Citation of Excellence 2007
LEARNING BY DESIGN

Dormitories/

Residence Halls
New Construction

DiMella Shaffer

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DESIGN TEAM

Edward Hodges, AIA,
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Design Project Manager

Rich Cahn, Job Captain

Tom Dube, Construction
Project Manager

Dan Spinney, Superintendent

Ray Parizo, Superintendent

OWNER/CLIENT

University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH

Larry Van Dessel,
Director of Facilities
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(603) 862-2099

Type of School and
Grades Served:
College/University,
Post-secondary

Capacity: 400 students

Size of Site: 8.5 acres

Area of Building:
160,000 square feet

Space per Student:
400 square feet

Square Foot Cost: $211

Construction Cost: $33.7 million

Contract Date: March 2004

University of New Hampshire

Durham, New Hampshire

DiMella Shaffer

Cutler Associates teamed with DiMella Shaffer architects to create a design-build solution to the University of New Hampshire's need for a 400-bed addition to its Gables student apartment complex.

The solution focused on strengthening the existing Gables community while considering that this was the first phase of a proposed 1,000-bed expansion. The design-build team used the idea of multiple concepts, exploring various scenarios to plan for the whole build-out before determining which 400-bed spaces should be built first.

The team understood the university's desire to achieve a high-quality design while adhering to the requisite 20-month design and construction schedule. To accomplish this, Cutler provided early, accurate cost information to both the owner and designer, and continually tracked the total cost. The design team, therefore, maximized the quality of the design within the project budget without facing value engineering, while the owner was able to make informed decisions when considering options, changes, or additions.

Complementing the existing facilities, the bearing block and precast deck structures feature brick exteriors and steeply sloped roofs. The project creates a strong sense of community, while taking advantage of the surrounding natural amenities to maintain the existing site environment and minimize the loss of native woodland habitat. ■

EXTERIOR

TYPICAL STUDENT ROOM

STUDY LOUNGE

Photos: Richard Mandelkorn Photography