

BUILDING[®] BRIEFS

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WINTER, 2011

Case Is Closed On Lee Institute Project At University Of New Haven

Let the sleuthing begin! Hundreds of Dr. Henry C. Lee's closest friends, from all over the world, joined him at the University of New Haven's campus to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony of the building bearing his name. Sometimes a case takes awhile to solve, and the ceremony in mid-October was nearly five years in the making.

As early as 2005, the leadership of the Henry C. Lee Institute and UNH's Forensics Department realized they would soon be out of space. Petra Construction's Program Management Group was engaged by Lee Institute's Board of Directors to analyze potential project sites and schemes for a new building. After a very careful site selection process, and consideration of many program options, Lee Institute's design process began in late 2007 when Sasaki Associates, Inc. joined the project team.

Petra's Program Management Group led the project team through the pre-construction and design process. During the development of the design, Petra's Estimating Department priced multiple exterior cladding options, allowing UNH to base their selection on both design and cost. The final cladding material is a strong contrast to the traditional brick edifices of the University's educational building quadrangle. Zinc wall panels cover the multi-angled exterior walls, creating a cutting edge look that is fitting for the level of technology housed



*Exterior of the
new Henry C. Lee
Institute of Forensic
Science building*

within the building.

Although the primary function of the Lee Institute building is educational, it also has a strong public persona. Lee Institute staff members have truly become partners with local and national law enforcement agencies, who can benefit from both the staff members' expertise and the many forensic science classes offered. The new building also offers a command center where the staff members and agencies can work collaboratively to resolve challenging crimes.

The sheer amount of technology installed in the project required an immense coordination effort between the construction team and the University's vendors. Miles of wiring was installed to support the security systems, data management and interactive exhibits in the publicly accessible interactive museum. This area, called the Learning Center, comes alive with interactive touch screens and views into crime scene

mock-up rooms, which are used to teach the students.

In the summer of 2009, construction began with a substantial amount of utility infrastructure work. As part of a very active campus, the entire building site was surrounded by construction fencing during all phases. Foundation work commenced in the early winter of 2009-2010, and the completion of steel framing was celebrated with a topping-out ceremony in early January of 2010.

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In August of 2010, with three months left in the schedule, the construction team had two months to complete the building tasks and one month to install all of the complex electronics and finish the punch list. A ribbon cutting ceremony was planned, to coincide with the University's December Board Meeting. However, given that the winters of New England can produce snow in December, which might preclude some board members from attending, a request was made by UNH to shorten the timeline and compress the final three months of work into one month, allowing the ribbon cutting ceremony to take place in October.

The project team accepted the challenge. The schedule was resequenced to maintain the fast pace. The trades worked double shifts (including

the weekends), and the architects visited the site twice as often to answer any questions as they arose. But completing the building early was only part of the challenge. The museum and the interactive technology also had to be installed for the facility to show its true colors.

With a focused and dedicated effort from the entire team, the accelerated schedule was met. The project was delivered ahead of the anticipated schedule and under budget. The project team was driven to meet the challenge, and accommodated the University's request.

The educational atmosphere can present many construction challenges. No matter

what age group, the safety of students, faculty and administrators is always the first priority. New technology and building and programmatic requirements can make science and lab buildings even more of a challenge.

To learn more about how Petra Construction can provide assistance for your next project, call Guido Petra, President, or Ron Goodin, Director of Business Development at 203-865-6043.



The interactive museum inside the Henry C. Lee Institute building

Project Profile

Owner:

University of New Haven
West Haven, CT

Project:

Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science

Project Delivery System:

Construction Management

Project Team

University of New Haven

Thomas Beebe, Vice President for Facilities

Petra Construction Corporation

Al Pacelli, Project Executive
Dan Roth, Senior Project Manager
Valerie Murray, Assistant Project Manager
Rick Wollman, Superintendent
Walter Moore, Superintendent
Steven Dicks, Director of Program Management
Dean Coogan, Program Manager

Design Team

Design

Sasaki Associates, Inc.
Nancy Freedman, Project Manager
Robert Titus, Architect
Vinicius Gorgati, Principal
Christine Dunn, Associate

Engineers

Rist-Frost-Shumway Engineering, PC
John Adkins, Contract Administrator

Structural

Foley & Buhl Engineers, Inc.
Geoff Conway, Project Director

Special thanks to all of Petra's jobsite personnel, subcontractors and material suppliers

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