



# Penn State University–Intramural Recreation Building, Phase I

State College, PA

**New Construction/  
Addition**

**Sports facility/fitness center**

**Moody Nolan**  
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Columbus, OH 43215  
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Curtis J. Moody, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP  
614/461-4664

**APArchitects, LLC**  
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**DESIGN TEAM**

Moody Nolan, Architect of Record/  
Design Architect  
Mortensen, Contractor

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Penn State University  
University Park, PA  
Tom Lovins, Director of Recreational  
Sports  
814/265-5401

**KEY STATS**

Grades Served: Post-Secondary  
Capacity: 700, Phase I; 1,400 existing  
building  
Size of Site: 1.77 acres  
Building Area: 54,000 sq. ft.  
Space per Student: 1.29 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$106  
Square Foot Cost: \$340  
Construction Cost: \$21,500,000  
Project Cost: \$25,800,000  
Completion Date: May 2014  
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/  
Status/Level: Pursuing Gold

PHOTOGRAPHY: TIFFANY LASCHINGER/MORTENSEN



The challenge for this design effort was to create a new face and dynamic image to a very nondescript and functional recreation building. The design resolution needed to address issues of creating a new inviting and transparent image, establishing clear wayfinding and organization, opening the entire facility up to controlled daylighting and creating an open, dynamic and energizing atmosphere to reflect the active program of the building.



This was accomplished with one simple building form gesture to the new campus gateway intersection with views of the Nittany Mountains in the distance and one simple building form gesture back toward the main campus—where they cross in the main entry courtyard and plaza to the facility.

The slanted nature of the building forms allows the building to gracefully pull itself off the main street to provide engaging pedestrian-oriented plaza space as well as establish clear wayfinding to the building entry day or night. This main active program of the building is centered on fitness, wellness and exercise generated the desire to maximize fresh air movement, allowing the facility to “breathe” as well. This not only connects users with the environment but also reduces energy use.