



The New Campus Library and Technology Center

151 East 25 Street, New York, NY/Baruch College/The City University of New York

Baruch College has defined state-of-the-art education by building the most technologically advanced learning center in all of New York City. Housed in the century-old Metropolitan Street Railway Company of New York building, at 151 East 25th Street, the new facility marries the past, present and future, delivering to Baruch and other CUNY college students, a passport to the world of knowledge. Fiber optic cable connects the new library, media and conferencing centers and computer lab to other CUNY colleges, CUNY+PLUS and Internet, the world's largest computer network. Although modern technology is the dominating theme of the building, with 1,700 computer workstations, extensive LAN/WAN networks, interactive touch-screen kiosks and video conferencing, the design is what many students refer to as "awesome".

Calling to mind the corporate world or stately government buildings, the spacious interior of cherry paneling and colorful carpet is bathed in natural light flooding in from the 70 by 90 foot skylight, which overlooks the entire nine-story structure. Comfortable reading rooms, furnished with wooden tables and cushioned arm chairs provide a peaceful environment for commuting students and a haven from the congested city streets. This rich and elegant atmosphere bids students from all walks of life to participate in an educational experience often reserved for the very few.

Baruch's new building also acts as an indoor campus for a college that has never had outdoor space of its own. Unlike suburban colleges, Baruch is limited by its urban parameters. The seventh floor atrium, which is lined with trees, filled with sun from the skylight above and arranged with tables and chairs, creates a spirit of campus life. The new space brings a breath of fresh air to the sometimes demanding obligations of academic life. The atmosphere dramatically improves student life at a College already known for its excellence in education.



The Conference Center

The unique and elegant conference center, located on the seventh floor overlooking 25th Street and just behind the landscaped atrium, provides a series of meeting spaces designed for flexible arrangements. The high-tech center comprises a main room with seating for approximately 200 people and four smaller adjacent meeting rooms accommodating up to 30 persons each and the complex is supported by a full commercial kitchen. Nearby, a lounge area extends 150 feet along the 25th Street side of the building, providing a place to relax, socialize or gaze through tall, arched windows at the city below. The center is equipped to provide video conferencing, multi-media presentations and electronic classrooms. The Conference Center will host a wide array of corporate and academic conferences, symposia and lectures. Students and faculty from all CUNY colleges are encouraged to attend and participate in these cultural and intellectual events, which will enrich the CUNY community and provide academic service to the business and financial communities.

The Baruch Computing and Technology Center

Situated on the sixth floor of the building, the Baruch Computing and Technology Center offers students a place to apply advanced technology to their research projects. The center is outfitted with computing hardware ranging from microcomputers to mainframes, a wide variety of software packages, access to the Internet and a trained staff to assist students with questions and systems operations. This center, with over 400 workstations available in the open-access lab, provides students who are unable to afford personal computers with a viable alternative.

Student Administrative Services

The admissions, registrar and bursar's offices have new looks as well. Glass doors open from the airy seventh floor atrium, into modern office space. Tables and chairs placed outside, beneath the skylight, give students a place to rest and wait while conducting college business. The new facilities lend a professional air to the necessary administrative components of college life. Students and staff share the benefits of expanded work spaces and modern equipment. Also found on the seventh floor are the offices of financial aid, skills assessment and the international student office.







The William and Anita Newman Library

The new library, surrounding the six-story lightwell and below the large skylight, contains four floors with ultra-modern computerized research tools and thousands of volumes and periodicals . More than three times the size of its predecessor, the new 1,450 seat facility has local area networks which can access information resources in CD-ROM format and several hundred on-line databases including Dow Jones News/Retrieval, LEXIS/NEXIS, and DIALOG services, as well as the Internet, gateway to the libraries and databases of the world. The library's resources also include the more traditional materials, such as 270,000 volumes, 2,100 current periodical subscriptions, 1.6 million microforms, and 2,000 audio-visual applications including films, videos and audio recordings.

Baruch librarians speak of the facility as a "teaching library" which will educate students about the benefits of using technology as a study aid. Two on-line classrooms are available for students to learn the essentials of computerized search strategies for retrieving, evaluating, applying and processing information across the disciplines.

The library's rich atmosphere, private work spaces, comfortable furniture and spacious design promotes learning, gives students and faculty a sense of pride in their academic institution and a desire to use the facility.

The Media Center

Beneath the library, on the ground floor, students walk through security turnstiles, accessed with their identification cards to find the new Media Center. Glass doorways open into the 9,500 square-foot space, highlighted by a ten-foot square video wall and lined with rows of computer workstations. One-hundred-seven Apple Power PCs, all equipped with CD-ROM for multi-media capability, 12 of which have interactive video-disc capability, are available for research and information gathering. These computers can exhibit full-motion, high-resolution images and graphics, audio material and text in digital form and are controlled by three high-powered network servers. Baruch's Media Center is unique within the CUNY system and will be accessible to students and faculty from all CUNY campuses.



Art and Design

As design is implicit in the structure of the building, so it is imbued in the interior, lending an air of sophistication to the learning center. The furniture, designed by famous names such as Breuer, Van Der Rohe, Eames and Zapf and represented in museums around the country, is indicative of quality and style.

As future business leaders, Baruch students will play a major role in the way a corporation projects itself to the public. Whether in graphics and advertisements, or in products and services, the subject of design is part of the management decision making process.

The permanent exhibition of a wide range of paintings, sculptures, prints and photographs by 19 artists presents students with an aesthetic value, bringing awareness to the importance of visual presentation. Many works displayed throughout the building encompass the motif of reaching up or stretching - a metaphor to inspire students. From Hung Liu's painting of young dancers to Rigoberto Torres' sculpture of three boys perched on one another's shoulders; from the exuberant outstretched arm of the dancer in Barbara Morgan's photomontage to Jacob Lawrence's scene of a woman pulling down a book from the topmost shelf in a library, these images, like the building itself, represent life's highest, most creative aspirations.

We invite you to share this exciting building with us.

Valerie Block, Baruch College Journalism Program, June 1994

The architectural firm responsible for the renovation was Davis, Brody and Associates, Lewis Davis, FAIA, partner-in-charge, William Paxton, AIA the project architect. College coordination and interior design of the project was by The Office of Campus Planning, under the direction of Marilyn Mikulsky, Assistant Vice President. Seymour Rutkin was the Project Manager for the Office of Design, Construction and Management, The City University of New York. Robinson Brown was the Project Manager for the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York

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