



Amherst College Powerhouse Amherst, MA

Amherst College engaged the architect to create a student gathering and event space in a tactful but raw reworking of their historic 1925 McKim Mead & White steam plant. The existing classic form with its industrial interior was reconfigured to accommodate performances, dance parties, art exhibits, outdoor events, speakers and other student gatherings.

Lighting and sound systems with flexible furniture concepts support this broad range of activities. Amherst's program includes provision for accessibility, a new pergola wing for restrooms, and food service support. A strong new landscape concept marries the interior to a paved exterior terrace with natural amphitheater seating to accommodate outdoor events and to accept spillover from indoor social activities.

The site is adjacent to a new residential quadrangle that is in the planning stages. The new facility is being studied to emphasize novel approaches to natural ventilation and waste heat recovery from existing utilities. Contemporary design elements are conceived

Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

Multi-use/joint-use building/space

Bruner/Cott & Associates

130 Prospect Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
www.brunercott.com
Dana Kelly
617/492-8400

DESIGN TEAM

Waterman Excavating, General Contractor
Boston Building Consultantas, Structural Engineering
R.W. Sullivan Engineering, Electrical Engineering
Haley & Aldrich, Geotech Engineering
Lewis Lighting Design, Lighting Consultant
Petersen Engineering, Mechanical & Plumbing

OWNER/CLIENT

Amherst College
Amherst, MA
Tom Davies, Director of Design & Construction
413/542-8272

KEY STATS

Grades Served: Post-Secondary
Capacity: 1,785 students
Building Area: 7,700 sq. ft.
Square Foot Cost: \$480
Construction Cost: \$3,700,000
Completion Date: August 2014
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/Status/Level:
LEED Designed

PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD MANDELKORN



within a robust framework of historic preservation. Structural alterations include the removal of columns and a series of seismic upgrades. The architectural concept is related to the firm's groundbreaking design approach to the Massachusetts Museum for Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in nearby North Adams, Massachusetts.

