

# COLLEGE

## Planning & Management

CONSTRUCTION • FACILITIES • BUSINESS • TECHNOLOGY

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### HISTORICAL RENOVATIONS

Adapting  
to Today's  
Students

Measuring  
HVAC Efficiency

Designing the  
Campus Bookstore

Comprehensive  
Master Planning

## Historical Renovations

The integration of updated design into historical buildings invigorates classic campus structures.

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### McCarl Center for Nontraditional Student Success University of Pittsburgh

As “nontraditional” students who begin their undergraduate educations later in life are becoming more commonplace at colleges throughout the country, schools, such as the University of Pittsburgh, are creating specialized services to accommodate this diverse population of students. The 2,500-sq.-ft. McCarl Center creates a nurturing environment that encourages academic success, promotes career development and fosters personal growth. Its design establishes a sense of intimacy within the university context.

The Center was inserted into reclaimed space that originally housed two-level library stacks in the Cathedral of Learning, the University’s signature building. A 42-story Gothic Revival style tower, the Cathedral is the tallest academic structure in America. The double-height space features unusually high ceilings and windows that flood the interior spaces with abundant natural light. These include offices for the program director and staff, as well as casual spaces where students can meet between classes: a large meeting/seminar room, a student lounge and a small library.

The administrative areas flank the main corridor, which was conceived as an

interior street. Glass-fronted offices enhance the sense of openness between administrators and students. The corridor terminates in a series of common meeting areas that line the outside wall of the Cathedral.

The design incorporates many architectural features that refer to the tower’s Gothic Revival architecture, while contemporary furnishings and materials create a look that is comfortable and up-to-date. Decorative painted metal columns with contemporary buttress-style arches bring the imagery of the building’s Gothic vocabulary inside. Transom windows filter natural daylight. Contemporary wood finishes and patterned textiles complete the composition.

The Center’s warm reception is summed up by Chancellor Mark Nordenberg’s statement that the Center is “an absolutely spectacular addition” to the university.

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