Columbia College
Atkins-Holman Student Commons

LOCATION
Columbia, Missouri

DESCRIPTION
24,110 sf new campus infill building

COMPLETION DATE
January 2005

CONSTRUCTION COST
$3.3 million

CLIENT REFERENCE
Bob Hutton, Executive Director of Administrative Services
573-875-7300

CONTRACTOR REFERENCE
Reinhardt / Wilson, A Joint Venture - Jerry Daugherty
573-499-0055

The Columbia College Atkins-Holman Student Commons is precisely as its name suggests - for students. Columbia College desired a space reflecting the history and values of the school while maintaining a relevancy for its students well into the future. The design theme focused on how Columbia College began as a "daring experiment" in 1851, allowing women to get a post secondary education, and since then has used this daring approach to grow in both curriculum and student diversity.

SOA sought a strategic partnership with Workshop Architects of Milwaukee in exploring and designing a new project type for a client with whom we shared a strong understanding. The resulting spaces consist of a café, multipurpose open atrium, bookstore, game area, campus life offices and plenty of ancillary nooks for students to manipulate to their changing needs and habits. Using the existing facades as a departure point, the new building fits into the existing master plan both in material and context. It has its own identity, however, achieved through a transparent wedge connector which also enhances the sense of awareness and connection to the entire campus.

The finish and detail of the interior space was equally important to the building's impact on the surrounding campus. The spirit of the students it serves is evoked through six sculpted columns prominently displayed near the entrance, representing the original six female graduates. The interwoven and vibrant collection of spaces promotes a functional synergy that will serve to bring the students, faculty and staff of Columbia College into positive interaction well into the future.

soa