



Student Center/Union
New Construction

Ringling College of Art and Design

Sarasota, Florida

Lawson Group Architects, Inc.

LAWSON GROUP ARCHITECTS, INC.
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DESIGN TEAM

Don Lawson,
Lawson Group Architects, Inc.
Fernando Ramirez Jr.,
Lawson Group Architects, Inc.
Farrell Wood,
Lawson Group Architects, Inc.

Jeff Poleshek, VP
Ringling College of
Art and Design
Tracy Wagher, VP
Ringling College of Art and
Design, Sarasota, FL

OWNER/CLIENT

Ringling College of
Art and Design
Sarasota, FL

Dr. Larry R. Thompson
President

Type of School and
Grades Served:
College, Higher
Education/College

Capacity: 672 students

Area of Building:
88,000 square feet

Space per Student:
120 square feet

Square Foot Cost: \$196

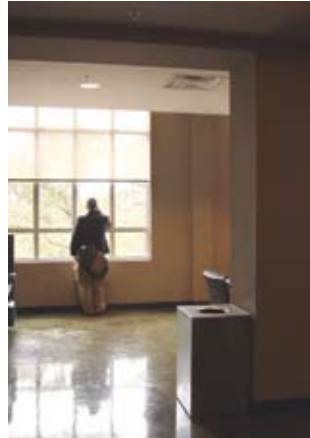
Cost of Construction:
\$14.5 million

Total Project Cost:
\$17 million

Contract Date: May 2005

Completion Date: Jan. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%



STUDENT GATHERING SPACE

The Lawson Group team, led by Don Lawson AIA, principal of Lawson Group Architects, Inc., was commissioned to design a student center for Ringling College of Art and Design that would expand and foster the educational and community spirit of their 35-acre campus.

The design team faced numerous challenges that included a very specific and diverse program of spaces, the need to create a space that would expand and adapt to meet the future needs of the college, and a relevant location for a student center that would promote interaction among individuals of the college community and beyond.

In response to these challenges, the new facility is devoted to public art galleries, offices, classrooms, resident life spaces, 52 dormitory rooms, student lounges, as well as numerous multifunctional spaces that will support the rapid growth of the college. The student center is designed as an impressive



ENTRY COURTYARD



STUDENT WORK DISPLAY LOBBY

88,000-square-foot building of block construction with a cement plaster finish, to blend with the aesthetics of the surrounding campus buildings. It is strategically located among residence halls, a resource library, and the campus library to provide a centralized organization that

promotes the collaboration of students, faculty, and staff.

The design team at Lawson Group Architects, Inc., have created the Ulla Searing Student Center, a focal point of the campus that has become an inspiring environment for learning, living, and creating. ■

PHOTOS: TOP LEFT & BELOW, MEGAN M. LEITNER; TOP RIGHT, CASEY LAWSON