

Raytheon Building Renovation

West Georgia Technical College

LOCATION:

LaGrange, Georgia

CLIENT:

West Georgia Technical College

PROJECT DATA:

renovation
general classrooms
technical education classrooms
student gathering spaces
student commons
administrative offices
library
bookstore

225,000 sf total

SERVICES:

Master Planning
Programming
Interior Design
Architectural Design
Construction Administration

COST:

\$2,800,000

DATE OF COMPLETION:

2008

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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West Georgia Technical College relocated their entire campus into an existing manufacturing building. The client's decision to reuse an existing building helps reduce construction waste and in many ways is the foundation of green building by utilizing the three "R's" – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

The client's goal was to transform this typical manufacturing plant building into a welcoming college campus within the confines of an extremely tight budget by using several specific architectural elements. RWH was able to provide programming for the entire building, but stayed within budget by planning a phased construction schedule focusing on the most important architectural elements initially, while planning for future build-out work to complete the original plan at a later date.

The resulting project transformed the building into a college campus with appropriate gathering spaces for students and presents a clear identity to the community. A new building entrance on the East side of the building was designed to connect with the existing parking lot and makes a clear, welcoming, entry statement for the campus. Students cross an elevated pedestrian bridge from the parking lot to the building's main entrance located on the second floor, which overlooks the new student bookstore and the main two-story corridor. The two-story corridor functionally serves as the "main street" of the new campus and promotes interaction between faculty and students.

Just off the main corridor, the students have access to the "Commons" area that leads to multiple classrooms. The Commons area also serves as gathering space for students to talk, study, or use computers just like a traditional quad area. Beyond the Commons area, the main corridor continues to the library, administration areas, additional classrooms, and the student union. The new main entrance and the sky lit corridor below, are the main organizing architectural elements for this project that truly transformed this building into a campus.

RICHARD
WITTSCHIEBE
HAND

