



*Innovative Design and
Excellence in Architecture with Steel*

Honorable Mention



Jacobson Athletic Office
and Training Facility



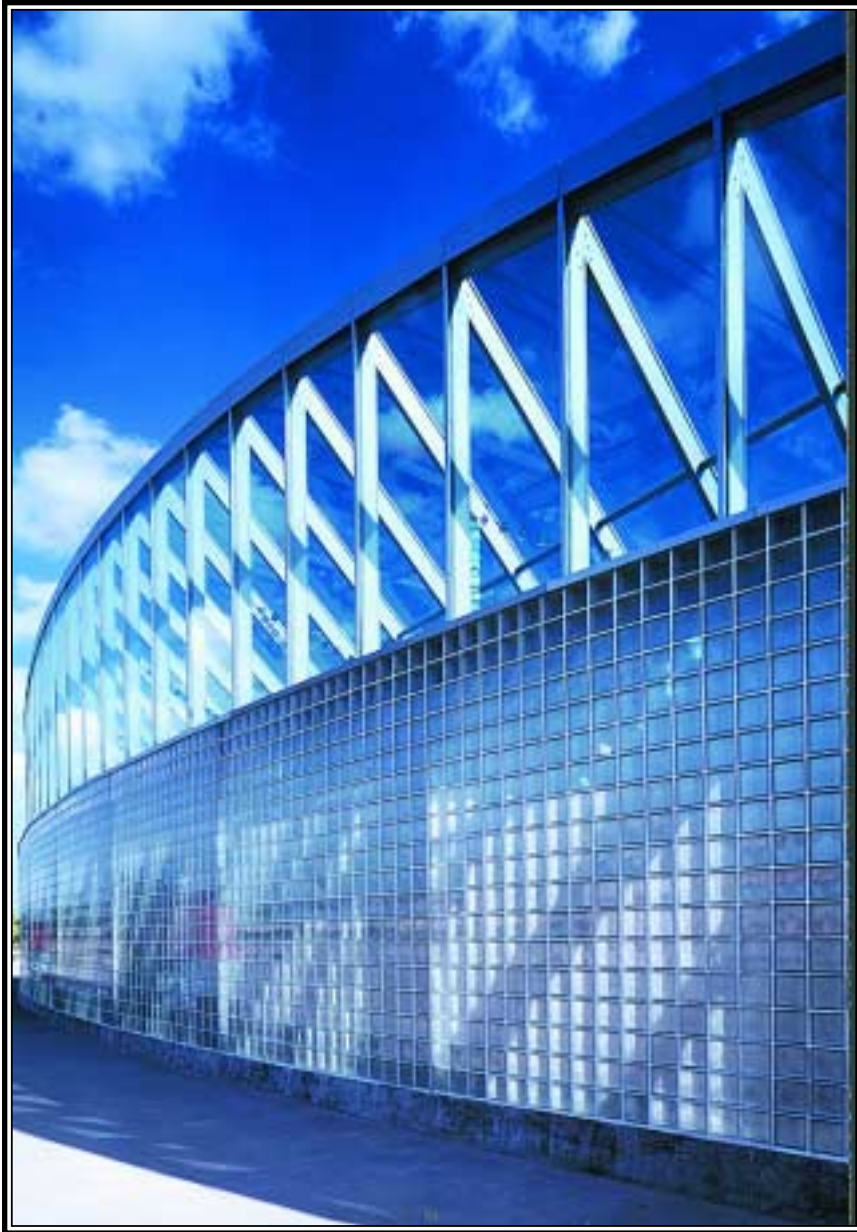
THE JACOBSON ATHLETIC OFFICE AND TRAINING FACILITY AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY in Ames, IA, is located amongst the university's athletic complex at the football stadium. A steel frame supports the graceful curved balconies of the existing stadium. They cantilever above earth berms that form an oval configuration with open ends. The project is located at the open end to the north and consists of a three-phase addition and remodeling to the existing athletic office and training facility.

The first phase added new athletic offices toward the field to the south. Its lightweight steel structure with dramatic cantilevers is exposed and recalls the nature and image of the stadium framing system. The choice

Juror's Comments:

Strong and clear message created through the careful and confident use of steel. The whole is equal to more than the sum of its parts.

Clean, crisp and light—it couldn't be anything but steel! The clarity of the overall form is sustained by careful detailing and thoughtful interplay of materials.



of structure helped the completion occur before the critical kick-off of the football season. Phase II remodeled the locker rooms and athletic training areas within the existing main building that had bearing walls every 28'. Phase III gutted the old athletic offices in the northern portion of the building and exposed the original steel frame and bar joists. This created a large open area for weight training. The steel frame was extended to the north to support a curved glass block wall that was crowned with a skylight. This replaced the deeply shadowed north wall with a dynamic backlit facade and created a new street presence for the entire complex.

A grand common lobby forms the connection between the new 2 1/2-story athletic administration facility and the existing single-story building. The converging office bars of the addition form a keystone insertion into the oval configuration of the stadium. A folded metal roof and deck hovers over the simple solid base of the office bars. The surrounding clerestory windows accentuate the floating roof and introduce daylight into the open offices below. A skylight spine at the roof also allows daylight to flood the central light court and helps blur the distinction of the enclosed public spaces from that of the open-air stadium. The light court space connects the office bars and is intended to help facilitate an

Project Team

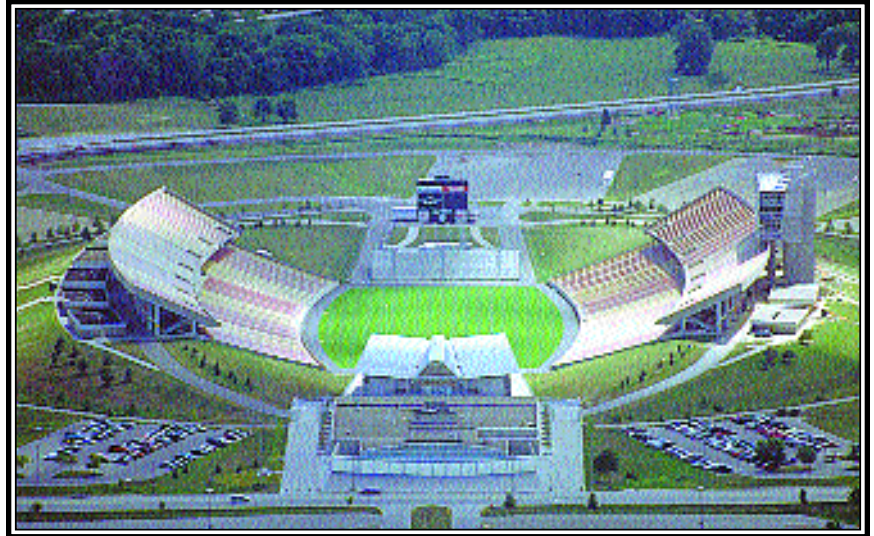
Project: Jacobson Athletic Office and Training Facility, Iowa State University (Ames)

Architect: Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture, Des Moines, IA

Owner: Iowa State University

Structural Engineer: Charles Saul Engineering, Des Moines, IA

General Contractor: Taylor Ball, Des Moines, IA



interactive work environment that projects a sense of “teamwork” and encourages “shared success”.

The skylight rests on custom steel trusses that elevate in section as the tapered plan increases the span. The auditorium occurs within this vaulted space. The resultant gambrel is sympathetic with the surrounding agrarian countryside. The auditorium’s elevated location allows the hall-of-fame, light court, and exterior balconies to function as free flowing public spaces at the main level. These spaces are easily accessible from the grand lobby and can be set up to house special banquets and celebrations including game-day functions, which can share in the excitement of the crowd-filled stadium. The “hangar door” at the auditorium stage cab opens to the light court allowing the spaces to

work together for special activities, or the door can be dramatically raised to unveil the field beyond and create a sense of theater for important recruiting and marketing presentations.

At the new street facade, the curved plan extension naturally translates into the crowned elevation of the skylight. The small addition adds valuable daylight to the weight training area. The patterned glass block wall and colored glass sculpture suspended within the skylight form a glowing backdrop for the stadium entry plaza. The plaza feeds into tree-lined promenades that edge the complex and provide processional access to the stadium complex from the surrounding parking areas.