

project focus



project focus*

RIT

Francis Cauffman

Great interior design, of necessity, goes hand-in-hand with appropriate architecture, that is architecture that is informed by the interior purposes. This is well exhibited by the new **Institute Hall at Rochester Institute of Technology**.

Referred to as the “Brick City,” **RIT** is well known for its large collection of Modernist brick buildings. For its latest expansion, “a prototype for the academic science classroom of the future,” the **Institute Hall**, it hired **Francis Cauffman**, which designed the core, shell and labs. The 78,000-sq.-ft., \$26 million research building houses RIT’s brand-new chemical and biomedical engineering departments. Serving as a crossroads for the campus community, the building’s innovative design incorporates lounge and study spaces with labs, classrooms, and faculty offices. The building also completes a new science quad on campus,



INSTITUTE HALL FACADE

joining three other new buildings.

Institute Hall fulfills RIT’s vision of bringing state-of-the-art science facilities together with community amenities like a café, a rain garden, and a study space located in an elevated bridge that connects Institute Hall

with an adjoining building. Its ground floor is raised five to six feet to provide better views throughout. The building’s spaces attract the wider campus community and foster collaboration between science students.

“We are thrilled to have designed

* In our issue of 10.21.13, we featured the subject project, but with the wrong images. This presentation has the same text, but the correct images. We apologize to **Francis Cauffman** and **FXFOWLE**, whose project images were confused.

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INSTITUTE HALL CLASSROOM



LAB



INSTITUTE HALL COLLABORATION AREAS

a facility that meets RIT's goals for sustainability," said **Jim Crispino**, president of Francis Cauffman. "Additionally, we are very excited to have collaborated with RIT on a building that creates a new way for science students to work and study together."

Institute Hall plays with RIT's modernist tradition. But, unlike the more solid buildings on campus, it has a transparent, glazed core that is wrapped in a red brick shell, with a traditional rectangular brick wall on its west face and a striking curved glass façade on its north face. The brick sections house labs, while the glass encloses offices and classrooms, allowing in daylight.

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

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

Rochester-based architecture firm Bergmann Associates served as Architect of Record, and Welliver was the construction manager. ■