



University Center wins top award for brick design

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GRAYSLAKE -- The striped brick design of the University Center of Lake County helps it to balance blending in with neighboring buildings on the College of Lake County campus and standing apart as a distinct entity.

The University Center design recently won the Gold Award in the Illinois/Indiana Masonry Council's annual Excellence in Masonry competition. Only two out of 100 submissions received the distinction.

It's the second award University Center has received since construction was completed in October 2005. Last year, it won the award for outstanding new construction from the Illinois Capital Development Board.

The new facility's location on the CLC campus posed a difficult challenge to Waukegan-based Legat Architects: How to design a facility that complements existing buildings but distinguishes the client as a distinct entity. The result was a striped brick design that matches the color of the CLC buildings, and a curving steel atrium with large windows that is unique on the campus.

"It marries our building to the look of the CLC buildings on the brick side, but we still have the glass-and-metal side that is kind of a wow factor that sets us apart," said Hilary Ward Schnadt, associate dean for academic services and programs at University Center. "We're related to them, but something different."

Exposed brick also appears in the living-room-style alcoves between classroom units.

"The brick helps create these comfortable nooks where small groups of students can get together to work on projects," Schnadt said.

University Center houses baccalaureate and graduate degree programs from 18 Illinois colleges and universities. The \$19.8 million, 91,000-square-foot facility combines programs from the participating institutions under one roof. Many classrooms use video-conferencing technology to provide distance learning with several institutions simultaneously.

Representatives from Legat Architects and general contractor Henry Brothers Co., Hickory Hills, accepted the Gold Award for the design in April.