

Annette and Theodore Lerner Family Health & Wellness Center George Washington University

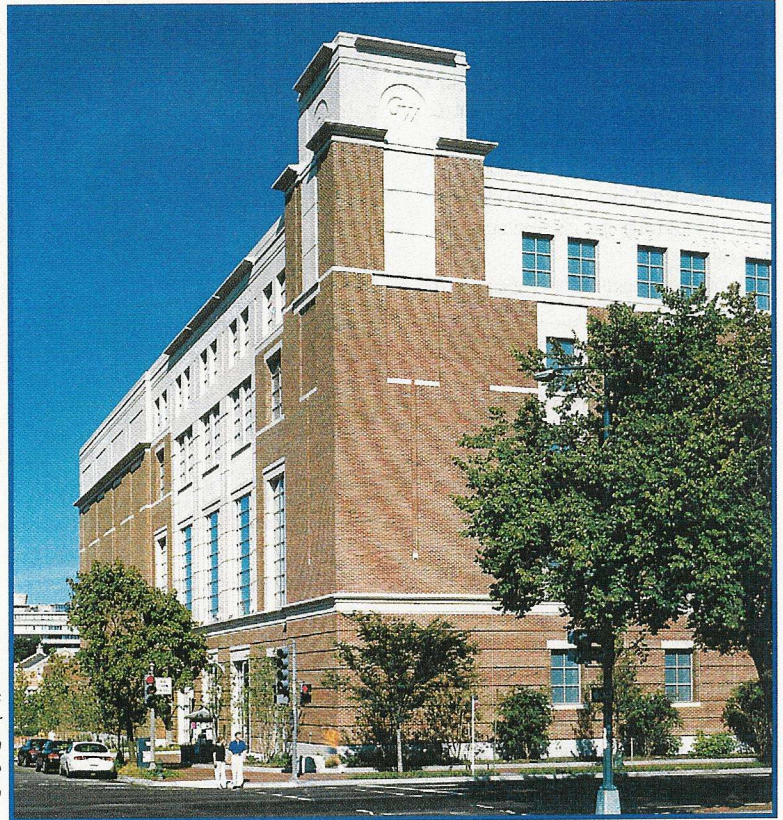
Washington, D.C.

With its molded red brick and limestone-colored precast comices, belt courses and window trim, the Lerner Center lends memorable collegiate character to the George Washington University campus. The surrounding urban context dictated that approximately half of the building's area be accommodated below grade. In addition, a setback of 70 feet was required from a neighboring historic church to avoid shading of its stained-glass windows. This setback was used to create a terraced garden plaza accessible by both the campus and neighboring communities.

The main entry and control lobby are located on an intermediate level to provide on-grade accessibility into the building. The adjacent monumental interior stair dramatizes students' sense of arrival. Long-span structural demands dictated that two gyms be stacked at the uppermost floors. Multipurpose rooms are situated on the second floor, where they enjoy convenient access to the lobby as well as at-grade access to the terraced garden. Highly used fitness and free-weight areas are situated a half-level below the lobby. Locker facilities, a swimming pool and equipment-issue areas are at the lowest activity level. Lower still are three levels of parking.

Combinations of ground-faced and integrally colored concrete block, laid in several different patterns, were employed as the predominant interior wall finish. Patterned terrazzo floors appear in major public spaces and circulation areas. Walls and floors are kept relatively neutral, in tones of gray and white, to promote a timeless sensibility. Wood valances, casework, doors and lockers are maple with a reddish tint to add warmth.

The Lerner Center's vertical massing and tower embellishment help form a visual gateway to the George Washington University campus.

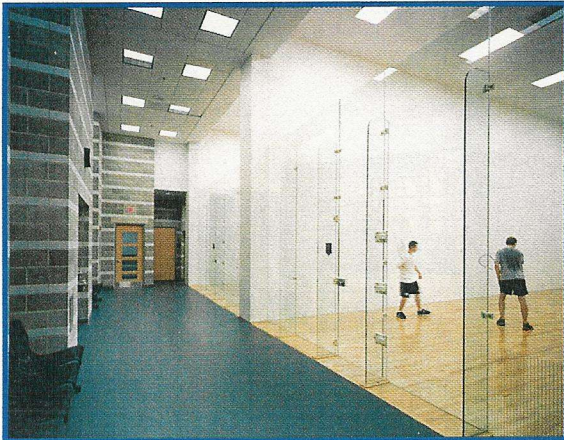


Photos by Alan Karchner

The monumental interior stair dramatizes students' sense of arrival.



Wood valances, casework, doors and lockers are maple with a reddish tint to add warmth.



Combinations of ground-faced and integrally colored concrete block, laid in several different patterns, were employed as the predominant interior wall finish.



Though glare from natural light was a concern when designing the gymnasiums, views of the city from the higher floors were deemed very desirable.



Long-span structural demands dictated that two gyms be stacked at the facility's uppermost floors.

Architect of Record:
 Ayers/Saint/Gross Architects
 Washington, D.C.

Aquatic Design Engineer:
 Rowley International Inc.
 Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.

Cost: \$31.5 million
Square Feet: 180,000
Occupancy: August 2001