

FISHER AND BENDHEIM HALLS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Princeton, NJ

Client: Princeton University

Area: 54,000 gsf

Construction Cost: \$16,800,000

Completion: 1990



Fisher and Bendheim Halls contain Princeton's Economics Department and Center of International Studies in a single building. Structurally, they connect at every floor level to the existing red brick Corwin Hall; they also connect to the 1960s Woodrow Wilson School via an underground tunnel and by the extension of the grade-level plaza and pedestrian steps. Though most of the building houses faculty offices, there are also larger classrooms, a library, seminar and computer rooms, and graduate study and meeting areas.

Extensive site design and massing support Fisher and Bendheim Halls mediation between the domestic scale of the private, historical Eating Clubs along Prospect Street and the main campus's larger, stylistically varied institutional structures. The building has distinct entrances, giving each department a separate identity, permitting close interdepartmental collaboration, and promoting economical facility sharing.

The durable interior and exterior relate to Princeton's rich campus traditions while remaining within contemporary economic and maintenance constraints. Through surface design and symbolism it combines contrast and analogy: its brick echoes Corwin Hall, and in combination with limestone trim it relates to '79 Hall and other buildings in the campus's southeastern precinct. The building's limestone-trimmed strip windows, big bay window, and ornamentation adapt the Princeton's Gothic-Elizabethan architectural vocabulary but as a stylistic abstraction, a representation rather than a substantiation of the whole. It promotes a generic and comforting order emanating from its complex academic program, while accommodating artistic contradictions to form a tense, exciting, complex whole.

Photos of the front, side, and entrance





Library

The project's schedule provided for phased construction of the new and renovated areas to accommodate continuous occupancy, and included early bid packages to expedite the new construction. The completion date was met to allow for its scheduled dedication by President George Bush. It was the first building completed within VSBA's East Campus Expansion Study, which sited six proposed buildings and unified them and the East Campus with the rest of the University.

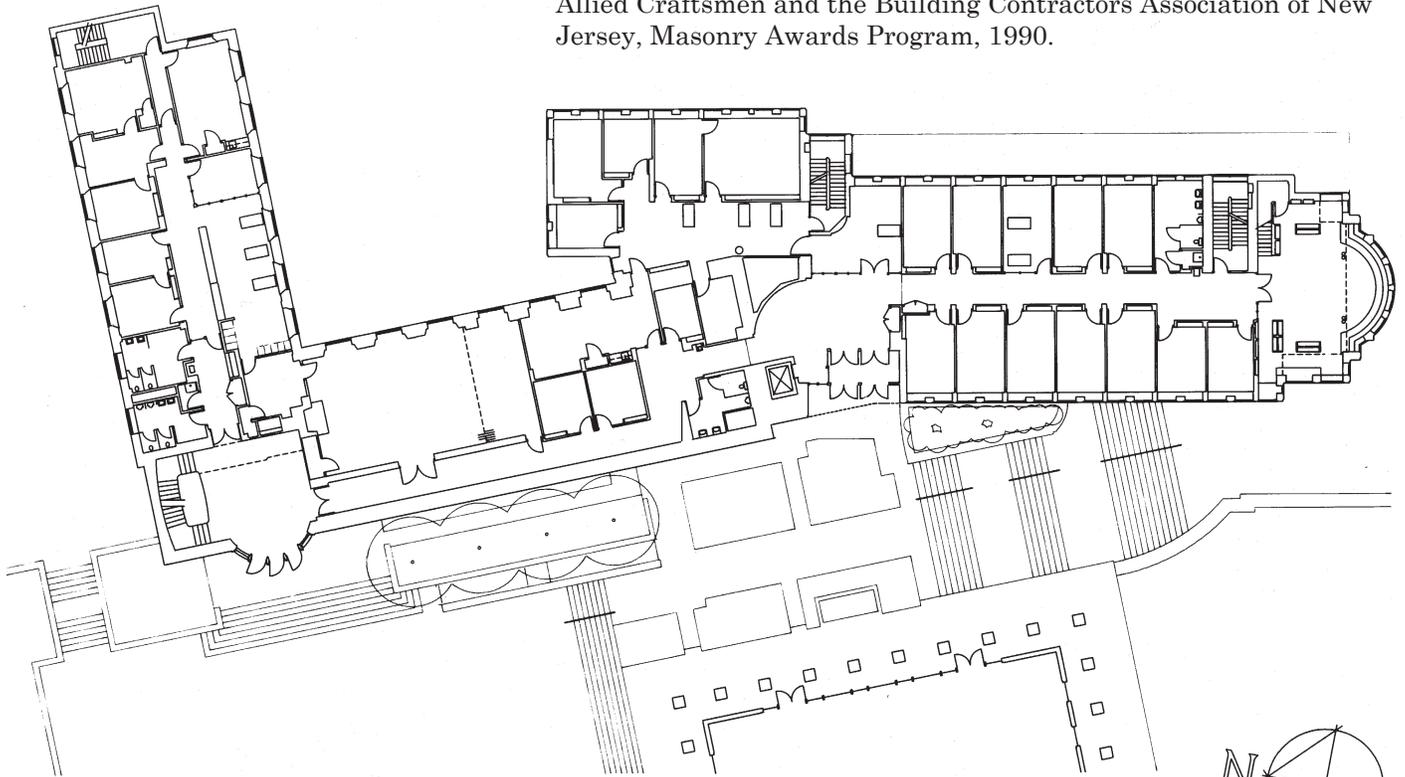
Awards:

Silver Medal, The Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1991.

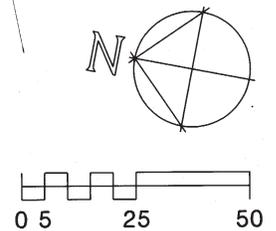
Honorable Mention, American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter, 1991.

Brick in Architecture Award for excellence in brick design, the Brick Institute of America, 1991.

Grand Award, New Jersey State Conference of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen and the Building Contractors Association of New Jersey, Masonry Awards Program, 1990.



**PODIUM FLOOR PLAN
ECONOMICS/
CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES BUILDING**





Library, lobby, and stair