



# University of Delaware, Jastak-Burgess Hall Newark, Delaware

**Administrative  
Areas/Business Offices**  
Renovation/Addition/  
Restoration

## ABHA Architects

**ABHA Architects**  
1621 N. Lincoln Street  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
www.ABHA.com

Michael Deptula, AIA, CSI,  
LEED AP  
(302) 658-6426

### DESIGN TEAM

Michael Deptula, AIA, CSI,  
LEED AP, Principal-in-Charge  
Wohlsen Construction  
Company,  
Construction Manager

Tetra Tech, Inc.,  
Civil Engineers

Thornton-Tomasetti Engineers,  
Structural Engineers

Burns Engineering, Inc.,  
Mechanical/Electrical Engineers

### OWNER/CLIENT

University of Delaware,  
Facilities Planning and  
Construction  
Newark, DE

Gina Sinovich,  
Design Manager  
(302) 831-1750

Type of School and Grades  
Served: College/University

Capacity: 62 faculty offices  
plus space for 50 students

Size of Site: 1 acre

Area of Building:  
32,500 square feet

Volume of Building:  
277,000 cubic feet

Space per Student:  
290 square feet

Cost per Student: \$49,000

Square Foot Cost: \$169

Construction Cost: \$5.5 million

Total Project Cost: \$8 million

Contract Date: May 2004

Completion Date: April 2006

Percent of Completion: 100%

Through the addition of a new central structure, Jastak-Burgess Hall combines two former fraternity houses, Sigma Phi Epsilon, built in 1922, and Sigma Nu, built in 1929. These two buildings were completely renovated and now serve as the headquarters for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature with 62 faculty offices, as well as a conference center and a language laboratory. Bridging between them is a new circulation core and main entrance.

The central campus of the university is arranged around a mall, called The Green, which organizes several of the school's original and significant buildings. The north terminus of this mall was anchored by the two fraternity houses. This project provided an opportunity to not merely join two existing buildings, but to join them with a new structure that becomes both the formal building entrance and a fitting focal point at the end of The Green.

A significant design challenge was to develop a plan that provided a seamless transition between the two existing structures, while also ensuring code compliance and ADA accessibility. The issue was further complicated by the residential scale of the buildings, differing floor elevations and roof shapes, limited space available for the new infill due to the close proximity of the two buildings, and the need to



NEW ENTRY AND BUILDING INFILL



NEW ENTRY LOBBY

Photos: Tom Bernard Photography