

# Archmere Academy Student Life Center Claymont, Delaware

School Community  
Center/Joint Use  
Facilities

New Construction

**ABHA ARCHITECTS**

1621 N. Lincoln Street  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
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Denis O'Flynn O'Brien  
302/658-6426

**DESIGN TEAM**

Denis O'Flynn O'Brien,  
Principal-in-Charge

Scott Lester, Design Architect

Carl Krienen,  
Master Plan Architect

David Barisa, Project Architect

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Archmere Academy  
Claymont, DE

Rev. Joseph McLaughlin,  
O. Praem  
302/798-6632

Type of School and  
Grades Served:  
High School, 9-12

Capacity: 510 students

Size of Site: 33 acres

Area of Building:  
17,507 square feet

Square Foot Cost: \$240

Cost of Construction:  
\$4.2 million

Contract Date: June 2006

Completion Date: Oct. 2007

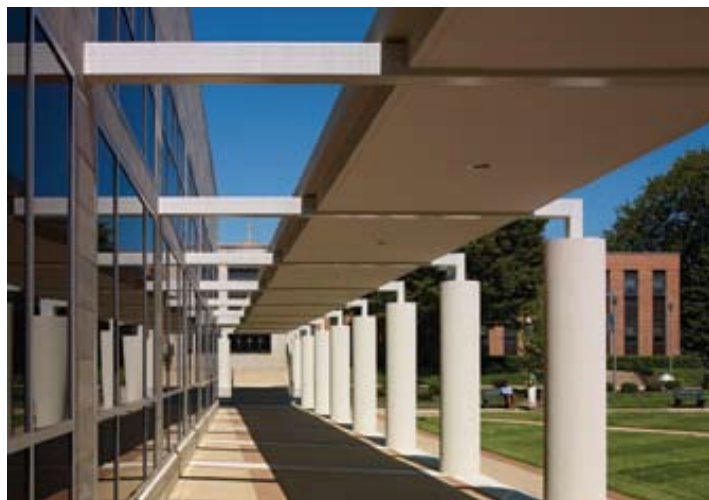
Percent of Completion: 100%

## ABHA Architects

The major space in the new 17,500-square-foot Student Life Center at Archmere Academy serves two functions—a dining room for daily cafeteria service and a worship space for the entire student body for use on special occasions. These two uses required that the space be both flexible and dignified in appearance, with lighting control that is adjustable in mood.

The building's location on the campus creates an edge along the campus, enclosing a new landscaped quadrangle that replaces a former parking lot and dominates the view from inside the new facility. A covered colonnade flanks the front of the building, visually and physically connecting the main classroom building to the two gyms. To maintain and promote a pedestrian environment around the academic core, vehicles were re-routed to new perimeter parking lots throughout the campus.

Also found in the Student Life Center are spaces for college counseling, guidance, and health and food service. A new main office and visitor entrance to the campus anchor one end and create a gateway to the campus. Moving these



UNDER THE ARCADE



LUNCH SET-UP

administrative and student-service spaces to the new building allowed for the

expansion of much-needed classroom space in other campus buildings. ■



VIEW FROM THE GREEN

PHOTOS: TOM BERNARD