ARCHITECTURAL SHOWCASE

32 Index to Facilities

34 Showcase Submissions

195 Directory of Architects & Consultants

200 Directory of Suppliers

PURCHASING GUIDE

206 Thermal Outerwear

BY ANDREW COHEN

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To maximize the impact of a modest space and budget, the addition to the Merritt Fitness Center and Klitzberg Pavilion was designed to wrap around the south end of an existing gymnasium. In contrast to the existing plain brick facade, the addition uses transparency to create a visual focus for this quadrant of the campus.

The fitness center's first-floor weight room is visually and acoustically separated into two sides, one accommodating free weights most often used by McDaniel's 24 varsity sports teams, and the other housing selectorized weight equipment more popular with general users. The second floor includes cardiovascular fitness and circuit training equipment, and offers dramatic outside views.

Between workouts and classes, students can gather in the first floor pavilion to watch televised sporting events, visit the multimedia McDaniel sports hall of fame or socialize in the café. This community atmosphere extends outside via a pedestrian plaza.

The exterior features an extensive glazed curtainwall that uses deep overhangs and sunshades to mitigate the sun's glare. Dramatic piers of Indiana limestone, an iconic material used throughout the campus, solidly anchor the building. Interior finishes focus on school colors, while extensive use of wood, terrazzo and glass bring a high-end, hospitable feel to the space.

By day, exercising students enjoy a spectacular view of the Catoctin Mountains. At night, the lively activity inside the fitness center can be seen from the campus entrance gate.

The addition has two entrances, each equipped with a staffed access control point.
The second floor includes cardiovascular fitness and circuit training equipment, and offers dramatic outside views.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD:
Marshall Craft Associates Inc.
Baltimore, Md.

PROGRAMMING/OPERATIONAL CONSULTANT:
SportsPLAN Studio
Kansas City, Mo.

COST: $8.2 million
SQUARE FEET: 24,843
OCCUPANCY: June 2007

Carved-out limestone piers along the curtainwall provide memorabilia display niches finished with floating glass panels.