

Project Experience

University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning

The University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning (George Pearl Hall) sits along what was once the historic Route 66 and continues to be the heart of the University area and Central Avenue. This stately campus facility houses the School of Architecture for the University, The Perish Memorial Fine Arts Library and numerous classrooms, faculty offices and a first floor patio and breezeway. In addition, the School of Architecture incorporates elements from southwestern design and architecture, a nod to the expansive skyscape of Albuquerque and thoughtful consideration to the use of light and space within a state of the art educational arena. In addition to the aesthetic value of the space, the design is intended to guide young architects through their education providing both structural examples and inspiration.



This project has been recognized several times, including the prestigious Southwest Contractor Award, New Mexico Best of 2008, for Higher Education and Concrete building and as a **finalist in the under \$30 million category by the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations.**

This 108,000 square foot, four-story campus facility includes a basement and both high and low roof levels. The structural systems involved metal deck over open web steel joist and steel beams supported by steel girder beams. The elevated floors are comprised of concrete over acoustic metal deck supported by composite steel beams and steel girders. Four wide flange steel trusses span all levels of the structure to provide a column-free 96-foot breezeway at the ground level. Walls are comprised of large cantilevered concrete and glass sections on the south side. The north, east and west walls are framed with steel studs and glass windows.

Architects strove to create a learning environment where students could experience architecture through their education by seeing structural supports such as wide flange beams as well as the conduits and ductwork. Chavez-Grieves Consulting Engineers designed 40 foot long cantilevered concrete walls. They navigated cantilevered balconies, cantilevered stair landings and floors through innovative perspectives; use of support structures such as wind girders along the expansive windows and continued reinforcement of self-consolidating concrete reinforced the intricate geometry of this building. In total, 650,000 pounds of concrete were used to create the cantilevered walls. A 652 pound per foot beam was also incorporated to span 56 feet.

