

Bossier Parish Community College

Bossier City, Louisiana



The first phase for a new campus of a local community college, this 35,000 square foot building includes a library, 300-seat lecture auditorium, classrooms, art studio, business lab, electronics lab, faculty offices and a student lounge.

The primary goal of this project was to create a public place of learning with presence, clarity and distinction. The challenge was to design an “anchor” building for the community college and to establish its separate identity from the adjacent high school. The new building, placed in line with the existing administration building, has a double-loaded corridor running north-south and a bisecting east-west entry lobby passage that separates the larger public spaces of the library and auditorium from the classroom and office components of the program. The library volume extends forward of the classroom/office volume and signals its importance and defines a forecourt that serves as a transition between the parking lot and the building entry. The lobby passage allows for a connecting arcade to link a second phase building with this new building and to create a courtyard space between them.

The steel braced-frame structure is clad in grey-green ground-face concrete block that predominately defines the basic mass and form of the building, yielding a strong sense of solidity and presence appropriate for this public building. White glazed brick creates a gleaming contrast to the darker concrete block by illuminating particular elements of the building’s program, manifested on the facades as either recessed infill panels of extended objects.

Reflecting the institution itself, the building was conceived in two ways: One, as a contemplative place for thoughtful discourse, gathering and study which is solid, protecting and inwardly focused, the other, as a vital part of the community, extroverted and reaching out to invite, engage and inform. Designed by Christopher Coe while a Senior Designer for Kelly & Doughty Architects.

