

# Facilities of Merit

twenty-fourth annual ©2004

## Texas Christian University Recreation Center Renovation and Addition Ft. Worth, Texas

### CANNON DESIGN

Los Angeles, Calif.

#### Associate Architect:

Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford  
Ft. Worth, Texas

#### Graphics Consultant:

Gallagher & Associates  
Bethesda, Md.

#### Aquatic Design Engineer:

Councilman/Hunsaker and  
Associates Inc.  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Cost:** \$23.5 million

**Square Feet:** 224,000

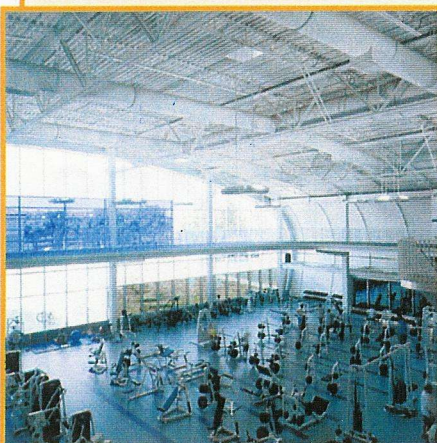
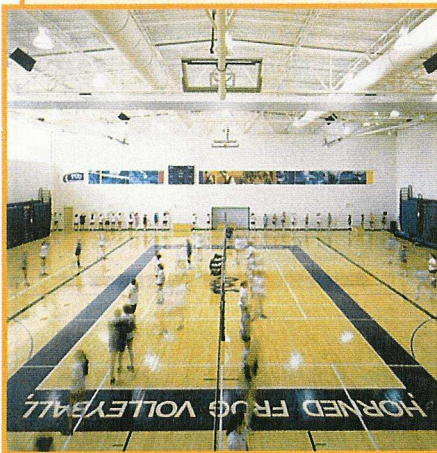
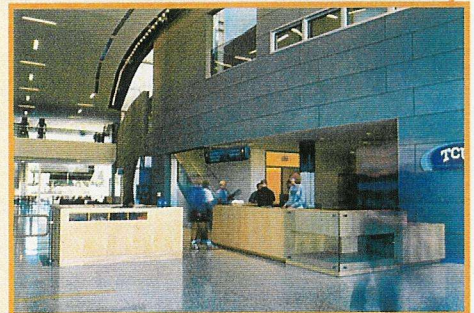
**Funded by:** 50 percent student fees,  
50 percent private gifts

Major facility components: Five-court  
multiuse gymnasium, fitness center,  
racquetball and squash courts,  
climbing wall, running track, Internet  
café, juice bar, outdoor swimming  
pool, sand volleyball courts, passive  
recreation facilities

With "elegance and simplicity," Texas Christian University transformed Rickel Hall — an outdated, 1970s building near the center of campus — into a recreation center capable of meeting the expectations of today's TCU students. Designers expanded, remodeled and reconfigured the windowless precast concrete structure in inventive ways to better suit modern student life and the current campus setting.

A dynamically shaped fitness center is the new recreation center's most visible and highly used space. Designers capitalized on the opportunities presented by the facility's broadly curved copper roof to incorporate large expanses of glass that provide passersby views into various activity spaces. At night, the recreation center serves as a campus beacon, as its "inviting and spacious interior" is brightly illuminated. Meanwhile, other spaces are screened by photo murals and panels of colored and translucent glass.

Unifying the new recreation center's facades are crisp walls of light-colored brick that match existing campus buildings. On two sides of the building, copper panels mimic the fitness center's roof.



### Judges' Comments

*"Great use of exterior materials and forms creates an exciting mass of building elements, which translates into an inviting and spacious interior."*

— REED VOORHEES

*"The large, oval volume is dynamic, open and inviting. It's easy to see how this new form and the activities it contains has inspired greater student participation and connectivity to campus."*

— DAVID DYMECKI

*"This bold transformation takes great advantage of its context. The new entry and exercise pavilion set the tone for a remarkable evolution of the existing facility."*

— CHRISTOPHER WYNN