

4-1-2008

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Recommended Citation

Magdziarz, Wayne and Patterson, Devon (2008) "Both Transparent and Green," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 33, Article 19.

Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol33/iss1/19>

Both Transparent and Green

Partnering Technology and Beauty

By Wayne Magdziarz and Devon Patterson

When rumors first began to spread that a building was planned to connect the Cudahy Library and the Madonna della Strada Chapel of Loyola University Chicago, there was widespread dismay. Because any such building would have to be built smack across the stretch of lovely green lawn bordering the lakeshore which is the greatest asset of this campus of Loyola. It would block off one of the city's more beautiful views of Lake Michigan!

But dismay changed to wonderment and admiration when it turned out that the building *would not* block the view and seal the campus off from the lake. Instead, it would enable students *inside* this "Information Commons" addition to the library to see all around them — both lake and campus — and campus-users

outside it to see into and through it: the structure would be *all glass*.

Well, almost all. The far ends of the structure are precast limestone matching the adjoining buildings, but the entire center has three-story glass facades on both its sides, so that most of the 70,000 sq. feet of study space is transparent. And, key to the concept, the entire building is "green" — one of fewer than 50 buildings in Chicago to be LEED (Leadership in Environmental Engineering and Design) Silver certified.

U.S. and German architects and engineers have created it to engage the environment while being incredibly energy-efficient. Its double-skin glass façade on the landside allows for an innovative hybrid natural ventilation approach taking advantage of airflows across Lake Michigan, with sophisticated computerized sunshades which control the heat load on the building's inte-

rior. On the lakeside, cool air enters from operable windows. Hollow floor slabs are water-cooled in summer and water-heated in winter, while almost 90 percent of indoor lighting needs is provided by harnessing exterior natural light. Computer-model indications are that the building's system design will save 50 percent of the energy needed by similar sized and designed projects.

For an educational tradition which values beauty as well as efficiency, this kind of structure makes sense. More than 800 study and computer workstations, complete wireless internet access, eight state of the art electronic classrooms and 35 group study and seminar rooms, plus an unparalleled vista and a clear window to nature — what better way of symbolizing the blend of body and spirit we want Jesuit schools to recognize and foster? ■