



University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education

The design for the multi phased Education Building at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center is about interaction and collaboration between students, faculty and the public.

To encourage collaborative, multidisciplinary medical education, the program of this facility utilizes two key strategies. The first blurs the traditional boundaries of three groups—the colleges of nursing, pharmacy and medicine—who will share the same space to implement a multidisciplinary approach to effect a collaborative learning environment. The second strategy accommodates the most specialized of the building's spaces, the future Clinical Performance Center, where students learn to diagnose and treat illnesses through simulated patients, virtual reality teaching spaces and interactive mannequin simulations. Closely resembling actual treatment facilities, these simulation environments are also offered to the off-campus medical community for continuing education.

The Clinical Performance Center will have its main entrance from an outdoor courtyard created to provide an outdoor space for studying and student interaction is located on the ground floor to provide ease of access and to allow for future expansion. The one-story base of the Clinical Performance Center visually anchors the building to the site and provides a transition of scale from the neighboring low-rise single-family residences to the east. Similarly, the larger lecture spaces are located on the ground floor around the courtyard, providing easy access for large groups and allowing the court to serve as prefunction space. The other classrooms are to be located in a two-level block above the one-story Clinical Performance Center, serving as a link to the main lobby along the primary pedestrian entry. Excellent mountain views to the east reinforce wayfinding within the building.

The building serves an important role beyond medical education. It is intended to be a hub of activity for the Health Sciences Center on the university's north campus. As such, the building is outfitted with key campus amenities including a space for the future food court, bookstore, health club, student commons and copy center. Organized on three levels on the south side of the site, these spaces are conceived as a "storefront" along a major campus east-west pedestrian pathway. The future food court, fronting an existing lower-level courtyard, will provide outdoor eating and gathering space that is exposed to the sun and protected from harsh winds. The bookstore, located directly above, provides convenient ground-level access.



In addition to its internal functional requirements, the building is site-specific in its organization and image. The multifunctional program is reflected in a building that is not centered around itself, but gathers its spaces together around outdoor activities as a collaborative gesture to its campus context. In this way the spirit of interaction, part of the building's conception, becomes reality in its design.



Location: Albuquerque, NM

Cost: \$12.2 million Phase 1

Size: 46,551sf Phase 1

Completion: December 2006 Phase 1

Awards

*Southwest Contractor, Best of 2007,
Public Project Over \$10 Million*

Southwest Contractor, Top Projects, 2007

*NAIOP Awards of Excellence - New Mexico,
Civic/Public Category, 2007*

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