Founded on a charitable gift in 1893, the Armour Institute stood as a beacon of education and generosity, showing the world what good can come from a donation as simple as the $1 million given by Philip Danforth Armour.

Today, that tradition is carried on. Once again, that beacon of education and charity is hoisted high for the 21st century. The world can now see more clearly what good can come from a gift, given in the truest spirit of charity to an institution bound to provide a first-rate education to many who could not otherwise afford it.

*Transforming lives, inventing the future,* and standing tall as the *Illinois Institute of Technology,* today we present the latest step in that long tradition.
A Letter from the President

When you have some of the most extraordinary students in the world, you have to raise the bar to meet their expectations.

At IIT, we certainly have exceptional students, and you deserve an equally exceptional and stimulating campus environment. Later this week we will celebrate another giant step towards not just meeting, but hopefully exceeding your expectations. The McCormick Tribune Campus Center will unify our campus, creating a nexus for social and scholastic interaction. Combining high tech with high touch, the center includes state of the art features with great spaces for student interaction. My hope is that the new Campus Center will be an integral and enjoyable part of your IIT experience.

While the opening of The McCormick Tribune Campus Center is another important milestone in the renovation and revitalization of our Main Campus, it is also an inspiration to accelerate our momentum. We remain dedicated to creating a bright future for you and our neighboring community as we continue to improve the IIT student experience. I look forward to celebrating many more milestones with you along the way.

Lew Collens, President
Homecoming
Homecoming begins Oct 5
The complete schedule of events is on the website...

Lion King
Tickets go on sale at noon on Oct 4 for the Sunday Oct 12 performance

Weekly Film: The Guru
c/o-sponsored by ISA
Thursday & Saturday - 7p, 10p
Sunday - 3p
HUB Auditorium

Weekly Meeting:
Tuesday at 1p
E1 025, lunch is provided

MTCC Grand Opening
Thursday, Oct 2:
First Bog Night
First event in the new campus center!
Featuring Escape from Earth and Disonic
Music starts at 10p

Friday, Oct 3:
Party Under the Tube!
featuring...

MTCC Ballroom
8p, Free Admission

Other attractions include...
Film Previews (UB)
Roving Artists (UB, OSA, CCC)
Blues Guitarist (OSA)
Intl. Fest Sneak Preview (ISO)
Delt Coffee House (ΔΤΔ)
Art Show (Whiplash)

The party begins at 5p!
IIT Adds Fresh Face to Student Affairs

By Kalaida Holmes

TECHNEWS WRITER

It’s two o’clock in the afternoon and Ms. Lisa Montgomery is on a business phone call, one of many during a long yet unfinished day, with an exhausted but determined look on her face. She ends her phone call and immediately turns to give me an award-winning, welcoming smile, and says, “Hey Girl! How are you?” with so much sincere energy. I immediately felt welcomed and shared in Lisa’s excitement about her first TechNews interview. Lisa is the new director of Women’s Services and Diversity Education (formerly Women’s Outreach and Resource Center, WORC), a division of Student Affairs.

Lisa is a graduate of DePaul University, where she also worked in the Development Office before coming to IIT. Because of a desire to administer programs within higher education, she chose to pursue her Bachelors at DePaul in Education Administration. While working in the Development Office at DePaul University, Lisa and some colleagues befriended female student athletes who wanted to talk to other women about their experiences, mistakes, and challenges. That is how Lisa realized how much Chicago has to offer. Lisa goes on to say, “It took a while for that to become a reality for me because when you live here, you take things for granted like the fact that we have bus stops on every major street, that the T runs from one end of the city to the other, and other things like that.”

Not only does Lisa want to provide students with more ways to interact with the city of Chicago, but Lisa is here at the request of student leaders as they train for career development and resourcefulness. Right now a needs assessment is being conducted by Ms. Montgomery because she wants to “make sure services are valuable and that students are fulfilled after receiving services.”

Women’s Services will also provide outreach programs for spouses of IIT students, she adds, and there will be increased interaction and participation of local adolescent high school girls in pre-college engineering and technology programs at IIT.

Lisa’s office is currently in Wishnich Hall (office is currently in Wishnich Hall) and will no longer be a physical center for Women’s Services, but an office in the Women’s Resource Center (MTCC). Lisa is excited about the move to MTCC because it will give more exposure and accessibility to Women’s Services. Wondering what will become of the movie and book rentals in the WORC? Lisa plans to create a partnership with the Galvin Library to provide the services and books for the work and with libraries to develop lists that will have a greater focus on women’s issues and diversity education.

Partnerships will bring about an increase in support services that will increase the comfort level of female students because at the moment “there just isn’t enough support services for students in addition to regular academic services,” Lisa says. Further collaboration with academic departments to provide workshops to address the issue of diversity within the classrooms and supply mechanisms to demystify the academic community on the issue of diversity is another objective of Women’s Services and Diversity Education. Lisa emphasized the role of Diversity Education at IIT, saying that “Diversity Education will provide workshops that will help develop IIT student leaders as they train for career development and resourcefulness.”

Lisa has big goals and expectations for IIT and is happy about the warm welcomes she has received thus far, but wants the support to keep coming through the open house. “Students can also get a taste of the Internal Fund,” remarked Paul Terzino the Director, Hermann Union and Student Activities.

“I want the internal fund to be one of the various participants will be rehearsing in the new building on October 3rd” remarked Mary Taylor-Blais, Director of Student Activities. Table Tennis and Billiards tables presented in the new fully coin operated Recreation center will also be available for use. Various pool table tricks will be demonstrated by trick artist on that day. An Improv group from Chicago is also going to perform during the open house.

Students are all encouraged to come and be part of the celebrations that are going to be held in a building acclaimed internationally for its architecture.
Hopes Flying High for Student Life Improvement

By Daniel Crandall

A n the Vice President for En

tertainment, John Baworowsky has seen a
great deal of the nature of Illinois
nstitute of Technology’s student body. He is in high hopes that the estab-
lishment of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center will greatly improve the
ature of this campus. The MTCC is expected to revitalize the entire student body of IIT by
creating a central site of in-
eraction on campus—a place that will enable interaction amongst
students from all grade levels and all campuses here at IIT.

“I think that the McCormick Tribune Campus Center will transform
life at IIT,” commented Baworowsky. “It will be one of the finest student centers at any col-
lege campus. It will bring our students, faculty, and
staff together under one roof for meals, recreation, meetings, and fellowship.”

Many students on campus very well know that the Princeton Review has not given IIT high scores on the appearance of the campus, but is strongly believed that the construction of this new campus center will change those rankings. Overall, the MTCC is expected to be the focus and pride of IIT. It will be the main point of inter-
action on every level.

Now that Dean Doug Geiger’s office is moving to this building from his former location in Wilschick Hall, he will certainly be more accessible to the students’ needs. Several new of-

ices will be located in the building and there will be offices for student affairs and meeting rooms for stu-
dents. The departments of Student Affairs and Student Activities are

expecting to witness a significant improvement in their involvement on campus. With their of-

fices and meeting sites located in one central area, they will definitely be more accessible to the students.

Not only is the MTCC just a new build-
ing, it is a building of archi-
tectural appreciation. “Unlike other schools’ plain brick and glass structures, the MTCC is a work of art,” stated Baworowsky. “We are fortunate to have a president in Lew Collins who has a vision for great ar-
chitectures on our campus.”

Baworowsky strongly feels that the MTCC will definitely improve stu-
dent life on campus. “My vision for IIT is to build a strong student affairs division that will enhance student life on campus.”

The MTCC is generating a great deal of attention and many have people have expressed their desire to have of-

fices in the new student center. Unfortunately, Baworowsky will not have an office in the MTCC but will view the Center as an extension of his on-

office window, and hopes to see a sig-
nificant improvement in student life at IIT. “When you go to this building, you’ll be able to look back on your time at IIT fondly,” stated Baworowsky. Hopefully, the MTCC will indeed be the new focus this campus needs to im-

prove student life.

New Bog Improves on Old One

By Daniel Crandall

Many are excited about the new student center slated to open Oct. 3. It will bring about many changes to the dynamics of student life at IIT. No more walk-

ing around construction, the change in location of many offices, and (insert pause for dramatic affect) the return of the Bog. For the freshmen that are unaware, the Bog was essentially a bar on campus, though lacking hard aco-

hol and mixed drinks.

The bog used to reside in the base-

ment of the student center, but now it is being moved to a place that will be the center of the major walkways. Center

Court will also contain the snack shop and something similar to the HUB car-

eteria; all contained in the same small area with seating for 150. The simple fact that it is in an open space will

make regulation of alcohol difficult, but the people in charge have taken that into account. There will be two

bar in the building—seating with a view of the greenery between the Cam-

pus Center and the commons. The bar is both a change to the packaging of the alco-

hol. The tap beers will remain the same, but instead of glass bottles, there will be plastic bottles. Keith Pimer has said that the list of drinks

are serving the subject to change. They are always open to requests.

Adjacent to Center Court is a bar

casa with seating, while no alco-

hol is allowed on the balcony, one

with food can sit and enjoy the view

of the greenery between the Cam-

pus Center and the commons.

This is a great addition to the building. The new bog is also more technologically advanced than its pre-
necessor; containing 5 flat screens and

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eteria; all contained in the same small area with seating for 150. The simple fact that it is in an open space will

make regulation of alcohol difficult, but the people in charge have taken that into account. There will be two

bouncer type employees; one to walk about and make sure that there is no

underage consumption and another to assure the alcohol does not leave the

appropriate areas. The area is sup-

posed to open at 11 in the morning, but for all you alcoholics, you might want to wait before you go to get your morning buzz. The Bog portion will

not open until 8 pm. Compared to the

Bog that inhabited the HUB, the new

Bog will open quite a bit later. The entire area will remain open until 1 am. Since it is also going to contain the

snack shop, it will stock the usual snack shop items. There are no planned changes for prices though there are plans of expanding the regular menu (a much welcomed change). The alcohol served will be Budweiser products and some wine (a red, a white, and a zinfandel). The specifics about the wine have yet to be

hammered out. There will be a change to the packaging of the alco-

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TechNews Would Like to Thank the Following People for Making This Issue Possible

President Lew Collins, Nancy Aguad, Judy Carr, Dick Behrenhausen, Tonya Pilprof, Holly McCormick-

Simpson, John Baworowsky, Paul Terzino, Charles

Ferrell, Keith Pimer, Phil Roen, Ren Kothaus & OMA, Donna Robertson, and many others.
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By Christopher Berenfeld

As many have already noticed, the McCormick Tribune Campus Center’s palette of materials is considerably “wilder” than most conventional buildings. What has been described as the “maroon tiger stripes” is actually a representation of a wood grain. In the original, scheme a lot of real wood was planned to be used through out the building; however, because of cost concerns and fire codes that was impossible so Rem Koolhaas found different ways of representing wood in the new building. There are several types of flooring in the building, a carpet similar to the one used in O’Hare Airport that is like wool; very high traffic), the aluminum flooring that was being tested in the HUB, and an epoxy flooring that is a new type of flooring and has previously only been used in industrial settings. It is poured in a few seamless layers and has a very glossy, almost wet look that is unlike any other flooring that has been used, it also acts as a permanent moisture barrier and does not allow anything to sink into it or up through it.

Finally we get to the “orange things,” of which there are many. First many people have asked where does the orange come from? Orange is the national color of the Dutch and the Netherlands, so it is a color that Koolhaas is very comfortable with, and it is one of very few colors that go well with concrete, steel and the many other construction materials. Orange is also a color that is considered to represent youth, childhood, and fun, all of which are very important concepts in the building. The orange glass at the front of the building is a material called Pannelite, which is basically the same material that drinking straws are made out of sandwiched between two sheets of glass or plastic; it is used through out the building in many different forms and applications for everything from office walls to bathroom stalls. There are even several desks, counters, and study carrels made out of the translucent material. The orange wallpaper is perhaps one of the most dominating features of the building and is visible from State Street. It is actually a holographic wallpaper that appears about 4 inches deep and comes in three different colors: the orange and yellow, a brown and gold suited in the University Club, and black and silver (used in the office portion). This holographic wallpaper is the most profound and “Miesian” use of a material in the building; now there are probably a few professors lurking in the basement of Crown Hall who would have a heart attack over that statement, but it is true. What Mies Van Der Rohe’s curriculum (which is still used today) teaches is that each material has its own characteristics and its own properties and she is used in a way that expresses its uniqueness. For example, a masonry building should be built in a way that a wood building couldn’t, a steel building should express steel’s unique qualities and so forth. Wallpaper is often frowned upon in the architecture community because it is labeled as “fake” or covering up, applying a pattern which tries to look as though it was painted onto the wall.

The brilliance of Koolhaas’s holographic wallpaper is that it expresses a quality of the material that could not be reproduced by any other material. One cannot paint on a hologram, there is no wood grain that has that same visual effect. Koolhaas found wallpaper that expressed a unique quality and used it in a way that it expresses its own materiality, which is one of the very essences of Mies’s teachings. Now granted that Mies’s aesthetic was much more subdued, the fundamental principles and ideas are the same. The example of the wallpaper can be extended to many of the spatial elements of the building as well, they are built upon many of Mies’s ideas but applied in a new way. Mies taught us that a good building should be of its time and represent the culture from which it comes.

Tenuous Connections: Another Fusion of Mies and Rem

By Christopher Berenfeld

The new McCormick Tribune Campus Center is decidedly different from most other buildings, so in the tradition of most important buildings, its construction has raised many controversies concerning almost all of its aspects. From the engineering, to the space planning, the use of materials, the graphic arts—everyone who confronts Rem’s design has an opinion, however, the most controversial part of the building is its location. The student center is located directly adjacent (and even dates to touch) Mies Van Der Rohe’s Commons Building. The Commons, which dates back to 1954, is considered to be one of Mies’s finest buildings that uses the absolute minimum amount of steel to support the curtain-walls. It was originally the cafeteria for all 6000 students, but later fell out of use and into disrepair. The significance of the connection between “the Mies” and “the Rem” is that no other architect has actually ever connected to or significantly changed a Mies Van Der Rohe building, so the idea of someone even touching one—especially on the IIT campus sent shockwaves through the architectural community. Many sought the notion of connecting the two buildings, and a lawsuit was even filed. It is hard for those who are not in architecture to understand, but Mies is a “cult figure" to many in the architectural community. Several of the professors who currently teach in Crown Hall attended IIT when Mies was the Dean, and are determined to preserve his work and legacy. When it finally became clear that construction was going to continue, the preservationists, IIT, and Koolhaas eventually agreed on several compromises, which in large part would shape the final scheme. The roof of the student center was lowered so it would not look over the commons, and the connection is brought to the absolute minimum with only one penetration into the wall. The glass that separates the two buildings is an ultra transparent glass that is similar to the glass the I.M. Pei used in the pyramids at the Louvre in Paris. The French demanded the finest glass that could be made, one that would not change the color as regular glass does to light. The idea behind the 99.9% transparent glass is that one would still be able to see Mies’s building standing alone because the idea of his buildings are boxes on a plane. They are raised up on a plinth, which is the concrete step in front of many of his buildings, and stand quietly alone in a stately manner. Another aspect of great dispute was that Rem’s plan called for exposing a corner of the foundation wall of the Commons to create a courtyard that lead out from the Center Court (new blog area).

It was finally agreed that they could expose it if the concrete was covered with “Mies black” (yes that is the name of the actual color) steel panels.

Through the construction of the new student center the Commons Building is also receiving a complete restoration to its 1954 specifications with very few differences, and it is also regaining its purpose as the main cafeteria for the campus. Architecturally speaking, the connection between the two buildings, the way in which the Koolhaas building frames and displays the commons building in an entirely new way is the most exciting architectural moment in the building. The student center literally embraces and preserves for all to see the beauty of the once neglected commons building, and establishes a new condition, a symbiotic relationship that is sure to firmly secure the two buildings a place in architectural history.
August 1938 Mies van der Rohe comes to Chicago to chair the department of architecture at Armour Institute of Technology. Mies consequently received the commission to do both the master plan and the major buildings on campus. Mies uses a 24’ by 24’ grid to layout the entire campus. This grid is based on the basic classroom, draft room, and laboratory.

Mies develops and reworks his schemes breaking away from the European Modernists and creates his own style. He simultaneously investigates structure and space, his two key components. Mies begins to overlap buildings, to bleed the spaces, and to express structure and unity.

Mies has 20 buildings on Campus:
- Academic Buildings:
  - Alumni Memorial Hall, 1946
  - Perlstein Hall, 1946
  - Wishnick Hall, 1946
  - S.R. Crown Hall, 1956
  - Siegel Hall, 1957
- Residential and related buildings:
  - Robert F.R. Carr Memorial Chapel, 1952
  - Carman Hall, 1953
  - The Commons, 1953
  - Cunningham Hall, 1955
  - Bailey Hall, 1955
- IITRI buildings:
  - Metals Technology Building, 1943
  - Engineering Research Building, 1944
  - Institute of Gas Technology, 1950
  - Mechanical Engineering Research Building I, 1952
  - Physics and Electrical Engineering Research Building, 1952
  - Metals Technology Building Extension, 1958
  - American Association of Railroads buildings:
    - Administration Building, 1950
    - Mechanical Engineering Building, 1953
    - Laboratory Building, 1957
    - Boiler Plant, 1950

Mies leaves IIT in 1958 and SOM takes over to design the IIT campus. Galvin, The HUB, under Walter Netsch; Stuart, Life Sciences, under Myron Goldsmith; 1996 Dirk Lohan, Lohan Associates develops an IIT Main Campus Master Plan which covers the no-mans land between state and Wabash. He calls for a new student center to replace the existing building. Donn Robertson chairs a juried competition of architects to design and build the new student center. The competition is narrowed to OMA (Koolhaas), Zaha Hadid, Helmut Jahn (M. Sejima). Koolhaas plan wins the competition and the Design Build Process Begins. 2003 Helmut Jahn’s State Street Village opens after only one year of construction. Today, Rem Koolhaas’ McCormick Tribune Campus Center Opens.

Opening of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center

PARTY UNDER THE TUBE

You know you all have been waiting for it. Well here it is! Help kick off the opening of Campus Center by partying under the tube!

Friday, October 3rd
5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
McCormick Tribune Campus Center

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM Roving Artist Various Locations
You never know what you will find around each corner of the Campus Center. You might find a magician, a juggler, a caricature artist or maybe even a mime. Sponsored by Union Board, Office of Student Activities and the Campus & Conferences Center.

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Keith Scott, Blues Guitarist Center Court
Keith Scott is one of Chicago’s most vibrant musicians. For the past 20 years he has built his reputation a sizzling blues guitarist, dynamic performer and noteworthy songwriter. Sponsored by Office of Student Activities.

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM Improv Olympics Ballroom
See the best long form improvisational comedy in the Windy City. They are a team of energetic and professional performers selected from the hundreds of improvisors who have performed at our theater over the past few years. Their shows are sophisticated, smart and deliciously funny. Sponsored by Union Board and your Student Activities Fund (SAF).

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM International Fest Sneak Preview Ballroom
International Fest is right around the corner on Friday, October 10th. Get the first glimpse by watching our various international student groups practice for the show. Celebrate our international committee and have some fun. Sponsored by International Student Organization.

10:00 PM Delta’s Coffee House Center Court
The Deltas have moved their awesome coffee house to a new location. Sit back grab a cup of joe and listen to the live music. You can even join in and be part of the show. It’s a great evening of entertainment and some darn good coffee. Sponsored by Delta Tau Delta Fraternity.

Sponsored by Union Board, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Whiplash, Key Grip Films, Student Activities Fund, Campus and Conferences Center, Global Grounds, International Student Association, and the Office of Student Activities.
The TechNews office is located in the Student Organization Center in Hermann Hall. Address: Illinois Institute of Technology, 3301 South Federal St., Chicago, IL 60616. Phone: (312) 567-3085. Fax: (312) 567-3278. E-mail: technews@iit.edu

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Letters may be doubled on any topic, but are subject to occasional editing. All letters should be written to the attention of TechNews' News Editor. The writer of a letter-to-the-editor may sign it. Letters must not be longer than 500 words. While every effort will be made to include letters-to-the-editor, not everyone can always be accommodated.

Legends to the Editor

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Bringing Mies to A New Generation

By Dominic Garascia & Annie Rantilla

ARTS & CHICAGO EDITORS

Rem Koolhaas of the Office of Metropolitan Architecture is responsible for the future of the IIT campus. As head architect, TechNews attempted to understand more about the intriguing structure and its polemical role in a new era of architecture and urban renewal.

Annie & Dominic: How did you go about designing on a campus with such an architectural heritage? How did you deal with all that tension?

Rem Koolhaas: Well, I think that it is easier to design for a beautiful environment rather than bad environment. In other words, there are so many great masterpieces that so many architects have thought about in such an important way, actually inspiring. And therefore it makes it interesting to work there. Another thing that I think is fascinating about the buildings of Mies is observing them, particularly in their current cultural context. Without a doubt, very few people especially younger people actually recognize that they are special. I don’t think that your personal experience, but young people don’t know without being taught they are special. I think that makes it very wonderful obligations of any new building that there is a responsibility of pointing out that Mies was special. And as a way, we are doing these things through the new building.

AD: That’s true.

RK: And that’s what we really tried to do. We tried to do in a variety of ways. One of those was to be noticeable and bring people along off State Street. Give them a reason to stop there. So that’s one thing. Another thing is that the Mies proposed campus was in a situation where the entire campus was surrounded by a dense urban condition. We knew that if there was any Mies at this moment, most of the surrounding city basically disappeared therefore taking some of the logic of what he tried to capture disappear because its no longer an open area surrounded by a dense urban area. So what we tried to do was bring back this idea of density with our project.

AD: How did you go about trying to reurbanize the campus, trying to bring back that density?

RK: The way we tried to create it [density] is by not assuming people would come to the building, but make the building go where we knew the people would be, i.e. the intersecting paths of student movement between the campus and the dormitory.

AD: You have referred to Mies as your father, quite a bit. How can we see that connection?

RK: (laughing) Oh, have I? I don’t think I have!

AD: Oh, Really?

RK: He is certainly somebody, but he is the impossible other. As far as being an architect, I can hardly imagine a world without him. He is a person who has developed a large portion of architecture’s current vocabulary as you can see. He’s also been responsible for causing some of the problems of the current moment. So that’s two reasons, one positive, one negative, why he continues to be a person who perplexes, I think, all architects.

AD: A lot of the buildings on this campus are very structural. MTCC doesn’t seem to have that permanence through structure.

RK: Basically, since Mies, building technologies have changed. The way buildings are put together is much different. When Mies was still working, he was bringing back this idea of density in the connection with the existing Commons.

AD: Why do you think it will be critiqued?

RK: I think that basically the Commons was a bit marooned, not really surrounded by anything anymore. But now it is surrounded by my architectural building which is the connection with the existing Commons.

AD: Well, it is a radical change from what the students on campus are used to, where we don’t have a lot of that cosmetic overlay to buildings. Being in the college of architecture, we heard a lot of discussion about the topic. Is it a change in the course of architecture, or what do you think it is?

RK: Well, I think if you took a Mies building today, take for instance Crown Hall, it would cost between 3 and 5 times more than the student center. In other words I think that there are, relatively speaking, much less impressments in building these days. Architecture has to work with the richness of space looking at pure spatial conditions, since space itself is almost free. We tried to highlight the physical substance of the building to maximize this richness of space. It’s a fundamental reality relatively speaking that architects today have to work in what is a lot more what they were once involved, the architectural masterpieces that are now admired. So that is one thing. At that means that instead of achieving kind of richness in excessive quality you have to look at pure spatial conditions, they remain almost free.

There are many dynamic spatial conditions in the campus center. And the other is the physical susceptibility another way to create the richness is to do it with ways which are more likened to the extreme image we live in now the cultural media world.

AD: I think a lot of the modern buildings on campus, Crown Hall for instance, use abstract planes to create these dynamic spaces, but I think the student center does it in a different way with the different spaces all juxtaposed together. Do you think this is a result of the changing times, the ability to do more with architecture?

RK: I’m not sure that we would have done the same things in a different area. It’s a different type of space and was exciting for us to use a technique that has a type of continuity and expansive nature to the extent that it [Crown Hall] does not really make a lot of effort to accommodate people. In our case, it was an investigative contract where we were very immediate specifices in our way, and still have space for different continuity.

AD: Yes, I agree. I think the spaces are incredibly similar to Crown Hall, but incredibly different at the same time. The MTCC the plan has changed so much, do you think it’s still successful? I think that’s still achieved that same reorganization or will it?

RK: I don’t think it has changed that much, because I think the plan is completely filled. I think that what has happened on the south side [of the building] won’t change the program of what had been taken off. The building doesn’t line the street any more, and personally, I think it’s a little better because it had become too much of a labyrinth. Also, I think that we might see the people more in the front of the building. Typically, I think that if you look at the architecture as a result both the new buildings, I gather, the dorms on State and the campus center, it would not necessarily have been good if the center actually started on the other side of the Jahn immediately.

AD: I also have a question about designing for young people, for our different generation, because of a lot of questions I’ve asked have been how does the building respond to Mies’s campus, because Mies’s campus, I think basically speaks to an older generation of people.

RK: That’s kind of my excitement with the whole thing, because when I made the plans of the structure, there was that kind of feel that if you had 5 minutes on campus, you could stop by, or be there to study. When most younger people come to campus, I think it’s a good idea to rethink whether they like it or not, usually within the first few minutes of arriving. We are7 almost the center of the student center will help with their first impression.

AD: Mr. Koolhaas, thank you so much for taking the time to help com- municate the ideas and concepts behind a building that will play and inevitable role in the course of architecture and the lives of IIT stu- dents.
Bahá’í Campus Association

AT IIT PRESENTS

WILDFAIRE
DANCE THEATRE

Let your vision be world embracing – Bahá’u’lláh

The Wildfire Dance Theatre (WDT) is a not-for-profit Theatre based in Stratford, Ontario, Canada that will captivate, educate, and motivate. WDT consists of youth artists from around the globe dedicated to employing the Theatre Arts as a means of educating audiences about current social struggles & inspiring hope regarding society’s future. Some of the multicultural dances are based on racism, poverty, gang violence, confusion, substance abuse, women as peacemakers, spousal abuse, equality of women and men, peer pressure, AIDS, and many more. Styles include step, hustle, swing, and lots more! Young or old, you will laugh, have fun, and be thoroughly entertained!

WHEN? Tuesday, October 7th at 7:30 - 9:30 pm
WHERE? MTCC Auditorium (tentative)
Location may change to HUB Auditorium

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Please email bahaai@iit.edu or call Mihdi at 312.808.6842 for any questions, comments, or suggestions.
Collens: Leading IIT into a New Era

By Richard Duncan
MANAGING EDITOR

Great leaders are said to require great times. Lew Collens will certainly go down as one of the great leaders in IIT’s long history, and the time he has served as IIT’s president so far has been nothing short of great for the university. With the completion of two new buildings this fall, the amazing fund-raising campaign of the mid-1990s, and the continuing drive to complete the Main Campus revitalization, Collens’ administration has guided this institution into the beginning of both a new century and a new era of education.

President Collens sat down with TechNews and discussed the opening of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, its effect on the university, and the long-term outlook for the university under his leadership. As head of the university and its most visible figure to the rest of the city and to our donors, it is his drive and vision for the Main Campus that is credited by many associated with the project for its success. Here is a transcript of that interview.

Richard Duncan: This is arguably the biggest event at least in the recent history of IIT if not farther back, possibly since the Main Campus was completed. The fundraising campaign of the mid-1990s was also right up there, but if there was a timeline of IIT’s history, this would be there. How do you feel about that as far as being in the position you’re in, and how do you see, in general, propelling the university in whatever direction?

Lew Collens: Well, I think it is symbolically very important, because it underscores the university’s commitment to its students. We are upgrading important student facilities. It underscores our commitment to the facility and staff because it is also truly a university facility. I think it underscores our commitment to innovation. We are the Illinois Institute of Technology and innovation is very much what we are about. If you look at the slogan we often use, it says “Transforming Lives. Inventing the Future.” I think this campus center symbolizes that. It serves as a signal event, but it also has some very practical applications. It is part of this effort to physically transform the campus and make it a more attractive and friendly place for everyone. I think just about everyone agrees that the two new buildings together have served already to transform the campus.

RD: Just to get this out of the way, the delays in the building. The design project ended in February of 1998, and construction of the Tube began in Fall 2000. Obviously there are things to learn from this. What type of things for the future and even now has the university learned as a result of these delays?

LC: Well I think you have to look at the delays in perspective. One lesson is that when you undertake a wildly complicated project, you better expect a lot more delays. Not to say that we couldn’t do it a little faster if we had to do it over again, but it is such a unique and complicated project we end up doing another one like this. I’m not sure if there are any deep lessons to be learned, but if you contrast it with the new residence halls, which is a great contrast, that went up in 18 months. It was just such a complicated project. There aren’t any of us around here feared that it opened sooner. It’s an interesting question, knowing what we know now, what could we still have to make things better.

RD: As the neighborhood in general changes, from the staying between State and 35th and Michigan and Federal, to the recent demolishing of the Stateway Gardens and retail space on 15th. The MTCC is the center of our campus and also the geographic center of the Bronzeville. Does the university see this way and, if so, what plans are there to make it the centerpiece without losing the focus of it being a university building not a community center?

LC: The building is here to serve the university. That’s why we are here. There are facilities to serve the students, to serve the faculty and staff. I’m sure there will be opportunities for community groups to use the facility just as they do now. We have many, many groups which use Hermann Hall. In fact, one of the benefits of the new campus center is that it will make HH even more available for community organizations. We try to be very welcoming for community organizations, in terms of using campus facilities. But the new campus center actually does not have that many of its own people. It’s a very much more useful for its purposes.

RD: The students in general are very excited about it, and I don’t know of anybody at the senior level that isn’t excited. I’ve had several emails from trustees in the last week or so asking whether its really going to open on the 30th like we promised, and yes it is. So I think that there is great interest and great excitement.

RD: The Master Plan basically called for the complete revamping of the campus at least east of State Street. Other than the two buildings that are now going to be completed, very little physical progress has been seen, so it looks from the outside that things have stagnated along with the delays in the student center with it being the centerpiece of the revitalization. Now that it is finished, are we going to see more rapid physical changes, or have things changed because of it?

LC: Well I think that a Master Plan is always updated and reviewed. I would say that in terms of university physical and student residence priority, there are four things that you are likely to see in the next couple years. One is we hope to have an additional student residence hall. We are also likely to see upgrades and renovation to the graduate residence halls. Third, you will see a complete renovation of Wishnick Hall as part of the continuing effort to upgrade the Minds buildings. Fourth, you’ll see some significant work in converting the engineering research buildings which are next to the IITRI tower, into a biomedical research incubate. There will be other projects, and once those are done there will be more. We will never finished.

RD: Finally, if you could sum up this project, everything its been through and everything that will be happening [with its opening], in one sentence what would it be?

LC: That’s a great question. You can say paragraphs or even sentences about the experience. It’s not so much looking backward, but looking forward. For me, the real thrill of this is that we now have this fabulous facility available for students and faculty, so as I look back at it, all of the effort was worth it to get this great facility.

(Richard Duncan)
An Interview With Frank Castelli: Partner in Charge

By David Gosnell

In 1998, Rem Koolhaas was chosen as the winner of the international contest to design the new student center at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Immediately, he began interviewing architectural firms in Chicago, with the intent of turning the project into a joint venture with one of them. The firm he chose was Holabird and Root. Frank Castelli, the partner in charge of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center (MTCC) project at Holabird and Root, spoke to TechNews about the MTCC project, some of the construction challenges faced, and unique aspects of the building.

David Gosnell: Rem Koolhaas was awarded the commission for this project in 1998, after winning the design competition. How has the building changed and evolved since its initial concept to now?

Frank Castelli: I’m happy to say that really has not changed a great deal from the original design. I think the biggest change, that was in the competition that was not in the building was the bowling alley. . . . Maybe some of the materials were changed because of cost. But the essence of the building is still very much there.

DG: Are there any unique materials or objects that can only be found in the MTCC?

FC: Umm, yeah.

DG: Too many to talk about?

FC: No. On the outside we have this grating on the east side of the building. It’s a grating that is normally used for catwalks . . . but here it’s in a panelized system that is hung on the building, gives it a façade, and still allows air to get through. We have air intakes and exhaust for mechanical systems behind it. It becomes very striking on the outside . . . it’s unique. It’s very neat to see. Also, the aluminum floor; we have aluminum floor throughout the whole campus center, and that’s never been done before. Helmut Jahn’s building has a stainless steel floor in some of the areas and it sort of mimics that color, but it’s not the same. The idea with the aluminum is that aluminum is a softer material and so Rem always wanted the aluminum . . . in his mind it was more indicative of that difficulty. That’s kind of the running joke. It’s a one story building, but it is very complex. The angles on the roof, the angles on the walls, the angles on the floors, everything sort of meets in different locations. Just working through all that was difficult. Sometimes we had to do 3D modeling just to get things resolved. Even then, sometimes in the field some of the contractors putting things together said, ‘I’m not sure we’re doing this right.’

DG: Was there ever a point when you thought, ‘This might never get built, this might never get done?’

FC: I think we had some cost issues. The budget was set way back when the competition was issued back in 1998, and I think some of that sort of haunted us throughout the whole life of the job, that some of these costs were not increased for the years that have passed. Eventually they did come up with more money, more funding, but also we had to work things down from an overrun of costs, and value engineering and that type of thing.

DG: I think there are a few things that all the students on campus are wondering about the building. From the outside of the building, it seems the tube is pretty effective in eliminating sound. How well does it work inside the building?

FC: You can hear the train as it goes by. The intent was never to totally isolate it 100%. The intent was to bring the decibels down so that you can function in the spaces underneath it. To do that, we had to segregate the structures: the L is a separate structure, the tube is a separate structure, and the building is a separate structure.

DG: What do the [black and white] patterns on the curtains represent?

FC: It’s a design from Mies [from way back when]. [His] depiction of trees was what they utilized when designing the curtains. When the curtain is closed you can see the pattern, indicating that there is a legacy to the campus that you’re bringing in, not shouting it, but saying, ‘Look, everybody knows who we are, because this is what was here.’

DG: I just have one last question. Some students have started calling the campus center the Building Under The Tube, or the BUTT for short. What do you think of this nickname?

FC: (Laughs) Umm, I don’t know. In my mind nicknames don’t really matter much. It’s kind of a neat thing that people come up with abbreviations or some sort of code or whatever to designate a building. But maybe a word that connotes some things in your mind when you say it, but if it’s associated with something, maybe the connotation will change. In the old days, ‘cop’ for a policeman was considered an insult, and nowadays, cops are cops. In time, maybe the BUTT will be a different butt, it won’t be associated with your regular butt, so I don’t mind that at all.

DG: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

FC: You’re very welcome.

(Special thanks to Frank Castelli and Lynsey Gemmell for making this interview possible)
Architecture Brings Old, New Together

By Dominic Garascia & Annie Ranttila
ARTS & CHICAGO EDITORS

F rom the conception of the stu
dent center, the College of Archi
tecture has been an integral by-
stander in the design process, pushing
the envelope of architectural develop-
ment and innovation on IIT’s campus.
Dean of the College of Architecture,
Donna Robertson has been instrumen-
tal in bringing new excitement to what
was becoming a doldrums of student
life. During an interview with Dean
Robertson, she explained some of
the lesser known intricacies and controver-
sial issues of the new student center.
From the original plan, the cam-
pus center has changed quite a bit.
Many students have been left won-
dering about the plan they saw and
what they see in reality. After show-
ing a book that contained program-
matic diagrams and an original sche-
dematic plan, Dean Robertson ex-
plained, “The retail corridor has
changed. Certain elements have
been eliminated such as the bowling
lanes and the dry cleaners, but Koolhaas’
work will become as significant as
the bowling lanes. The McCormick Tri-
bune Campus center is a play, a dia-
logue between modern and new.
The angled streetscape-esque
hallways within the center relate to
the orthogonal transit ways on cam-
pus. Mies designed a box with no
permanent interior spaces to allow
for maximum use and adaptability.
Koolhaas creates a building that can
evolve and change in just the same
way. It’s just not the same neutral
box. The center has a unifying roof
plan, what some have referred to as
the orthogonal transit ways on cam-
pus. Robertson responded, “Despite
the original plan, the campus and
appropriately thrives with a new
architectural heritage of our Miesian
legacy.”

When asked if the Student Cen-
ter will become as significant as
Crown Hall was built. Architecture has
obviously changed in conjunction. Mies
seemed to抽象it to create a homog-
enous architecture for what was a sim-
pler era of likenesses. Koolhaas’
work is an irony of expression, ‘making
him very post modern,’ adds Robertson.
Koolhaas expresses a heterogeneity of
architecture. “There is no longer an ar-
chitectural or ethical imperative for one
single style to dominate over another.”

The Campus Center will unarguably
change the rapport of stu-
dent life, the dynamic of student en-
gagement. It uses diverse program-
matic features to encourages,
possibly even force student interaction.
As Robertson phrased it, “The building
employs amplification of spaces to
create civic engagement.” Though
some may argue that Mies should not have
wasted so much money ($462 million, $13.6 million of which was
spent on the tube) on a ‘shopping mall’
the campus was in dire need of reju-
vivation. “What else do want them
to spend the money on?” Robertson
quipped. “People will be delighted.”
The building performs simulta-
aneously. It is a pluralistic one; it at-
tempts to satisfy diverse needs under
one roof. The McCormick Tribune
Campus Center responds to the ar-
chitectural heritage of our Mexican
campus and appropriately thrives with
a healthy tension.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

By Richard Duncan
MANAGING EDITOR

Perhaps the most prominent figure in Chicago journalism, and one of the champions of freedom of the press in American history, Colonel Robert McCormick was a great philanthropist, a reflection of the influence over “Chicagoland” and the Illinois Institute of Technology in particular. With two major facilities on the Main Campus (the other two being the McCormick Student Village and its McCormick Lounge and the HUB Auditorium) carry his nameake and stand for the legacy he left. It was his financial legacy which made the McCormick Tribune Campus Center a reality in the grand scope it stands in today.

Colonel McCormick was a great philanthropist in his day, and the foundation bearing his name continues that philanthropy today. The McCormick Tribune Foundation is one of the nation’s largest charitable organizations and holds worldwide influence in many areas of giving. Contributed to such varied causes as Chicago’s major universities to local sports and television stations affiliated charities nationwide to freedom of the press supporting organizations across the Americas, the foundation stands for some of the same things Colonel McCormick stood for: journalistic freedom and excellence, community improvements, and outstanding institutions of education.

Continuing our interviews for this special edition of TechNews, the current president of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Richard “Dick” Behrenhausen, carries the Colonel’s vision into the 21st century. He sat down with TechNews and shared his thoughts on the work of the foundation, the importance of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center to the university, the city, and the McCormick legacy.

Richard Duncan: For those of us not familiar with the foundation or not from Chicago, briefly describe the goals of the foundation, the major areas of giving, and besides the two buildings at IIT, some of the other events and buildings that are visible that the foundation is involved with.

Dick Behrenhausen: The foundation, which is the legacy of Robert McCormick, was established in 1955 when he died, and has grown to become one of the largest charitable organizations in America. Currently the assets exceed $2 billion. As such, we have major giving every year averaging $13 million a year. We try to give in four program areas which are related to how we think the Colonel thought about Chicago’s young folks get off on the right foot because all of the research has shown how the brain goes through incredible development in those early years. The more we can educate our young children the better off we will be in the long run as a society. Finally we have a citizenship program which really goes directly to the heart of the Colonel. It looks after patriotic and volunteer organizations and makes some small contributions to the First Infantry Division through the Society of the First Infantry Division because the Colonel of course was in the First Division in World War I and the revitalized camps are really the key link to the continued growth and prosperity in that area. So it’s all tied together without a doubt. Much of our spending in the communities program, particularly through our local partners and particularly through the Chicago Tribune Campus Center, looks at that part of the town.

RD: Lastly, you’ve already spoken about this, but the focusing on IIT itself, the campus center stands as a huge centerpiece. As President Collins put it in his interview, it reinvigorates IIT’s commitment to its stu-

Dick Behrenhausen: So you have kind of a front-ranked tier of major universities, and IIT is in that tier, and consequently like Northwestem and the University of Chicago and several others, IIT will always be on our radar. We may not make another $13 million grant in the next two or three years but we always be watchful as to what the needs of IIT is fashioned. From our standpoint, we will always have an interest in any of the major educational institutions in Chicago, and that obviously includes IIT. Again going back to the donor intent of our founder Colonel McCormick, Colonel McCormick First and foremost was a Chicagoan, he cared about moving Chicagoland (as he called it) forward. You can’t do that without major educational institutions, the school inside the city and outside?

DB: We know that IIT has an international reputation. Its cadets of fort in four program areas which are related to how we think the Colonel thought about the work of the foundation, the major areas of giving, and besides the two buildings at IIT, some of the other events and buildings that are visible that the foundation is involved with.

RD: Obviously the foundation was the financial backer of the building and not the go-between between the architect and contractors. Do you have any thoughts on the construction delays that were seen originally, or do you see these as usual construction delays that would come up with any project of this size?

DB: President Collins and the folks that work for him kept us continually informed on where we were in the progress. We never felt that the project was off-track that it was going in the direction or that the vision was being lost. We felt that we were seeing normal construction snafus. As you see along the line any time you undertake a major project, but there was never any cause for concern from us because the communications that we had with the university was first class in every respect. We got regular up-dates, drawings, photographs, and visits.

RD: When you were looking forward to the opening, you had said that the building would be a mandatory stop. Visitors are going to go there, and they’re going to get to know about IIT, and local Chicagoans who didn’t know about IIT are going to get to know about IIT. I think the building becomes a beacon for that university and that part of our town. From that standpoint we’ve just delighted with it. We think President Collins has done a great job in bringing it in at a reasonable rate and getting it constructed on time. We’re really looking forward to it.

DB: Well you know IIT has an international reputation. Its cadets of fort in four program areas which are related to how we think the Colonel thought about the work of the foundation, the major areas of giving, and besides the two buildings at IIT, some of the other events and buildings that are visible that the foundation is involved with.

RD: Did you see any of the drawings, photographs, and visits?

DB: Yes, we did. When we first saw the drawings, photographs, and visits, we were really impressed. We have seen along the line any time you undertake a major project, but there was never any cause for concern from us because the communications that we had with the university was first class in every respect. We got regular up-dates, drawings, photographs, and visits. We knew exactly what the status was of IIT is fashioned. From our standpoint, we will always have an interest in any of the major educational institutions in Chicago, and that obviously includes IIT. Again going back to the donor intent of our founder Colonel McCormick, Colonel McCormick First and foremost was a Chicagoan, he cared about moving Chicagoland (as he called it) forward. You can’t do that without major educational institutions, the school inside the city and outside?

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$48.2 million.
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ONE BIG DAY.

The McCormick Tribune Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of THE MCCORMICK TRIBUNE CAMPUS CENTER at Illinois Institute of Technology.

Designed by the Office for Metropolitan Architecture—led by world-renowned architect Rem Koolhaas—this unique, state-of-the-art structure will serve as a hub for students from all over the world, contributing to the ongoing revitalization of Chicago’s South Side.

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