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Rochester Institute of Technology, Institute Hall, Rochester, N.Y.

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RIT, Institute Hall. Design: Francis Cauffman. (Image: Chris Cooper)

Rochester Institute of Technology, Institute Hall, Rochester, N.Y.

Budget: \$26 million

Size: 78,000 sf

Project team: Francis Cauffman, N.Y., N.Y. (architect, lab planner); Bergmann Associates, Rochester, N.Y. (architect of record); Welliver, Montour Falls, N.Y. (CM)

Description: RIT's chemical and biomedical engineering departments are housed with the new building which incorporates lounge and study spaces with labs, classrooms and faculty offices. Institute Hall also completes a new science quad on campus, joining three other new buildings.

The building includes 12,750 sf of dedicated faculty research labs, a 2,500-sf chemical engineering unit operations teaching lab, a vivarium, classrooms for training healthcare-related professionals and an environmentally controlled laser research lab, among other scientific research facilities. The ground floor has classrooms for the general campus, while the upper floors mix student spaces and classrooms with faculty offices in order to facilitate interaction between students and faculty.

Referred to as the "Brick City," RIT is well known for its large collection of Modernist brick buildings. Institute Hall reflects this tradition with a transparent, glazed core wrapped in a red brick shell, with a traditional rectangular brick wall on its west face and a curved glass façade on its north face. The brick sections house labs, while the glass encloses offices and classrooms, allowing in daylight.

The team is targeting LEED Gold certification. Sustainable elements include a data center that uses air from outside, instead of MEP cooling, as well as a rain garden on the building's east side.

Completion: Q3 2013

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