

University of Illinois Instructional Facility

Urbana, Illinois

The design of the Campus Instructional Facility at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign visually and functionally represents the intersection of architecture and engineering. Created through a public-private partnership arrangement, the facility exterior features brick and curtainwall to compliment surrounding university structures. The interior of the 122,000 sq. ft., four-story building accommodates many types of learning options, from individual study pods to a 500-seat auditorium. Focused on innovation, the design team chose to incorporate stimulating elements to encourage student/professor interactions such as collaboration hubs on each floor and wide, multi-story staircases that invite student gatherings. Several unique and highly coordinated structural features were utilized, to provide an aesthetic where the structure becomes part of the architecture, and the structure also visually informs as to how it functions. These features include exposed AESS steel members and connections, exposed braced frames with gusset plates shaped to follow load path, feature beams in the auditorium with penetrations shaped to illustrate beam behavior and provide material savings, and fire engineering which eliminated the majority of required fireproofing. Additionally, an innovative system utilizing structural brick was incorporated into the façade, which eliminated all brick joints and shelf angles. The project also focused on sustainability and has earned a LEED Platinum certification, by employing such strategies as radiant ceilings and floors, dynamic glazing, and a geothermal field.

Jim Pawlikowski served as the senior project engineer during his tenure at SOM.

