTER UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN HOUSTON, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

SmithGroup
Dallas, Texas

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

HarrisonKornberg Architects
Dallas, Texas

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 74,000

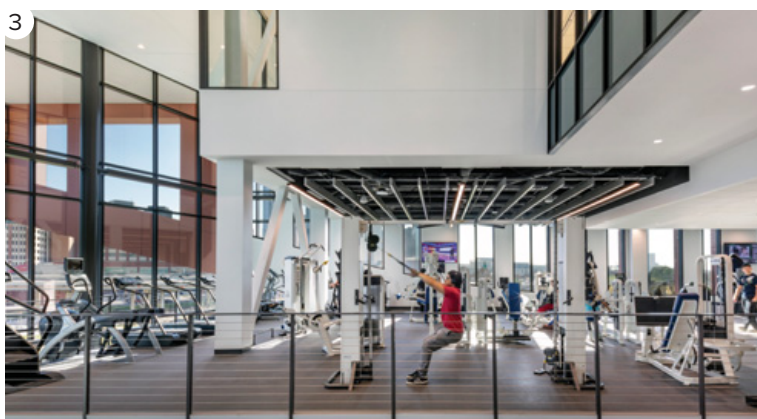
COST: \$30.3 million

OCCUPANCY: December 2022

Part of the University of Houston System, the University of Houston–Downtown serves a growing student body of 14,000. One of the university’s goals for this developing campus is to establish a dynamic campus core and nurture an on-campus community. It identified wellness as a key to student success and prioritized a prime location to show the institution’s commitment to the wellbeing of its students.

With its bold architecture, the new Wellness and Success Center helps define the campus vernacular and introduces a hub of services to engage students with campus life. The center includes fitness and recreation amenities such as sports courts, a strength training area, cardio and group fitness studios, and an elevated track. It also features a wellness suite for quiet respite, a demonstration kitchen where students can cook and learn about nutrition, and a student lounge space vital to building community on what is largely a commuter campus.

Land constraints inspired defining architectural features that embrace the campus and capitalize on downtown views. Soaring spatial volume throughout and ample use of glass bring in natural light and offer visual connections among fitness areas, the central lobby area and the outdoors, where the synergy of entry plazas between the wellness center and the recently completed science and tech building form a landmark identity for this growing campus.



Photos by Joe C. Aker, Aker Imaging

- 1 Bold architecture in the form of soaring volumes and ample glass helps define the campus vernacular.
- 2 Multipurpose sports courts are encircled by a suspended track.
- 3 Interior glazing lends transparency to various activity spaces, including the strength training area.



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LOCKER ROOM RENOVATIONS AUBURN UNIVERSITY AUBURN, ALA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Goodwyn Mills Cawood
Auburn, Ala.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,554

COST: \$3 million

OCCUPANCY: November 2022

Design team members worked closely with the Auburn athletics department, coaches and players on this complete renovation of the Auburn women's basketball team suite, which provides the team with an elevated space to bond, while maintaining consistency with branding and graphics standards throughout the space.

The locker room suite is separated into two distinct zones. One zone is open for players, coaches, staff and recruits to move freely throughout the space and is comprised of a player lounge, kitchenette, film room and hype room. The second zone includes the locker room, restrooms and vanity area that provides a private space for players. A small vestibule creates a barrier between the two zones and allows the overlap between players and coaches to be curtailed before and after practices and games when players are in need of additional privacy.

In order to take full advantage of the available square footage, the design team assessed existing conditions to maximize quality space. The vanity room was strategically placed past the locker room due to an existing cable tray that runs the span of the entire arena. The placement allows for a shorter ceiling height in a space where the height isn't a detriment to its usage. Existing conditions also played a role in the overall space layout and finished ceiling design throughout the space. The spaces underneath the existing arena seating bowl contained large spans from floor to structural elements and significant existing infrastructure. In the end, the design team created and utilized innovative design tactics to make the space intentional for its usage.



- 1 The locker room's innovative branding incorporates color and texture.
- 2 Corridor walls celebrate the individual members of the team.



Photos by Edward Badham

- ③ Neutral tones within the film room allow the AU logo and team motto to pop in school colors.
- ④ ⑤ Casual gathering spaces, such as the lounge and kitchenette, are well-appointed and approachable.
- ⑥ The locker room itself is a modern take on team unity and individual privacy.

RICHARD AND NORMA SMALL ATHLETIC AND WELLNESS CENTER CORNELL COLLEGE

MOUNT VERNON, IOWA

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Kahler Slater
Milwaukee, Wis.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 44,624
(renovation), 21,689 (addition)

COST: \$17.5 million

OCCUPANCY: October 2022

With a mission to better serve its students' health and wellness needs, Cornell College engaged designers to create a modern and unique home for the athletic and wellness programs. College leadership immediately understood the renovation and expansion project would directly support Cornell's ability to recruit new students, enhance Rams athletics programs, secure competitive events, and provide a positive impact on every student and student-athlete, now and for future generations.

Located just off the new entry, a two-level Health and Wellness Center creates a vibrant hub for campus life and fosters a sense of community. The addition and renovation include an expanded lobby area that functions as a gathering space before and after events in the renovated gymnasium and fieldhouse on event days, and as a vibrant student lounge on all other days. In addition, the design provides Cornell with ample team meeting space, group exercise studios, a full athletic office suite and a new athletic training suite. Updated locker rooms serve student-athletes, visiting teams and the entire Cornell community.

The addition, which houses the entry lobby, the Health and Wellness Center, athletic offices and athletic training, is specifically located to take advantage of as much of the existing building as possible. This initial planning move not only saved construction costs, but also provided a finished facility where many spaces are visually open to each other. The openness and transparency showcase the vibrancy of the facility to everyone who enters, and is an experience vastly different than that offered by the existing building.



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Photos by Peter McCullough

- 1 Cornell leadership engaged designers to create a modern and unique home for the college's athletic and wellness programs.
- 2 A cardio loft overlooks the synthetic turf area, where individuals and groups engage in functional training.
- 3 The strength training space includes branded, flush-mounted platforms and multiple racks.

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FRIENDS OF DARTMOUTH ROWING BOATHOUSE & TRAINING FACILITY DARTMOUTH COLLEGE HANOVER, N.H.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge
Boston, Mass.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 20,000

COST: \$7.5 million

OCCUPANCY: February 2020

A simple addition to the aging Dartmouth College boathouse became an opportunity to strengthen the connection of the rowing team to the Connecticut River landscape.

Originally built in 1986, Dartmouth College's boathouse is a traditional crew facility and was designed as a social space, rather than a training center. The renovation to the existing boathouse, with enhanced ventilation and dehumidification, as well as the addition of a 7,000-square-foot training facility, allows the 120 student-athletes on the crew teams to work out simultaneously in a fully dehumidified space with enhanced acoustics, ample light and natural ventilation.

The challenge was to develop a new building and training facility that was sympathetic to the existing boathouse while maintaining a distinct architectural identity that reflected the building use. The addition features state-of-the-art rowing tanks that simulate the current of the Connecticut River. The tanks will help Dartmouth rowers improve conditioning, refine their technique, and fine-tune skills in advance of the spring rowing season in February — a time of year when rowers at many other universities are already practicing on open water, but the Connecticut River is often still covered by ice.

Large operable windows and doors provide natural ventilation and expansive views to create a direct visual connection to the water and an exterior terrace, where rowing machines can be located for an immersive workout amidst a spectacular landscape.



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Photos by Lars Blackmore Photography and Dartmouth College

- ① The new building projects an architectural identity distinct from the decades-old existing boathouse.
- ② While the traditional crew facility was designed as a social space, the renovation adds 7,000 square feet of training space.
- ③ State-of-the-art rowing tanks allow Dartmouth athletes to fine-tune technique indoors in advance of the spring season, when the Connecticut River is often still frozen.

ED ROBSON ARENA COLORADO COLLEGE

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

JLG Architects
Grand Forks, N.D.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

DLR Group
Denver, Colo.

DESIGN ARCHITECT

JLG Architects — Ted Wright & Adam Davidson
Grand Forks, N.D.

SEATING CAPACITY: 3,400
(permanent seats), 350 (student seats),
4,600 (event/concert seats)

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 130,000

COST: \$52 million

OCCUPANCY: September 2021

At Colorado College, Ed Robson Arena champions big-picture campus connectivity, recruitment and sustainability, while achieving several historical firsts since the hockey program's founding in 1938. The energy-efficient arena was designed to be an iconic event space and sports centerpiece that reactivates campus life, improves spectator and student-athlete experiences, enriches community, and celebrates Tiger hockey.

The facility's three individual floor plates provide a main event level housing the entry lobby, NHL-style locker rooms, and state-of-the-art training spaces. An elevated main concourse provides a 360-degree circulation path, opening a ribbon of views to the campus and nearby Pikes Peak. Seats cascade down the circulation path, giving fans uninterrupted views of the action on the ice, a configuration that can quickly transform from 3,400 arena seats into 4,600 event/concert seats. For elite experiences, the elevated club deck offers a private and premium open concourse with two club lounges, individual seating sections, two private suites, and a center ice media and production suite.

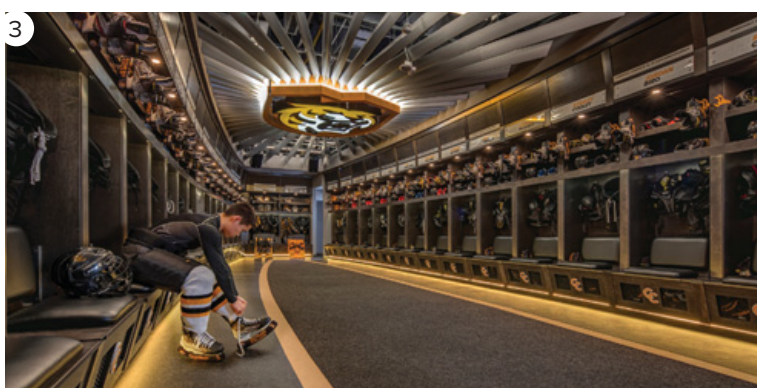
Additional amenities include an outdoor tailgate plaza and street-level attractions near its heroic glass entry lobby, including a CC Tigers team store, a café and a campus bookstore.



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Photos by Ron Pollard Photography and Scott Randall

- 1 A heroic glass entry is the focal point of a new campus streetscape that includes an outdoor tailgate plaza and a CC Tigers team store.
- 2 The seating bowl is fed by a 360-degree concourse that encircles the ice with uninterrupted views.
- 3 The home team locker room would be the envy of many NHL franchises.

MARTIRE FAMILY ARENA SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY FAIRFIELD, CONN.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

JLG Architects
Minneapolis, Minn.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

The S/L/A/M Collaborative
Glastonbury, Conn.

SEATING CAPACITY: 3,600 (plus
standing room for 400)

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 131,000

COST: \$84 million

OCCUPANCY: January 2023

With its dramatic hillside location and pavilion-like form, Martire Family Arena upends the typology of an ice rink as a windowless box. Designed to create an immersive and intense game experience for fans and players alike, the steeply raked seating bowl is accessed from the open concourse level with views of the landscape beyond. The views are made possible using floor-to-ceiling electrochromic glass that tints automatically to protect the ice surface from direct sunlight. With the flip of a switch, the clear glass changes to an opaque appearance to provide privacy to coaches and athletes.

After arrival from the underground parking, fans enter a major interior pathway that begins as a tunnel and ends as a glass-enclosed bridge, enhancing anticipation during the fan-arrival experience. Fans are further engaged with a digital ring board and light show, a center-hung videoboard, and uninterrupted views across the ice. The upper level provides premium seating, suites and club rooms for hosting events and corporate outings.

The facility is designed to host men's and women's NCAA Division I hockey programs, the nationally ranked figure skating team, club ice hockey teams, as well as local youth programs. Skaters have access to NHL and Olympic-quality locker rooms, team lounges, film spaces, meeting rooms, and a puck-shooting room for off-ice training. The design features sophisticated athletic training suites, a pro-motion training harness, world-class strength and conditioning, sports medicine facilities, and hydrotherapy suites.

The arena also serves as a practical learning laboratory/classroom.



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- 1 The design seeks to enhance anticipation during the fan-arrival experience



Photos © Halkin Mason Photography, © Rossito Media LLC, courtesy of Sacred Heart University

② ⑤ ⑥ Sophisticated athletic training suites include world-class strength and conditioning equipment, as well as a puck-shooting room.

③ ④ With seating for 3,600, the steeply raked bowl is accessed from the open concourse.

BURK-BERGMAN BOATHOUSE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

EwingCole
Philadelphia, Pa.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 16,100

COST: \$13.3 million

OCCUPANCY: October 2022

Constructed in 1875, the Burk-Bergman Boathouse is one of the oldest boathouses in the country and anchors the center of a stretch of historically designated structures along the Schuylkill River known as Boathouse Row. Despite its historic significance, the facility was not able to keep pace with trends in the sport of rowing nor the maintenance needs of a heavily used older masonry-and-frame structure.

The design reconstructed 50 percent of the building, which was in a state of structural failure and disrepair, and created a contextually sensitive addition overbuilt within the footprint of the boathouse to provide more space for the needs of a modern collegiate rowing facility.

The design respects the historic exterior of the structure while completely renovating and modernizing the interior, including a soaring entrance lobby and grand hall featuring trophies and memorabilia; a lounge and meeting area with integrated audio/visual capabilities; entirely new locker rooms, showers, and toilets; a coaches' suite; updated boat storage and a maintenance shop; and an expanded erg room and nutrition space that can support full team practices, yet also host special events.

The interior architecture uses a modern, minimalist expression that acts as a deferential counterpoint to the preserved historic features. With equal space for male and female student-athletes, as well as ADA access to the second-floor amenities, the new facility is a reflection of Penn's commitment to inclusivity, diversity and opportunity, as well as a showcase for the legacy and future aspirations of the rowing program.



- 1 The design respects the historic exterior of a structure built in 1875 while completely renovating the interior into a modern collegiate rowing facility.
- 2 A soaring grand hall features Penn rowing trophies and memorabilia.



Photos by Halkin/Mason Photography LLC and Angela Rocchi

③ ④ ⑤ The addition was overbuilt within the original footprint of the nation's oldest boathouses, adding updated boat storage and a maintenance shop.

⑥ An expanded erg room can support full team practices indoors.

ATHLETICS ADDITION AND OT/PT SUITE COTTING SCHOOL

LEXINGTON, MASS.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge Inc.
Boston, Mass.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 25,300

COST: \$12.2 million

OCCUPANCY: August 2021

Cotting School is a private non-profit school that serves the needs of students with a broad spectrum of learning and communication disabilities, physical challenges and complex medical conditions.

The new Campus Center addition and therapy space provide desperately needed areas for the school's athletic and academic programs. The Campus Center has become a social hub for Cotting students on Friday nights — a wonderful benefit for the school's 120 students who are drawn from 70 different cities and towns in the greater Boston area. The gym, candlepin bowling lanes, fitness center and adaptive climbing wall are all magnets that give students opportunities to hang out with their peers in a safe and stimulating setting unavailable to them outside of school. The former gymnasium is now home to the OT/PT suite, designed in concert with the new campus center to support this critical component of the school's mission.

The glassy new addition was sited to connect two existing dead-end corridors and provide easy access for students with mobility issues. Branded with oversized letters shouting out the school's name with pride, the new gymnasium has north-facing clerestory glazing and a generous fenestration pattern to provide both daylight and views of the surrounding natural landscape. The roof is gently sloped to provide the optimal angle for future solar panels. Inside, the finish palette creates an upbeat environment, using vibrant hues found in the outdoors. Bridging indoor and outdoor, the new addition also encloses a peaceful contemplative garden that connects to both the climbing wall and the existing medical clinic.



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Photos by Andy Caufield Photography

1 The gym's interior backlights bold branding to passersby.

2 3 Activity spaces such as the gymnasium and climbing wall give students with special needs a safe and stimulating environment not available to them outside of school.

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photo: Boone Speed

IMG ACADEMY EAST CAMPUS BASKETBALL FACILITY

BRADENTON, FLA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Fawley Bryant Architecture
Sarasota, Fla.

SEATING CAPACITY: 1,250

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 115,000

COST: \$25 million

OCCUPANCY: February 2022

The East Campus Basketball Facility serves as a departure from the existing campus character and catalyst for the IMG Academy's future growth. The scale of the new building exceeds that of many popular big box stores, and its sheer expansiveness has redefined the East Campus entrance, creating an empowering experience that mirrors the arrival sequence of the West Campus.

The facility consists of two gymnasiums flanking a center corridor. As visitors enter, they are immersed in the IMG experience with a Hall of Fame lobby. Using backlit graphics and branding, the achievements of the Academy are on full display. The South part of the building is home to four basketball courts. The championship court features a horseshoe seating arrangement and lowered ceilings designed to give the perception of "the walls closing in," thus creating an intimidation factor for visiting teams. These visual cues are a slight of hand, as the court meets NCAA specifications, including lighting levels necessary for national broadcasting outlets. To the north is a second gymnasium with five indoor tennis courts — also equipped with broadcast-ready tournament spaces.

Between the two gyms are flexible locker rooms, VIP suites and meeting rooms that can be subdivided as needed. The second-floor VIP suites overlook the courts while doubling as a location for meetings. Adjacent to the East Campus gym is a championship outdoor tennis court with raised seating. The East Campus gym creates a third side of spectator viewing with a second-floor overlook. The veranda leads inside to a large meeting room that can host a variety of functions, from team gatherings to tournament operations to VIP hospitality accommodations.



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Photos by Ryan Gamma, Gamma Photography

- 1 The scale of the facility rivals that of most big box retail stores.
- 2 An overlook serves as both a gathering space and viewing deck for new outdoor tennis courts.
- 3 The horseshoe seating configuration around the championship basketball court creates an intimidating, "walls closing in" atmosphere.



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SOUTHWEST ISD AQUATIC CENTER SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Marmon Mok Architecture
San Antonio, Texas

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsillman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SEATING CAPACITY: 768

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 57,208

COST: \$25 million

OCCUPANCY: August 2022

Designed as a competitive swimming and diving facility capable of hosting regional meets and tournaments, as well as a learning and training facility to cultivate a pipeline of competitive swimmers and divers, the combination of two pools facilitates both programs.

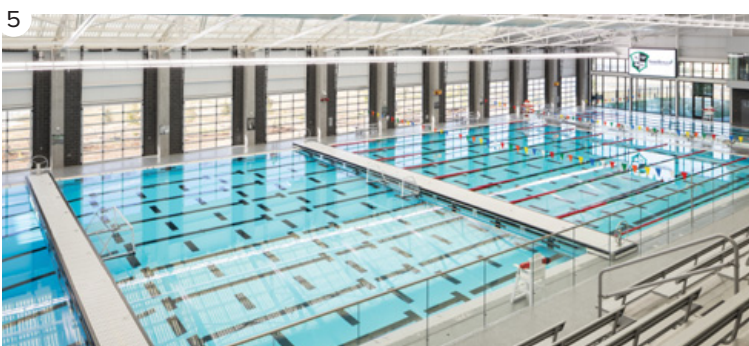
The project met the challenge of lowering the cost of construction and reducing operating energy costs by incorporating natural ventilation and daylighting. For lighting, a translucent panel roof and abundant glass walls, including operable overhead doors, allow light transmittance while the roof overhang reduces heat gain. The building orientation and roof geometry are designed to aerodynamically support natural airflow through the operable walls.

The 50-meter pool's two movable bulkheads and varied water depths allow simultaneous events in swimming, diving, water polo or synchronized swimming. Carefully positioned storage rooms around the pool deck facilitate the quick storage and retrieval of equipment for reconfiguration from event to event. The instructional pool includes four shallow-water lap lanes and an accessible ramp to facilitate youth swim programs and community water aerobics, and also serves as the warmup pool for swim meets. Positioning the instructional pool near the air-conditioned lobby allows parents to view swim lessons.

Additional project features include community rooms, meet rooms, concessions, a camera deck, a multipurpose wet classroom, public and athlete locker rooms, a weight room, coaches offices, lifeguard and first aid rooms, and athletic department offices. Enhanced video displays, strategically sized and located for multiposition viewing, support event scoring, video playback, event promotion and sponsorship.



- 1 The curved roof of the entry canopy is reflected in larger rooflines above and beyond.
- 2 Abundant glazing allows natural light to penetrate deep into all facility spaces.



Photos by Sean Carranza

③ ④ ⑤ Translucent roofing and operable doors help reduce operational costs.

⑥ The 50-meter pool features two movable bulkheads and spectator seating for more than 700.

THE HOUSTONIAN HOTEL, CLUB & SPA RENOVATION

HOUSTON, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Huitt-Zollars Inc.
Houston, Texas

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Ruth Planscencia, Huitt-Zollars Inc.
Houston, Texas

DESIGN ARCHITECT

Fabiano Designs
Montclair, N.J.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 185,000

COST: \$23.5 million (club only)

OCCUPANCY: August 2021

The Houstonian Club's renovation opens the overall layout of the club and develops areas for socializing and connecting, as well as updates the group exercise studios and other fitness spaces alongside operational areas such as completely overhauled childcare and new food and beverage. The renovation affected about 70 percent of the club's current facility and was done in three phases.

Four of the club's previous group exercise studios were completely rebuilt, and two were added for small group training and private lessons. This included two multipurpose group exercise studios, one cycling studio, one yoga studio, a second private yoga studio with a yoga wall and aerial silks, and a Pilates Reformer/VersaClimber studio. TheCOVERY by The Houstonian Club was also built to provide recovery services for members. In addition, the club's fitness floor was expanded with the addition of a 4,100-square-foot indoor turf area, and the indoor basketball court was relocated.

The club lobby and rotunda were also updated, and a new atrium was built with ample seating, which connects the main level to the second floor of the building. The atrium leads directly to The Houstonian's newly renovated boutique, The Shop at The Houstonian, as well as a new restaurant and full-service bar concept called The Kitchen. The club restaurant has separate family and adult seating, with dining decks overlooking the pool complex.



Photos by Terry Vine Photography

- 1 Areas of gathering and socializing were a primary focus of the renovation, including on the building's exterior.
- 2 Four exercise studios were completely rebuilt, and two more were added, accommodating everything from group cycling to Pilates.
- 3 Functional training activities take place in a 4,100-square foot indoor turf area featuring artful natural and artificial light sources.



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OCALA, FLA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Wannemacher Jensen Architects Inc.
St. Petersburg, Fla.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsillman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SEATING CAPACITY: 2,200 plus

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 47,644

COST: \$34 million

OCCUPANCY: March 2022

The Florida Aquatics Swimming & Training (FAST) facility is the new premier aquatic and Olympic training competition venue in the Southeast United States. Its purpose is to empower swimmers to reach their greatest potential for the betterment of the community as a whole. The FAST facility is outfitted with top-tier equipment to train athletes, host events and engage in recreational activities at the local, state, regional and national levels.

The facility provides elite training with the goal of producing the next generation of champion swimmers. The natatorium features two different pool types: a concrete pool for the large indoor pool and a Myrtha pool for the exterior pool. The indoor cast-in-place concrete 10-lane 50-meter, 25-yard Olympic competition pool has seating for more than 2,200 spectators. The outdoor L-shaped pool includes the five-lane 25-yard warm-up area and seven-lane 50-meter, 25-yard, 25-meter pool by Myrtha Pools, with a second-level outdoor deck. The pool was the 2021 Olympic Trials warmup pool that the owner brought to the site from Omaha, Neb. In re-utilizing an existing pool, there were savings in materials and energy in production. There are two indoor/outdoor video scoreboards with Colorado Timing Systems, as well as a timing room.

The project includes meeting spaces for teams and coaches, as well as a combined 2,500 square feet of aquatic and dryland fitness spaces for a full program of cross-training opportunities for athletes. There is also an outdoor splashpad with decorative play structures for children.



1



2

1 3 FAST Aquatics features a modern exterior with abundant glazing.

2 Users of all ages and abilities enjoy the facility, which includes a splashpad for kids.



Photos by Randy van Duinen

- ④ The lobby area features a color pallet of blues and greens.
- ⑤ A combined 2,500 square feet of space is dedicated to dryland cross-training.
- ⑥ The indoor cast-in-place concrete pool features 10 lanes and seating for more than 2,000 spectators.

XCAL SHOOTING SPORTS AND FITNESS

ASHBURN, VA.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Architecture Inc.
Reston, Va.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 94,000

COST: \$22 million

OCCUPANCY: May 2022

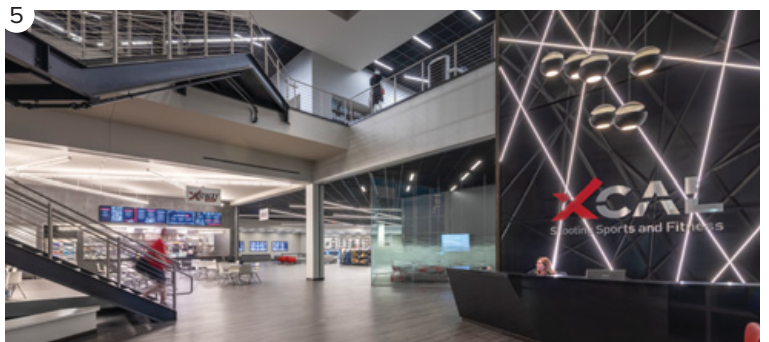
XCAL Shooting Sports and Fitness is a brand-new take on the fitness, shooting sports and private members club concepts. This two-story, 94,000-square-foot facility brings all three together to provide a wide variety of recreational and entertainment activities at the growing One Loudoun development in Ashburn, Va.

The goal for XCAL was to deliver a high-end user experience from the moment members walk in the door to the moment they leave. The first level features two 25-yard shooting ranges with 10 shooting lanes each. There are also five private ranges that are separated and isolated from the other ranges to accommodate one-on-one training and shooting sports competitions. All ranges have ultramodern control systems for target presentation, lighting and air filtration, along with acoustical isolation from other building operations. This level also has areas for retail sales, group training and event rooms, management and administrative offices, and a café.

The second level incorporates 36,000 square feet of gym and fitness-oriented areas, including cardio and strength equipment, an area for sudden dynamic impulse and neuro-reactive training, a martial arts dojo, a group athletics space with connected outdoor patio for classes, a cycling studio, saunas, locker rooms with private shower niches, a massage suite, and 6,500 square feet of indoor/outdoor high-intensity training space. The facility also contains a 10,000-square-foot high-end VIP lounge area incorporating a full-service bar with table service dining, a high-end locker room with private shower chambers, several conference and meeting rooms of varying sizes, a billiards room, a ventilated cigar lounge with climate-controlled humidor, and an outdoor patio for both member and private events.



- 1 A new take on fitness, shooting and private club experiences, XCAL is designed to create a high-end experience from entrance to exit.
- 2
- 3 Aesthetic lighting enlivens the second-floor fitness space.



Photos by Jeffrey Sauers, CPI Productions

- ④ First-level shooting ranges accommodate training and competitions with ultramodern target presentation, lighting, air filtration and acoustics.
- ⑥ A 6,500-square-foot indoor-outdoor space facilitates high-intensity training.

OHIOHEALTH PERFORMANCE CENTER COLUMBUS, OHIO

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

The Columbus Architectural Studio
Columbus, Ohio

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Moody Nolan
Columbus, Ohio

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 45,000

COST: \$22.5 million

OCCUPANCY: July 2021

The Columbus Crew is the only team to convert an existing soccer-specific stadium into a training complex. Geographically, the stadium sits in an aesthetically challenging location — surrounded by a parking lot, shopping center and interstate. A berm surrounds the complex with life and growth, giving the facility's three full-sized soccer pitches an oasis-like feeling. The building's exterior materials add to the lightness and warmth of the facility with punches of color, fiber-reinforced lightweight concrete panels, dark metal and aluminum soffit panels in a wood-like finish.

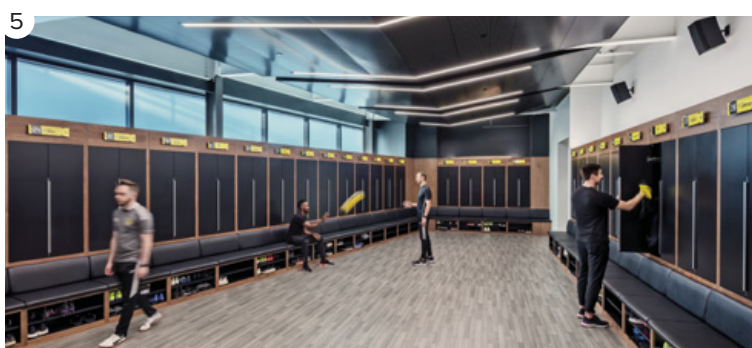
The interior layout caters to players' day-to-day activity and maximizes the efficiency of the space. Occupied areas feature floor-to-ceiling windows that allow sunlight to penetrate the entire building and provide opportunities for direct visual and physical access to the pitches.

The facility is some 40,000 square feet larger than its predecessor, with amenities for the first team and academy players ages 12 to 19 that include locker rooms for players, coaches and staff; athletic training and sports performance rooms; a players' lounge; shared dining space; meeting rooms; an entry lobby with media workspace; and coaching and staff offices.

Interiors consist of high-ceiling environments with clean, simple, yet solid and warm materials, utilizing a combination of black and white with walnut and grey wood tones. Spaces designed for public interaction incorporate lighter hues, while performance-based areas use darker tones. The building's moments of branding celebrate the team and the community that supports it, reminding players and coaches for whom they're competing.



- 1 Fiber-reinforced lightweight concrete panels, dark metal and wood-like aluminum soffit panels lend lightness and warmth to the building exterior.
- 2 Floor-to-ceiling windows and operable walls provide direct visual and physical access to the outdoor pitches.



Photos by Cory Klein Photography

- ③ ④ The facility features athletic training and sports performance rooms available to Columbus Crew members and academy players.
- ⑤ Locker rooms are bright and spacious.
- ⑥ The Crew is the first franchise to convert a soccer-specific stadium into a training complex.

THE BEACON RECREATION CENTER ARLINGTON, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture
Denver, Colo.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Water Technology Inc.
Beaver Dam, Wis.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 36,000

COST: \$22.3 million

OCCUPANCY: September 2020

Public input led to a reimagining of recreation services for Southeast Arlington. The resulting master plan unifies indoor and outdoor experiences at Webb Park. With sustainability, place-making and community-building as central themes, the two-level facility hosts an ensemble of complex programs with both indoor and outdoor activities seamlessly combining social, fitness and recreation spaces.

Designed to capture natural daylight and frame views of Webb Park, the building has been configured to connect with the park and its surrounding neighborhood. Outdoor amenities include a skatepark, a playground, a splashpad, an event patio and a fitness garden. Indoor activities come into view as parkgoers arrive on site and witness recreation center activities through abundant windows. As visitors step inside The Beacon, the words on the front desk welcome them in many different languages. Murals of local artists inspired the facility's color palette.

State-of-the-art construction, optimal building efficiency and a more effective, connected and dynamic master plan for Webb Park influenced the design and the project budget, which encompassed new parking, utilities, landscaping and access drives.



- 1 Interior and exterior lighting effects give The Beacon a distinctive look during evening hours.
- 2 Splashes of color invigorate the open floor plan.



Photos © Wade Griffith Photography 2022

- ③ Visual connections between activity spaces was a key design consideration.
- ④ ⑥ Functional strength equipment can be found throughout the facility.
- ⑤ Locker options of various sizes are intermingled within change rooms.

CHURCHILL MEADOWS COMMUNITY CENTRE & MATTAMY SPORTS PARK

MISSISSAUGA, ONT.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

MJMA Architecture & Design
Toronto, Ont.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 73,000

COST: \$47 million

OCCUPANCY: September 2021

Situated within a growing suburban neighborhood west of Toronto, the project converts a 50-acre agricultural field into richly textured parkland with a community center as its focus. The center's simple yet dynamic mass is integrated with the sports and leisure park to form a neighborhood landmark and vital, city-wide destination for gathering and healthful activity. The building has cantilevers on its exterior that provide shelter for a walking track around its perimeter and for those using the park amenities. The striking canopy that runs along the west and south facades extends the building's mass timber structure — an array of glulam columns that provide structural and curtainwall framing. This structure is clad in expanded aluminum mesh that protects the wood from the elements and filters light to mitigate glare within the lobby, pool and gyms.

Inside, the lobby, pools and gyms are covered with a stretched membrane assembly that is perforated for acoustic insulation. This ceiling's inverted peaks diffuse light from a series of sawtooth skylights above. Practically, this eliminates glare and excess heat gain, while the overall effect also evokes serenely lit caverns. These spaces connect to the outside via full-height glazing.

The park offers a series of leisure and fitness spaces spread across a landscape of gently rolling hills made from soil reclaimed during excavation. A measured trail loop connects all park programs and passes by environmental stewardship zones, a protected wetland and a stormwater management pond. It also ties into an existing trail network and the surrounding neighborhood.



1



2



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Photos by Scott Norsworthy

- ① The Churchill Meadows Community Centre & Mattamy Sports Park is the focus of richly textured parkland that was once an agricultural field.
- ② An array of glulam columns provide structural and curtainwall framing.
- ③ The structure is also clad in expanded aluminum mesh that protects the wood from the elements and filters light to mitigate glare within the pool and other areas.

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PRAIRIE LAKES AQUATIC CENTER

DES PLAINES, ILL.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Cordogan Clark
Aurora, Ill.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsillman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SEATING CAPACITY: 150

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 27,000

COST: \$11.3 million

OCCUPANCY: February 2021

Connected to the existing Prairie Lakes Community Center, the Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center includes a 4,800-square-foot, eight-lane 25-yard pool for lap swimming, swim lessons, open swim and aqua-fitness classes. Its retractable bleachers, accommodating up to 150 people, provide spectator seating for the competitive youth swim program.

The facility also serves as the new year-round training and competition home of the park district's Warriors championship swim team. During designated times and special events, water polo, basketball and Wibit water play equipment is offered for all to enjoy. The 2,000-square-foot warm-water wellness pool has three 60-foot lap lanes, 3.5- to 4-foot water depths and in-pool seating complete with hydrotherapy jets. It is a perfect fit for aqua-fitness, wellness and parent-infant swim programming. The facility also includes a 2,000-square-foot indoor splash pad for children ages 2 through 12, complete with a Life Floor rubberized cushion base.

Additional facility features include a multipurpose room for parties, meetings and park district programming, with an adjacent outdoor patio; men's and women's locker rooms; six family-friendly changing rooms; and offices for lifeguards and pool staff. Updates to the outdoor property include new courts for basketball and sand volleyball, and updates to the walking pathway.



① Mature trees line the approach to the 27,000-square-foot Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center.

② The indoor splash pad features a Life Floor rubberized cushion base.



Photos by James Steinkamp

- ③ ⑥ The 2,000-square-foot warm-water wellness pool features three lap lanes, in-pool seating and hydrotherapy jets.
- ④ Additional facility features include men's and women's locker rooms and six family-friendly changing rooms.
- ⑤ A new basketball court brings dry-land activity to the facility's exterior.

MARGARET CARPENTER RECREATION CENTER

THORNTON, COLO.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Ohlson Lavoie Corporation
Denver, Colo.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsillman-Hunsaker
Lakewood, Colo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 25,000

COST: \$14 million

OCCUPANCY: March 2022

This renovation of the Margaret Carpenter Recreation Center updated and improved the pool programming space and provided an accessible pipe galley for maintenance and repairs. The facility's pools, sauna, steam room, family locker room and associated equipment were replaced with state-of-the-art aquatic environments and amenities to capture the needs of this vibrant community.

Improvements include a new six-lane lap pool with an integral aqua-exercise pool, a wave pool with a lazy river and bubble pit, an activity pool with zero-depth entry, a play structure, geysers and sprays, a towering waterslide, a 20-person therapeutic hydro-jet spa, new steam and sauna rooms, an expansive family changing area with private cabanas, aquatics offices and party rooms.

The universal locker room expansion better serves families and individuals with special needs, increasing accessibility for all. The recreation center was expanded by 12,000 square feet, and its multipurpose aquatic facility meets the community's athletic, fitness and leisure programming needs.



Photos by The Unfound Door

- 1 The renovation of the Margaret Carpenter Recreation Center included the addition of a towering waterslide.
- 2 Other water features include a wave pool with a lazy river and bubble pit, a play structure, geysers and sprays.
- 3 The center also includes an activity pool with zero-depth entry and a six-lane lap pool with an integral aqua-exercise pool.

DREAM IN COLOR

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FOREST RIVER OUTDOOR RECREATION & NATURE CENTER

SALEM, MASS.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype Inc.
Boston, Mass.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5,200

(bathhouse), 21,000 (pool/pool deck area), 60,000 (total site)

COST: \$12 million

OCCUPANCY: June 2022

The pool at Forest River has had a long, remarkable history in the City of Salem, Mass., having been operational in various forms for more than 100 years and providing generations of families and residents with recreation, exercise and relaxation opportunities. However, by 2017, the pool had reached the end of its lifespan, and its bathhouse building was exhibiting signs of deterioration. After consultation with the Salem Historical Commission and Historic Salem, the design team decided to restore the bathhouse to serve two newly designed and constructed pools.

This project successfully combines historic preservation objectives with important community goals for net-zero considerations, accessibility, environmental education and public art. It addresses climate-resiliency concerns, especially important after a 2018 storm had flooded and destroyed the pool's filtration system. Designers raised the elevation of the new pools and moved them back from the shoreline. A new planted tidal area creates a salt marsh buffer against future storms. Solar panels were added to the building's flat roof to make the bathhouse a net-zero energy facility, aligning with the city's 100 percent clean energy resolution. In addition, a new spray deck provides opportunities for cooling in the hot weather outside of pool season.

Today, the project provides a fully accessible public space that serves as a focus for outdoor recreation and environmental education programming. The city honors the history of the site through interpretive panels in the bathhouse. Moreover, interpretive signage has been assembled throughout the park to allow visitors to learn more about its history and surrounding ecosystem.



1



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Photos by Bruce Martin

- 1 The historic Forest River Outdoor Recreation & Nature Center, operational for more than 100 years, was revamped in 2022 to include two new pools at higher elevations.
- 2 While the pools are new, the historic bathhouse was preserved and modernized.
- 3 The project combines historic preservation objectives with community goals for net-zero considerations, accessibility, environmental education and public art.



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CITYNET CENTER AT THE BRIDGE SPORTS COMPLEX

BRIDGEPORT, W.V.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Omni Associates
Fairmont, W.V.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture
Denver, Colo.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Councilman-Hunsaker
Lakewood, Colo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 157,000

COST: \$38.7 million

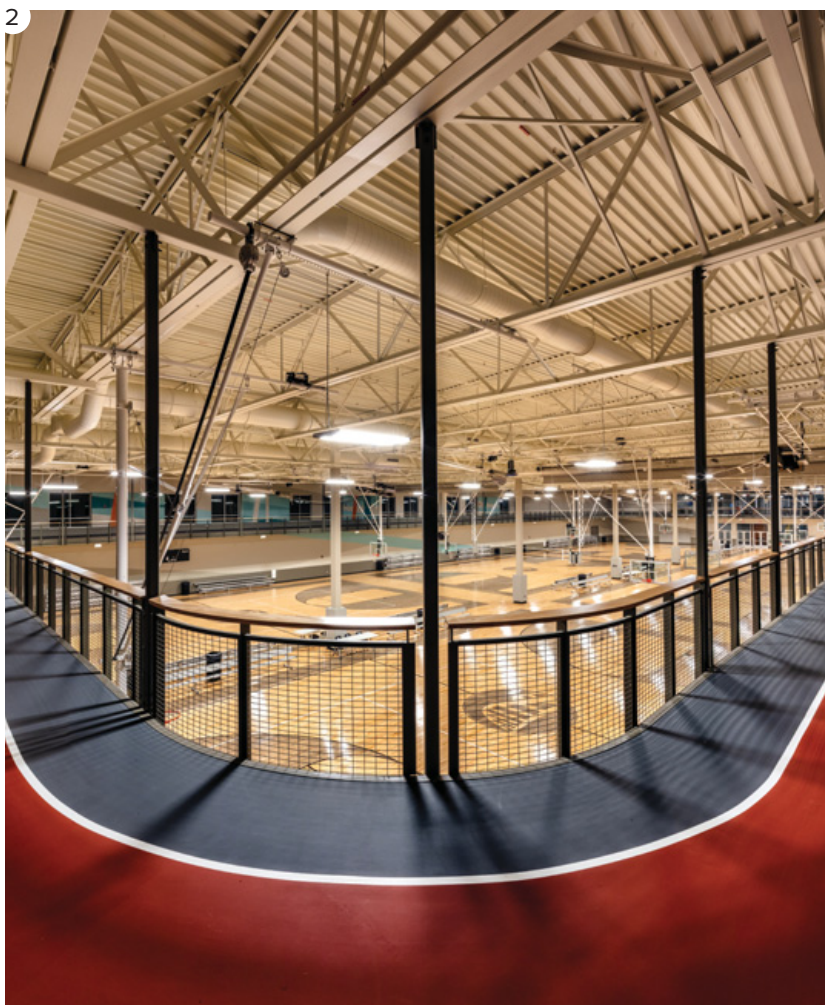
OCCUPANCY: June 2021

The Citynet Center at The Bridge Sports Complex is designed to serve as a regional competition athletics facility along with being a community asset to enhance the lives of the residents of Bridgeport and the surrounding region. The primary function of the facility is to act as a sports tournament destination venue to attract visitors from the area and to spur economic development.

To serve community needs, the building is also programmed with a variety of social and activity spaces to serve day-to-day user and to improve the lives of Bridgeport residents directly. Accompanying the sports spaces are an open fitness center, a group exercise studio, a clip-n-climb, and an elevated walking/jogging track. There are also team meeting rooms that can double as public gathering spaces.

Key issues considered in the facility design included providing great competition venues with quality play areas, exceptional spectator views and access, and ease of building operations. Equally important to success was ensuring there are suitable spaces outside the competition areas for gathering, dining, rest and activities beyond athletics to serve the patron and guest as much as the athlete. To that point, the facility is organized to allow for visual access between primary spaces through open and inviting concourses and clear wayfinding.

The Bridge exceeded its first-year program use, league and membership goals by the end of its first month of operation. The community has embraced the facility locally and regionally, establishing it as a major sports tournament venue for northern West Virginia.



- 1 A colored paver pathway, large overhead windows and an entrance canopy guide visitors to the front doors.
- 2 An elevated walking and jogging track provides views of the courts below.



Photos by Joe McNemar

③ ④ ⑤ The center serves the entire community with a variety of social and activity spaces catering to both day-to-day users and athletes.

⑥ The aquatic center offers a 10-lane competition pool and a four-lane warm-up pool.

EAST LIONS COMMUNITY CENTRE

LONDON, ONT.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

MJMA Architecture & Design
Toronto, Ont.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

a+LiNK Architecture Inc.
London, Ont.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 42,000

COST: \$21 million

OCCUPANCY: December 2021

The East London Community Centre is a destination for visitors throughout the neighborhood and beyond. Its stimulating, fun and inviting environment is capable of hosting a much wider variety of programming that caters to all demographics to promote community-wide recreation, health, culture and learning.

Occupying an L-shaped footprint, the two-story center faces the interior of the park with a stately translucent facade, and a generous entrance courtyard on the park-facing side is sheltered by three sheer walls, including a curtainwall that visually connects it to the lobby inside. Inside, the center expands the park's athletics programming with an aquatics center — comprising a six-lane, 25-meter lap pool and a leisure pool supported by universal change rooms and a large gymnasium. An additional complex of rooms, including multipurpose and activity rooms, a community kitchen and art rooms, provide a new home to East London artisans, thereby expanding the park's programmatic offerings to include not only outdoor sports, but indoor sports, recreation and cultural programming, as well.

Though an energy-intensive facility, the center is targeted for LEED Silver certification, to be achieved by measures such as a 10-kilowatt rooftop solar PV array that links to a didactic LED dashboard display showing visitors the system's energy-production stats.



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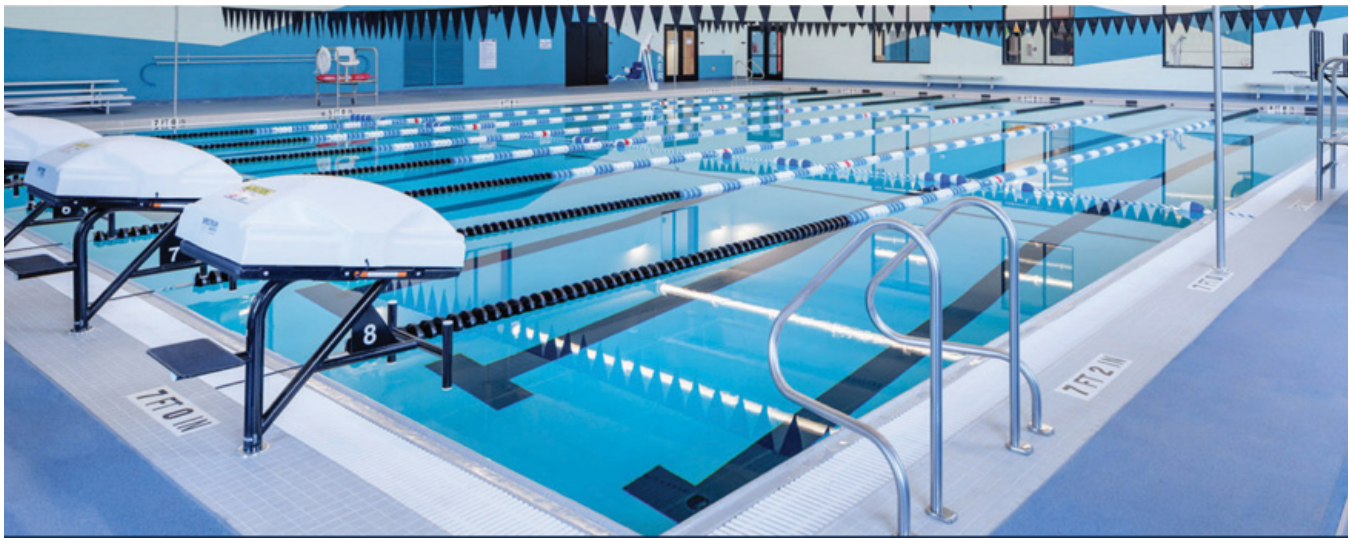


3



Photos by Scott Norsworthy

- 1 The two-story East Lions Community Centre occupies an L-shaped footprint and faces the interior of the park with a stately translucent facade.
- 2 The aquatics area offers a six-lane, 25-meter lap pool and a leisure pool.
- 3 Glazing helps illuminate the gymnasium from a variety of heights and angles.



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EASTWAY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Neighboring Concepts
Charlotte, N.C.

DESIGN ARCHITECT

Sasaki
Boston, Mass.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsilman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 95,000

COST: \$35 million

OCCUPANCY: September 2020

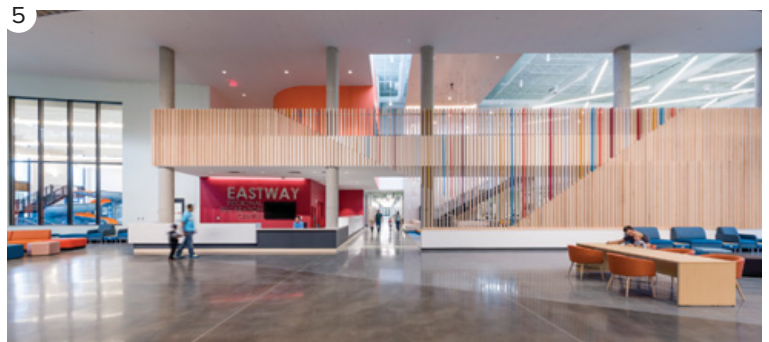
Through a series of engagement meetings with local residents, the design team prioritized both a sense of energy and excitement that needed to be expressive by the Eastway Regional Recreation Center, as well as a clear connection to the history and cultural relevance of the Charlotte region.

The exterior of the building is angular and dynamic, reaching upward to reflect a sense of movement and kinetic energy. The brick is treated with layers and textures to reinforce a sense of energy at the pedestrian scale, and windows are treated with brightly colored frames to add contrast and interest. The entry is scaled to amplify a sense of invitation, which is reinforced inside where the central connector acts as a high-volume view shed to the many social, community and activity spaces that define the program.

Muted colors and wood tones reflect the history of a region deeply rooted in agriculture and textile manufacturing. The undulating lobby ceiling picks up on the rolling landscapes that evoke the natural terrain of local farms, while a wood veil beyond the reception desk is accented with colors that reflect regional textile creations. This entry volume stretches from one side of the building to the other, organizing the main program elements with communal and social spaces such as a teaching kitchen, a nature center, a senior center and a sound mixing room on one side, with active spaces including the fitness, gym and pool spaces on the other.



- 1 Using a palette that reflects the warmth found in nature, patterned brick wraps the facade in a texture that refers to the woven pattern found within the building.
- 2 The central connecting stair affords users views into the many social, community and activity spaces.
- 3 The leisure pool offers a quiet respite separate from the lap pool.



Photos by Peter Bentlinger

- ④ The main fitness center is located at the top of the central stair.
- ⑤ A large wooden architectural screen wall defines the two-story lobby space, allowing for transparency into the fitness center, running track and gymnasium beyond.
- ⑥ Bold colors, patterns and textures take inspiration from North Carolina's rich history in the textile industry and were applied as painted graphics in major program spaces.

WEST HOLLYWOOD AQUATIC & RECREATION CENTER

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

LPA Inc.
Irvine, Calif.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Aquatic Design Group
Carlsbad, Calif.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 138,000

COST: \$88 million

OCCUPANCY: July 2022

The West Hollywood Aquatic & Recreation Center (ARC) is the final phase of a masterplan for the park and community buildings at West Hollywood Park. The main goal of the project was to create a state-of-the-art community recreation and aquatic facility while taking the bulk of the square footage out of the park, creating more contiguous open park space in an extremely dense community.

The city of West Hollywood is one of extremes, which includes a robust senior population, a vibrant Russian immigrant population, movie stars and entertainers, athletes and one of the largest LGBTQ communities in the state. Creating a solution that brought this diverse population together involved intense community and business leader interaction throughout the design process.

Built as a replacement for an aging community gym and aquatics center, the stacked ARC reaches beyond the boundaries of the park, spanning across a public street and resting in a parking lot 35 feet below the finished grade of the park. A bridge connects the adjacent rooftop tennis courts and a main entry to the ARC at the park level. The project includes a two-court gymnasium at the park level and two rooftop swimming pools with breathtaking views of West Hollywood and beyond to downtown Los Angeles that span over the gymnasium courts. The building also includes expansive rooftop decks for respite and yoga, a cable-access TV studio, and a tiny-tots daycare facility. Community meeting rooms and office space for Parks & Recreation staff round out the program.



1



2



3

Photos by Costea Photography Inc.

- 1 The grand stairway serves as a signature design element that anchors the building to the site while welcoming residents to experience the activity spaces within.
- 2 A two-court gymnasium at the park level features an unusual ceiling treatment that provides a stark backdrop to overhead play in volleyball.
- 3 Two roof-top swimming pools offer breathtaking views of West Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles beyond.

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CONGRESS PARK POOL

DENVER, COLO.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Perkins&Will
Denver, Colo.

AQUATIC CONSULTANT

Counsilman-Hunsaker
Lakewood, Colo.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Mundus Bishop
Denver, Colo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 50,200

COST: \$10.1 million

OCCUPANCY: May 2022

The Congress Park Pool reconstruction required significant upgrades and alterations to the existing pool. The scope of work included the demolition and reconstruction of an existing 50-meter lap pool, a youth pool, a bath house, a pump house, and other site features such as landscaping, fencing, steps, walls and utilities. The project aimed to improve the quality of the facilities, enhance accessibility and provide modern amenities that cater to the needs of the community.

The reconstruction work encompassed the complete removal of the old facilities and the construction of new ones. The only structure that remained was an existing pavilion shelter, which received new finishes and roofing. The new 50-meter lap pool and youth pool were constructed in an L-shape, with the bath house and attached employee spaces occupying 2,800 square feet and the pump house encompassing 1,360 square feet.

Landscape architecture was an integral part of the project and included the design of pedestrian-oriented exterior spaces with exterior hardscaping, site walls, steps, fences and planted areas that surround the pools and architecture. Grading adjustments were made to accommodate accessibility to the facility. The existing parking lot was also improved with new asphalt and striping. Connections to underground utilities and connections for future EV charging stations were made, as well.



① The reconstruction encompassed the complete removal of the old facilities, save one, and the construction of new ones.

② ③ The project aimed to improve the quality of the facilities, enhance accessibility and provide modern amenities that cater to the needs of the community.

4



5



6



Photos by The Unfound Door

- ④ The scope of the project included the demolition and reconstruction of an existing 50-meter lap pool, a bath house and a pump house.
- ⑤ Playfully themed exterior artwork mirrors the color scheme of water play features.
- ⑥ A youth pool was added during the reconstruction.

KELLER SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER

KELLER, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects
Dallas, Texas

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 21,210

COST: \$7.6 million

OCCUPANCY: January 2022

In September 2015, senior residents in Keller submitted a petition requesting a new and larger senior activities center, and a bond passed with nearly 68 percent support. The center is a considerable component in meeting the needs of members aged 55 years and older and will continue to support the area's growing senior population. Along with the facility's new physical amenities, members rely on recreation programs and events to enhance self-education, community connection and a sense of belonging.

Center amenities include an arts-and-crafts classroom, lounge space with billiards and other gaming, a small fitness room, flexible multipurpose rooms, a kitchen and a courtyard. In addition, a 6,800-square-foot gymnasium, featuring multipurpose flooring, is striped for pickleball (three courts), basketball, volleyball, chair volleyball and other activities.

Since opening, the center has seen membership increase by 60 percent, surpassing 35,000, and serves more than 190 seniors each working day. In just nine months, the schedule added 67 unique programming events, providing health and wellness classes and components, arts-and-crafts instruction, educational presentations, trips, meals, special-interest programs and events, and more.



Photos by Dan Sellers Photography

- ① The Keller Senior Activities Center resulted from a petition seeking expanded senior programming.
- ② Center amenities include a fitness room with state-of-the-art equipment.
- ③ The gymnasium features multipurpose flooring striped for pickleball, basketball, volleyball, chair volleyball and other activities.

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BIG SKY COMMUNITY CENTER | BASE

GALLATIN GATEWAY, MONT.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

A&E Design
Billings, Mont.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture
Denver, Colo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 28,000

COST: \$15.2 million

OCCUPANCY: March 2022

Designed with seasonal workers and long-term locals in mind, BASE is a true community center built on sustainable programming, partnerships and a welcoming experience. BASE, which stands for Big Adventure Safe Environment, describes two parts: The immersive experience of being in the mountains and the multigenerational offerings supporting wellbeing for all ages.

BASE Community Center is a visitor center for those ready to explore outdoor spaces and trails. The trailhead starts at the entrance with a map of the local trails, and anyone can come inside and ask for a map or directions at the front desk. The programs inside cater to everyone. Spaces include a fitness center, a gymnasium (basketball, pickleball and volleyball), a climbing gym, a multi-use studio, and a ceramic arts and crafts space.

BASE acts as an after-school activity zone, a cozy place out of the harsh winter climate, and a place where people come together to connect. The “community living room” space just beyond the reception desk is a safe place where people can hang out, watch TV, play games and connect socially. Partnerships with the Arts Council of Big Sky and Behavior Health Coalition bring workshops, classes and programs.

A LEED Gold-certified building, the community center is an all-electric facility. It uses natural materials, including cedar siding on the exterior. Other sustainable design choices include solar panels on the roof, a green roof, native plants in the landscaping, natural ventilation, optimal daylighting, and radiant heating in the floors.



- 1 Cedar siding and bold lettering accent the building exterior.
- 2 Climbers are inspired by floor-to-ceiling views of Montana's rugged terrain.
- 3 The fitness center offers cardio, weight and functional training equipment.



Photos by © Lara Swimmer Photography 2022

- ④ The living room space just beyond the front desk encourages visitors to simply hang out.
- ⑤ Abundant exterior green space accommodates a wide range of recreation enthusiasts.
- ⑥ The gymnasium hosts basketball, volleyball and pickleball.

ROBERT CROWN COMMUNITY CENTER

EVANSTON, ILL.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Woodhouse Tinucci Architects
Chicago, Ill.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

MJMA Architecture & Design
Toronto, Ont.

SEATING CAPACITY: 1,100

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 136,000

COST: \$44.5 million

OCCUPANCY: June 2020

After a decade of analysis, the City of Evanston elected to replace its 1975 ice rink and community center with an entirely new facility that would aggregate active and passive recreation and wellness activities for 75,000 residents. The Robert Crown Community Centre completely transforms an existing 15-acre park and community facility, reorganizing and expanding outdoor and indoor programming to create an integrated park and building.

The building contains a twin-pad arena with seating for 1,100 spectators, a running track, a landscaped courtyard, a library, childcare, fitness and community rooms, and a gymnasium — all organized around a central public area. The overall project prioritizes park space, and the facility has a reduced footprint through the placement of major program areas on the second floor. The elevated gym provides panoramic views of the park and forms a generous canopy for the main building entrance. The public zone at the center of the building is polyvalent — a place from which primary activities can be viewed, but which can also be occupied by adjacent program areas spilling into it.

This project delivers on Evanston's vision for the RCCC to be a "place for everyone" with a design that integrates a broad spectrum of community wellness and competitive opportunities, both inside and out. It shows how, through careful design, a large-scale project with multivalent amenities can be sensitively introduced into a suburban residential neighborhood and become a vital center for a diverse community.



1



3



Photos by Tom Harris

- 1 The Robert Crown Community Centre transforms an existing 15-acre park and community facility, reorganizing and expanding outdoor and indoor programming.
- 2 The elevated gym provides panoramic views of the park.
- 3 The building contains a running track that encircles the twin-pad arena, as well as additional adjacent program areas.

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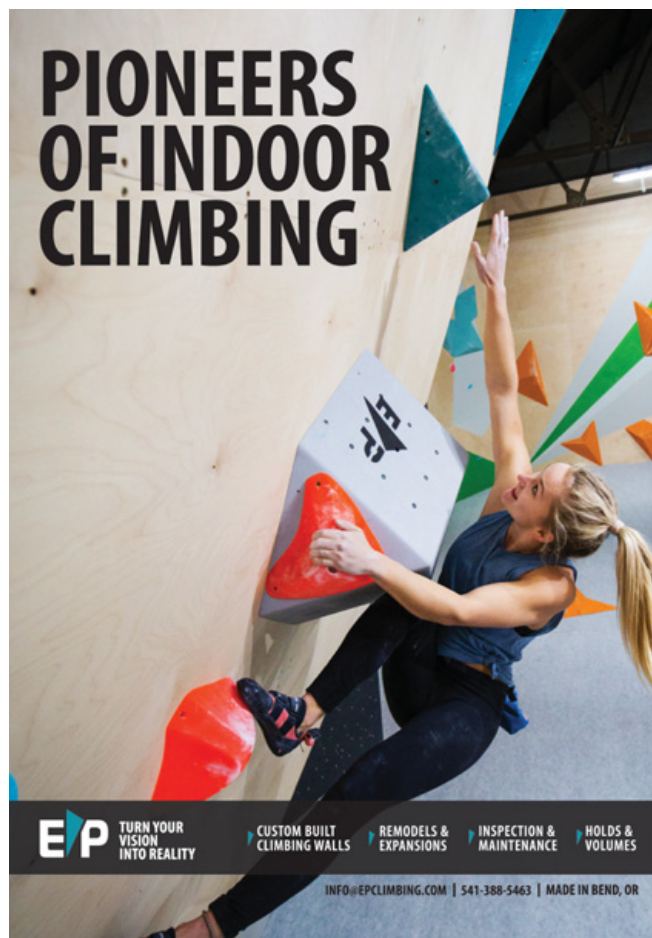
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CLAYTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

SURREY, B.C.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

hcma architecture + design
Vancouver, B.C.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 76,000

COST: \$42 million

OCCUPANCY: May 2020

The Clayton Community Centre combines three aspects of the City of Surrey's community services — recreation, library and arts — in a seamlessly integrated facility. Shaped by extensive community engagement, the facility is a catalyst for active living, creativity and learning. The building is designed to be inclusive and high-performance, with the ability to respond to future climate conditions.

The facility is sited between two closely spaced secondary schools. The social fabric of the surrounding context led to a design that focuses on meeting the needs of youths, while offering gathering spaces that connect all generations.

The facility is further situated as an extension of the onsite forest. The roof and building envelope mimic the tree canopy to unify the three civic services underneath, with a leaf-like heavy timber structure that spans across the interior. The interlocking members of its pinwheel components metaphorically and structurally gain strength by all components being interconnected. The wood structure is emphasized through a series of triangular openings in the roof, with clerestory windows that create dappled light, provide natural ventilation and mimic the shadows of a forest. Beneath the canopy is a space that can physically respond and evolve with changing activities. It is a space for unexpected discovery and learning at the forefront of social inclusivity, offering fully universal washrooms and change rooms for Surrey's diverse and rapidly changing demographic.

The Clayton Community Centre is the first facility of its kind to achieve Passive House certification in North America, and is Canada's largest Passive House facility to date.



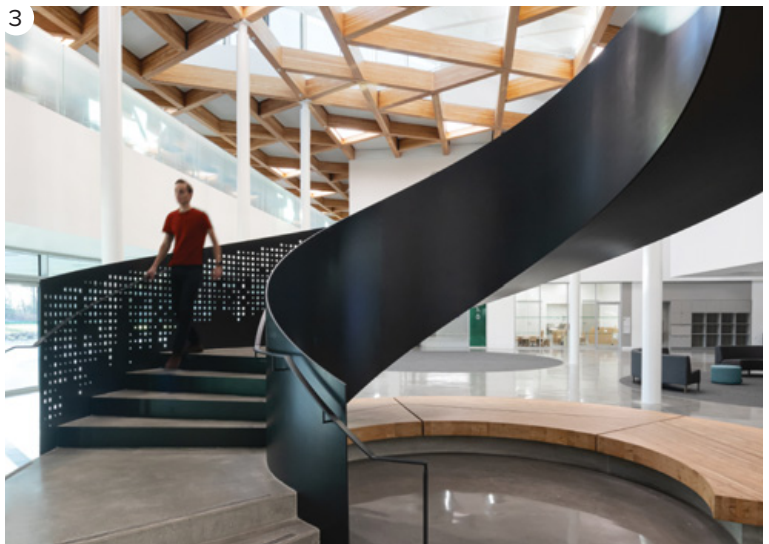
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Photo by Andrew Doran



2

Photo by Andrew Doran



3

Photo by Ema Peter

- ① The Clayton Community Center focuses on meeting the needs of youths, while offering gathering spaces that connect all generations.
- ② The wood ceiling structure is emphasized through a series of triangular openings in the roof, with clerestory windows that dapple the interior with light.
- ③ The roof and building envelope mimic a tree canopy with a leaf-like heavy timber structure that spans across the interior.

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SPORTS FORCE PARKS ON THE MISSISSIPPI

VICKSBURG, MISS.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

McElroy Architecture
Jackson, Miss.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 87,000

COST: \$32.5 million

OCCUPANCY: February 2020

The new multipurpose Sports Force Park on the Mississippi includes 750,000 square feet of synthetic turf surface, state-of-the-art lighting, concessions, restrooms and retail spaces. Ample entertainment areas were also figured into the design, including playgrounds, miniature golf and a zip line.

The core of the design approach centered on a detailed programming effort to identify key areas, including field requirements, maintenance, park schedules and visitor frequency, event mix, parking, seating, user accessibility and support structures. Designers took into account the surrounding area and incorporated local design influences along with a modern flare that shaped the language of the buildings.

In total, the park has six full-sized soccer fields and 10 baseball fields – with areas for expansion accommodated in the initial design. The design of sports-related facilities and venues involve a complex balance of meeting the current needs of the project program, and designing with an eye toward flexibility and future growth. Designs of the Sports Force Parks envisioned a facility that would meet the needs of competition and recreation while welcoming the casual fitness user. The end result exceeded competitive needs of the City of Vicksburg while enhancing the community and delivering the planned economic and social benefits.



1 2 Primary colors lend a playful vibe to the venue's exteriors.

3 4 The new multipurpose facility offers state-of-the-art lighting, concessions, restrooms and retail spaces.



Photos by Shannon Grooms

- ⑤ The park has six soccer fields and 10 baseball fields, with room for future expansion included in the initial design.
- ⑥ Designers looked at the surrounding area and incorporated local design influences along with a modern flare.

NEIL CAMPBELL ROWING CENTRE

ST. CATHERINES, ONT.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

MJMA Architecture & Design
Toronto, Ont.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Raimondo + Associates Architects
Niagara Falls, Ont.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5,600

COST: \$7.2 million

OCCUPANCY: February 2022

The Neil Campbell Rowing Centre demonstrates how simple, elemental and respectful design can support a broad spectrum of uses and enhance the identity of a venerable place, while also achieving both net-zero-energy and zero-carbon-emission benchmarks.

The project was a key venue for the 2022 Canada Summer Games and will host the 2024 World Rowing Championships. Beyond this, it will provide year-round fitness and rowing training for Canadian athletes, continuing the site's rich history of competition that began in 1903.

The form of the building is generated by the roof, which is designed with an innovative mass-timber system utilizing Canadian glue-laminated and cross-laminated timber products, and held aloft by a light steel column structure and a centralized CLT core. The biased overhanging timber roof, operable doors and concrete steps to the watercourse further reinforce the connection to the water and create a visual identity for the facility from across Martindale Pond. The building employs a simple, robust material palette and a high-performance building envelope. Passive sun control and low-energy mechanical and electrical systems combine to achieve a high level of environmental sustainability while reducing ongoing operating and maintenance costs.



Photos by Scott Norsworthy

- 1 The biased overhanging timber roof and concrete steps reinforce the Neil Campbell Rowing Centre's connection to the water.
- 2 The form of the building – connected with the outdoor surroundings through large windows – is generated by the roof designed with an innovative mass-timber system.
- 3 The center provides year-round fitness and rowing training for Canadian athletes, not to mention spectacular views.



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SANDWICH CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING

SANDWICH, MASS.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype Inc.
Boston, Mass.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 24,800

COST: \$16.5 million

OCCUPANCY: March 2023

The two-story Center for Active Living was the first community facility built for the public in 40 years, and functions as a replacement for the town's aging senior center and as a recreational building. It is designed to meet the needs of both the community's aging population and its youths.

The building provides an environment dedicated to learning, creativity and social connections. It includes more than 15 formal and informal gathering, program and recreational spaces throughout its two floors. The first floor includes an outdoor café area, a 2,000-square-foot multipurpose room (which can be easily reconfigured into a lecture area, a dining space for 140 people, or a movie theater), a spacious kitchen with cooking class and eating space, a medical wing, and a 9,000-square-foot gymnasium. The second floor contains activity rooms, fitness areas, a conference room, office space and a games room. The top floor of the gymnasium has a walking track where visitors can exercise or observe the gymnasium below.

The building is functional, versatile and a pleasant place to be. It is also extremely energy-efficient, taking advantage of solar power and geothermal heating and cooling systems. The interior spaces are flooded with natural light due to the large windows throughout the space. The surrounding landscape includes patio spaces for informal gathering and programming, bocce courts, pickleball courts, and easy access to walking trails at an adjacent open field.



1



2



3

Photos by Bruce Martin

- 1 The striking Sandwich Center for Active Living combines and replaces the town's aging senior center and recreational building.
- 2 The first floor of the two-story center includes a 9,000-square-foot gymnasium.
- 3 A spacious kitchen facilitates cooking instruction.

AQUATIC

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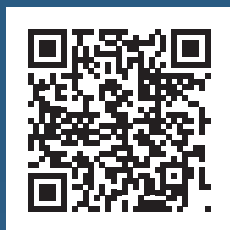
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Photo courtesy of ORU Athletics

Grand Openings



Tabatha Wethal
(tabatha@athleticbusiness.com) is online managing editor of *Athletic Business*.

By Tabatha Wethal

In mid-April, Oral Roberts University officials cut the ribbon on the school's \$15 million **Mike Carter Athletic Center**. At approximately 50,000 square feet, the MCAC houses basketball practice courts, administrative and coaches' offices, as well as a 10,000-square-foot indoor sports performance area. The three-story athletic center features two NCAA-regulation courts for men's and women's basketball, and a stadium-style meeting room. The facility is named in honor of ORU athletic director emeritus Mike Carter, who now serves as the university's vice president of development and alumni relations. The athletic center is also home to the Education, Learning, Integrity (ELI) Academic Center, which includes individual and group study areas and dedicated team rooms.

Breaking Ground



Image courtesy of RDG Planning & Design and the University of South Dakota Athletics

The University of South Dakota in Vermillion has broken ground on the **Wellness Center and pools expansion** that will serve as home of the Coyote swimming and diving program beginning in the fall of 2024. The Coyotes' new competition pool is part of a larger \$31.25 million expansion project that will add an estimated 45,800 square feet to the south side of the Wellness Center. The project also includes a leisure pool with a warmer temperature than the competition pool, an aquatic obstacle course, a hot tub, a steam room, athletic locker rooms, expanded wellness locker rooms, coaches' offices and lifeguard rooms. The state-of-the-art 50-meter competition pool will feature two movable bulkheads that enable the pool to be divided into three separate zones. The space also includes seating for 400 patrons.

California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo has celebrated the start of construction on the \$30 million **John Madden Football Center**, which was designed by Populous and is slated to open in 2024. The main floor of the facility will provide student-athletes with a locker room, a strength and conditioning area, athletic training and therapy space, lounge space and a fueling station, and multifaceted outdoor space and equipment storage. The second floor will be home to coaches' offices, meeting rooms, conference rooms and outdoor patios. The football center is named for well-known NFL football coach and sports commentator John Madden, who played football and baseball at Cal Poly in the late 1950s before embarking on his coaching and broadcasting careers. Madden died in December 2021 at age 85. [fb](#)


First Pitch



Image courtesy of the University of Utah

The University of Utah's Board of Trustees has approved an **on-campus baseball stadium**, and fundraising is underway. Plans for the 1,200-capacity stadium call for concessions, restrooms and ticketing offices, as well as team facilities, including locker rooms, team spaces and coaches' offices. The total project is expected to cost \$35 million, with the majority of the funding privately raised. The proposed stadium will be built at the site of the current Utah baseball practice field and could open as early as 2025.

The Flying Squirrels Minor League Baseball team based in Richmond, Va., has reached a deal with the city government to build a **new baseball stadium and surrounding Diamond District**. Construction could begin on the 10,000-seat facility in early 2024 and wrap up by the end of 2025, with the stadium opening for the 2026 baseball season. The venue will anchor Richmond's vision for an estimated \$2.4 billion Diamond District, which will also include businesses, green space and housing. Earlier this year, Major League Baseball said that the Flying Squirrels' existing facilities would need to meet certain facility standards for MiLB stadiums, including an enclosed batting tunnel for each team and renovated locker rooms, by 2025 or risk an uncertain future in Richmond.



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Photo courtesy of Branscum Construction

School Specifies Public Play Area as Part of Synthetic Turf Install



Paul Steinbach
(paul@athleticbusiness.com) is senior editor of *Athletic Business*.

By Paul Steinbach

Somerset (Ky.) High School football games are family affairs — so much so that fans are encouraged to cross the 400-meter, equal-quadrant track that surrounds the varsity field (located at Meece Middle School) and take in games while seated on their own chairs behind an end zone. Over the years, it became tradition for children to take advantage of the large radius of grass between the field's endline and track to play pick-up football during varsity games. When the school district converted to synthetic turf in 2021, officials suggested permanent inlaid markings for a mini-field, and RBS Design Group Architecture in Owensboro was happy to oblige — eventually. “It was in those discussions that they were telling me how they use the field, how they want to use the field, and can we provide an area for these kids to play?” RBS president and architect Craig Thomas recalls. “I’m always a little bit cautious about bringing the public onto the field. As an architect, you’re always looking for separation. When you have a client telling you that they don’t want that separation, you have to understand what they do and how they do things.” The AstroTurf surface accommodates two fields, the regulation-size one used by the Briar Jumpers and a perpendicular 40-yarder (including two 5-yard end zones) for the kids. According to Thomas, the feature has received so much attention (including from ESPN) that he’s consulted with several additional districts about adding ancillary markings to their track-bound fields — most often to enhance practice functionality. “Obviously, after being there and seeing it, I was a lot more comfortable,” he says of the Somerset game-day experience. “It’s truly a community event. This would not be a good fit for all communities, but I believe it’s a great fit for this community.” 

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