

Tacoma Community College Information Technology Center

Tacoma, WA



Team

Architect

Callison Architecture, Seattle, WA

Engineer:

AKB Engineers, Inc., Seattle, WA

General Contractor:

Swinerton Builders, San Francisco, CA

Concrete Contractor:

Albrecht Birkenbuel, Inc., Snohomish, WA

Total Project Cost:

\$10 million

Total Project Size:

56,516 sq ft

Photography:

Chris Eden

STRUCTURAL FRAMING SYSTEM

TCC's 56,516 square-foot Information Technology Center transforms the College's network of the 1960s buildings amid surface parking into a more cohesive, integrated campus. The Information Technology Center also set a precedent for ensuing campus buildings' designs and site placement.

Originally, Callison Architecture and TCC planned this building for another location just north of its existing site. However, to create a campus gateway and provide a larger location to better accommodate the building's massing and size requirements, Callison moved the building to its existing site.

Callison and two other architecture firms collaborated with TCC and the State, to work on the master plans first buildings. Miller/Hull designed the Science Building and Schacht Aslani Architects designed the Classroom Administration Building and contributed site-planning by including representatives from both the College and State.

Integrating technological infrastructure within the building was key. Concrete was used as both a structural and finishing material. Since there are no dropped ceilings in the classroom areas and most public spaces, cabling which otherwise would be hidden above the dropped ceiling was left exposed.

UNIQUE DESIGN FEATURES

Corridors provide visual interest by alternating materials. One corridor side features a serene concrete shearwall with deep recesses for classroom and offices, and the opposite side has painted sheetrock, wood and an iridescent tile between a grid of concrete columns.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING REINFORCED CONCRETE

Site-cast reinforced concrete serves as both the structure and the finishing material for the Information Technology Center. Instead of choosing to build with one material and clad with another, reinforced concrete provided an elegant, efficient, aesthetic, and cost-effective solution for the building's design. The structure provided a dramatic appeal with its concrete ceilings, soffits, columns, and shear wall as well as being offset by warm woods and painted metal.

Callison coordinated with the concrete subcontractor to create mock-up form panels to practice the finishing as well as the alignment of panels for the building. Self-consolidating concrete mixture was specified to ensure smooth panel texture.

The Center's design was born out of purity of function with innovative use of concrete to achieve multiple functions and elegant simplicity.