Campus Projects Tackles Campus Challenges Large and Small

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Facilities Management’s Department of Campus Projects provides planning, design and construction services for projects up to $5 million. Projects can be as small as changing the location of a door and as complex as the four projects profiled below, in buildings across the campus.

Campus Projects Project Manager Shayla Taylor recently reported that students arriving at the Architecture Building returned to newly renovated undergraduate and graduate studios.

The upgraded studios feature sustainable ceiling and lighting systems, promoting the Terp sustainability mission to “leave small footprints”.

Present in each studio are very energy-efficient light fixtures tied to timers that are set to automatically turn off all lighting when the studios are not in use. These fixtures are suspended from a specialty ceiling system. The system absorbs more sound when several classes are being held simultaneously and allows for concentrated student work. The project uses a clean, rapidly renewable material called BioAcoustics.

Close by in the Van Munching Building, the loggia was recently enclosed and the surrounding landscape improved.

Project Manager Philip Meske recalls that the main driver for the project was to recapture seating lost in a previous renovation of the space, which was carried out in line with the wishes of the departed donor, Mr. Robert H. Smith, to create a better dining experience for students and staff. An admiring tweet read, “The interior design of school cafeteria is nice. Feels like being in a coffee shop.”

The design challenges for the second phase were steep – to maximize natural light while maintaining the architectural language of the building; and to create a seating area that feels like it belongs there. In
addition to matching furniture and finishes, the project team followed the radial pattern established in the ceiling design of the first phase.

An Entomology lab was completely re-imagined for a recent project in the Skinner Building, as described in a recent communication from campus customer Lori Owen, ARHU’s Director of Facilities.

This project turned an old entomology lab into a translation and interpretation lab for the Department of Communication. The lab is only the second of its kind in the country.

Ms. Owen notes, “(Project Manager) Tony Brown was always very patient and professional with everyone involved and the end product is a showpiece for the University. Yesterday’s open house and ribbon cutting included high-level people from the State Department, the United Nations and the European Union, and all spoke about what a great program and facility this is. They fully expect to hire many of the graduates of the program.”

In the Stamp Student Union, renovation of 1900 sq. ft. of existing office space on the basement level for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life began with the demolition of existing walls, ceilings, floors and HVAC systems. The Project Manager was Marwan Bannourah.

The revisioned space includes a grand entrance flanked by columns to reflect the identity of the group, leading to an entry area enhanced by a brick faced interior wall with inset Palladian window behind the reception desk. Designed to have an open and welcoming feel, the space includes energy-efficient lighting to resemble daylight, new finishes and flooring and upgraded heating/air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems.

Campus Projects’ staff of more than 60 employees provides in-house expertise, project management and hands-on renovation. They work with customers to make the best use of each space to help accomplish the campus’ mission. Look for their work in a building near you!