

INSIDERS' VIEW

THE BRAINTRUST BEHIND PACCAR HALL ON THE PROCESS AND PRODUCT TO COME

On the eve of groundbreaking for construction of PACCAR Hall, *Foster Business* checked in with some of the key players in transforming the dream into reality: Pete Dukes, professor of accounting and chair of the Foster Building Committee since 2001; Steve Tatge, senior project manager of UW Capital Projects; Todd Lee, senior vice president of Sellen Construction; Kurt Winje, vice president of Sellen Construction; and Mark Reddington, lead designer, FAIA and LMN Architects.

What was the key concept that shaped the design of PACCAR Hall?

Dukes: From the start, we focused on the notion of collaboration... of creating a space that would promote a strong sense of community within the Foster School of Business, and optimize the environment for the kind of team interaction that is the School's hallmark. The final design elegantly brings together classrooms of varying sizes, small group breakout rooms, student commons, a café and covered terrace around a central, naturally lit atrium that will become a bustling hub for students, faculty, staff and visitors—as well as a great place to sip coffee and explore ideas.

Winje: I've been impressed that the process of designing a space to foster collaboration was itself so collaborative. Everyone involved had to embrace a spirit of collaboration in order to address design challenges, funding challenges, timing challenges, etc. This team didn't just go to the Washington State Legislature and ask for the funding. Together we designed a building that could be built for an amount that could be raised.

What's the most interesting architectural aspect of PACCAR Hall?

Reddington: As Pete said, the vision from the start was to create a collaborative environment

for learning. This involved creating a design that would not only connect layers of communities to each other, but to the larger campus as well. While specific areas have been created for these communities (undergrads, MBAs, Foster faculty and staff, visiting businesses, community speakers, etc.) the extensive use of glass and shared spaces (the atrium, café, fireplace) actually links these different groups to each other. For instance, the centrally located open staircase connects the various levels and facilitates contact between these communities as they move throughout PACCAR Hall. Another challenge was to ensure PACCAR Hall fit within the larger campus, given that it is both a contemporary design and a much larger building than many on campus. By breaking the building into smaller pieces connected via common areas, and using glass extensively, PACCAR Hall has fewer hard boundaries and actually appears to blur with the rest of campus. For instance, when looking east from the café you look through the window to the Bank of America Executive Education Center; looking west you'll see Denny Hall and to the south, Denny Yard. So it's the porous nature of PACCAR Hall that both sets it apart from other projects yet integrates it with both the Foster School and the UW campus at large.

If you had to use one word to describe PACCAR Hall, what would it be?

Dukes: Cool.

Lee: Collaborative.

Winje: Welcoming.

Reddington: Dynamic.

Tatge: Game-changer. (I know, that's two!)

— Pam McCoy



TOUR PACCAR HALL ONLINE

Construction on PACCAR Hall won't be complete until 2010, but your tour of the Foster School's future state-of-the-art home is only a click away. Via virtual video "fly-through," you can check out the auditoriums, classrooms, atrium and café at any time. To embark on your two-minute tour, visit: www.foster.washington.edu/PACCARHall.