

SPOTLIGHT

Southern Methodist University

Dallas, Texas

Name: Residential & Dining Commons

Opened: August 2014 • Cost: \$122 million

Architect: KSQ Architects



According to KSQ Architects, the Residential & Dining Commons at SMU enables the university to implement its new requirement that sophomores live on campus as well as to facilitate the melding of academics and student life. Each of the five new 250-bed residence halls features a residential college approach, including a faculty-in-residence, classrooms, and seminar rooms, which expand opportunities for learning and for informal interactions with professors and mentors.

The scope of the project - 1,250 beds in five residence halls, a 500-seat dining commons, and an 800-car parking structure - is grand, even by Texas standards. But the detailed

Georgian-style architecture paired with high-quality materials, including slate roofing, brick, and high-performance glass, also contribute to the longevity of this project that will welcome SMU students for generations to come.

Interior highlights in the residence halls include lounges that feature tray ceilings with inlaid wood, travertine tile flooring, and leather seating. Some informal meeting spaces sprinkled throughout the halls are pod style and can hold as many as seven people or as few as two if the collaboration needs to be a little quieter. In the faculty residence, stainless appliances, granite counters, and high-end bath

fixtures provide all the comforts of a home. Classrooms in the residence halls feature projection screens along with study tables for both lectures and group collaboration.

In the all-you-care-to-eat style dining hall is a two-story dome with a glass curtain wall that features electrochromic glass. Programmed with an iPad, it allows staff to control the level of UV-tint based on the season and time of day, which is an important feature when living under the hot Dallas sun. Student services and administrative and other support functions are also housed within the Commons.