

HONOR AWARD

Law School Facility
West Bank Campus
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis

University of Minnesota
Board of Regents
Owner

The Leonard Parker Associates
Minneapolis
Architects

Bakke Kopp Ballou & McFarlin
Minneapolis
Structural Engineers

Ericksen Ellison & Associates
Saint Paul
Mechanical/Electrical Engineers

Bailey & Associates
Eden Prairie, Minnesota
Landscape Architect

Bor-Son Construction Inc.
Richfield, Minnesota
General Contractors

Midwest Mechanical Services
Minneapolis
Mechanical Contractors

Electric Repair & Construction
Minneapolis
Electrical Contractors

R & O Elevator
Minneapolis
Vertical Transportation

Shin Koyama
Photography

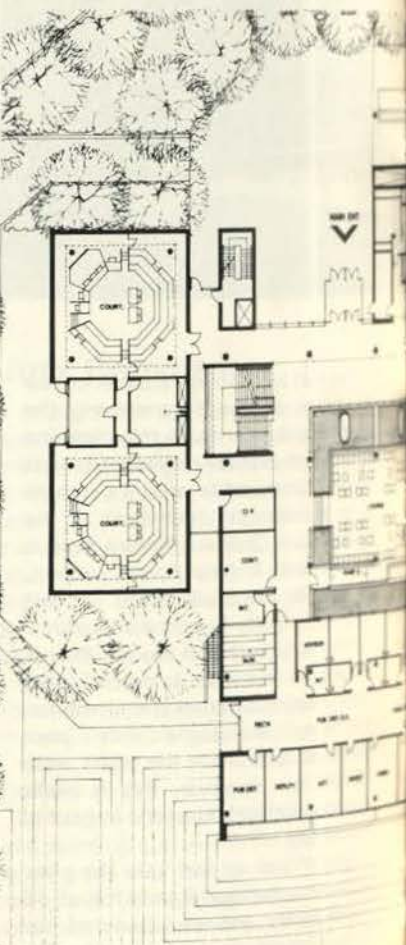
Housing 1,000 law students, faculty and staff, the Law School sits on a former University parking lot above Highway 12 at the entrance to the West Bank of the University. On the east side, the Law School is physically connected to the Auditorium Classroom Building, offering a connection to other campus facilities.

The Law School relates abstractly to the components of law education: justice, service and education. These abstract ideals are expressed physically through 1) courts as instruments of justice; 2) administration, public defender, legal aid as instruments of service; and 3) a law library, classrooms and faculty offices as instruments of education and research in law.

The basic building organization gives symbolic expression to these functions as "building blocks" organized around a central student activity area. Courtrooms, community service and administration facilities are at one end of the building, student activity in the center, and the library, housing 600,000 volumes, is literally stacked above classrooms on the other end.

The stepped massing on the south facade places the greatest number of books in the closest proximity to the main reading room at plaza level, expresses the reading and study functions as "rooms" along the building edge, and cuts off views and noise of Highway 12.

The building shows a concern for energy consumption with such features as earth-covered roofs planted with evergreens, deep overhangs, and reflective glass. □





Jury Comments

Chan. The new law school forms a good entrance to the campus and establishes a sense of place for this part of the university. I am not sure which elevation is the front or back. It has that nice ambiguity. One elevation is a gesture to the south end of the campus and arrival by automobile, and the other side creates a sense of entrance. It is located across a difficult site, with a freeway running through it as well as a long connection to the main campus. The overall quality of workmanship, the consistency of carrying the idea through, the whole organizational structure, its relationship to the campus, in particular the tough problem of integrating sprinkler systems is very, very well worked out. Obviously, they had a large budget. We think the lawyers will be very proud of their building.

Myers. To raise some questions: One of the problems that all of us face is the issue of the relationship of form to content, of symbolic appropriateness. This building is highly articulated and it raises the question of whether the traditional approach of a blocklike form rather than so much articulation would be more symbolically appropriate to this climate. However, it's a very handsome building. It is well organized in plan and we had no difficulty finding our way around.

Lumsden. With respect to the point Barton made about articulation, I have a different interpretation. I would call it a variant formed building, and my response to the criticism of this variant form would be: If the functions work equally well under the variant form, the variant form is as sensible as any other form. □

