



State University College at Potsdam, Becky's Place at Pratt Commons • Potsdam, New York



Mach Architecture + Engineering, PC

Associated firm: Pathfinder Engineers, LLP; Roth Consulting Group

Design team:

Douglas Schaefer, AIA; Gregory Tomsic, AIA, LLS, LEED AP; Brian Kelley, AIA; Aaron Mach; James Smokowski; Darlene Klotzbach, ASID, NCIDQ, LEED AP; Alex Strassenburgh, PE; David Klock, PE, LEED AP

Client:

State University Construction Fund and SUNY Potsdam; John F. Schwaller, President

Capacity: 250	Area: 9,500 sq. ft.	Total cost: \$3.2 million
Cost/square foot: \$337	Completion: August 2008	

Photographer:

Jennifer McCluskey/McCluskey Photography



The college identified a need to upgrade an existing dining area that was outdated and underutilized, as well as a desire to address the lack of amenities for commuting students on campus. As the design evolved, it became evident that Pratt Commons could play a more significant role than planned originally. Situated adjacent to the primary connection between the commuter entrance and the academic quad, it became the main entry to the campus.

Pratt Commons is situated between a 1970s, eight-story administration building and a circa 1940, three-story classroom building. The use of brick, stone and glass along with its massing enables the addition to Pratt Commons to bridge the varied aesthetics while maintaining the sense of place.

The interior features a food-service facility focused on a stone-clad hearth. The natural materials (stone, ceramic tile, wood) along with carpet create a warm and welcoming environment. A variety of seating options is provided along the open walkway, including areas of soft seating centered on a stone fireplace. 

