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Wausau's Window Systems Contribute to Impressive Façade, Sustainable Design Goals of Princeton University's New Emma B. Bloomberg Hall

Wausau, Wis. – Wausau Window and Wall Systems provided the metal framework and window systems' varied shapes and sizes integral to the impressive façade of Princeton University's newest dormitory, Emma B. Bloomberg Hall. In addition to helping articulate the architectural aesthetic, Wausau's systems contributed to the project's sustainable design goals, which were modeled after the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver Rating® criteria.

The construction of the new, \$26 million Emma B. Bloomberg Hall is part of an overall campus expansion responding to the university's most active growth since its peak in the 1960's. Architectural firm Michael Dennis and Associates of Boston designed the new 100,000-square foot dormitory to house the projected 11% increase in student enrollment by 2010. Conceptually, the architects sought to maintain a balance between the existing, collegiate gothic buildings and the more recent, abstract designs.



Nicknamed the "Ellipse Dorm," Michael O'Keefe, project manager for Michael Dennis and Associates explains that Emma B. Bloomberg Hall is "located on the southern edge of campus, the building borders an elliptically shaped open space used for intramural playfields and reinforces and extends the planning traditions of the campus core to the north, where buildings define intimate quadrangles and open spaces, and it joins with the neighboring buildings to make a grand elliptical crescent defining the elliptical playfields to the south."

A large arch, the building's most distinctive feature, separates the east and west wings of the dormitory. The ceiling of the arch features a wall drawing "Whirls and Twirls," by artist Sol LeWitt. Constructed as a ceremonial outdoor passage, the arch connects Elm Drive to Poe Field, and is high enough to accommodate the height of floats and trucks that pass through for parades and ceremonies.

"There are a lot of unique dimensions to this building. It's definitely not your typical square building," observes Steve Fronek, vice president of Wausau.

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Kurt Beidle, project manager for Wausau, agrees and adds, "It is a very unusual building. It fits well with the architectural design of the existing campus, yet it has a contemporary feel and features an elaborate metal trim and shadow box framing around the windows." Informally called 'crinkle wall,' this intricate metal framework features oblique- and acute-angled window corner mullions creating a unique visual effect.



Helping achieve this signature look and meet the environmental performance objectives, Fronek, Beidle and their colleagues worked closely with Michael Dennis and Associates, and Princeton University's Office of Physical Planning. Wausau engineered, fabricated and delivered the crinkle wall along with its 3250 Series fixed and casement windows to Metalan Erectors of Doylestown, Pa.

A frequent choice for dormitories, Wausau's 3250 Series windows on the Emma B. Bloomberg Hall were triple-glazed for maximum thermal performance and further enhanced with sun shading for additional solar control. Other architectural and operational elements supporting the building's environmental goals include an HVAC system with heat exchanges, exhaust air heat recovery and variable speed motors; optimized insulation values in the exterior envelope; minimized light production; trash chutes for recycling; and building commissioning.

Completed for the 2004 academic year, Emma B. Bloomberg hall accommodates 220 students in varied room configurations consisting of 15 four-room suites and two-room double- and single-occupancy rooms. All rooms feature hardwood bamboo flooring for sustainability and durability. The facility features a kitchen and dining room with an outdoor terrace, four laundry rooms and two study rooms. The basement is acoustically isolated with double walls and rubber damped suspending cables to accommodate practice rooms for musical groups, as well as for the University's radio station.



Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

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