Bon Appétit

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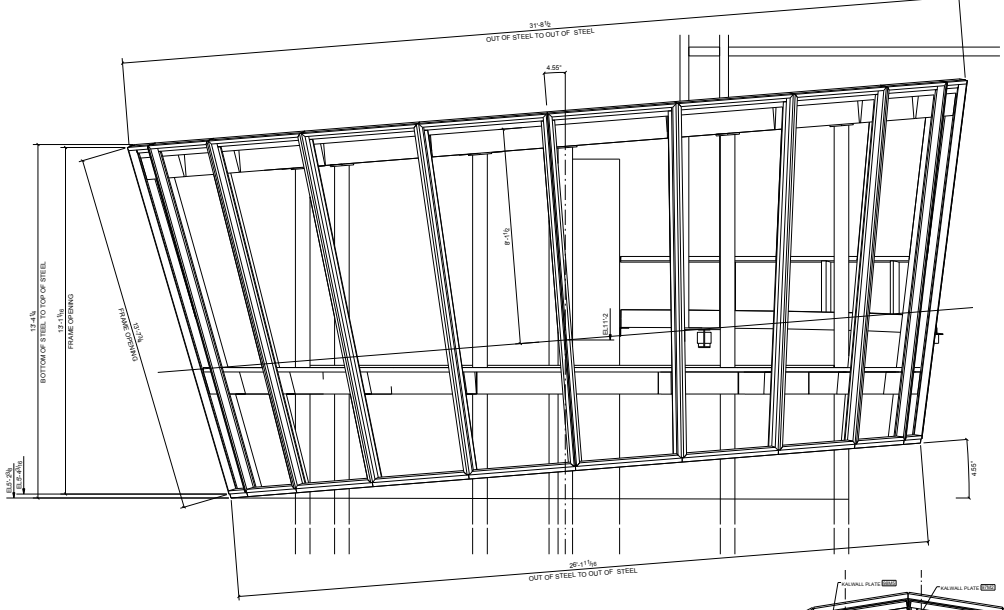
THE FIRST GOAL of the new International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach for Horry Georgetown Technical College is fairly obvious: Teach the culinary arts.

But just as important is the additional goal of retaining students through to graduation. While the school has long attracted plenty of enrollees, less than half of them stayed long enough to earn their full two-year degree. This wasn't because students weren't engaged or didn't perform well, but rather because they had the opportunity to "go pro" early, as most would gain some training, only to be drawn away due to the high demand for restaurant employees in the resort area surrounding the college. Horry Georgetown determined that it would take more than a quality education to keep students for the full two years and, as is common with other types of university and sports programs, looked to the building itself to increase retention via a unique appearance and an enhanced learning environment.

Steel was the natural choice for the main building frame due to several factors. Its strength was necessary to hold up the enormous amount of overhead equipment that services the building's six full commercial kitchens. It was also able to provide the long spans that facilitate a tremendous amount of glazing, allowing much of the interior to be bathed in natural light—which contributes to an improved learning environment.

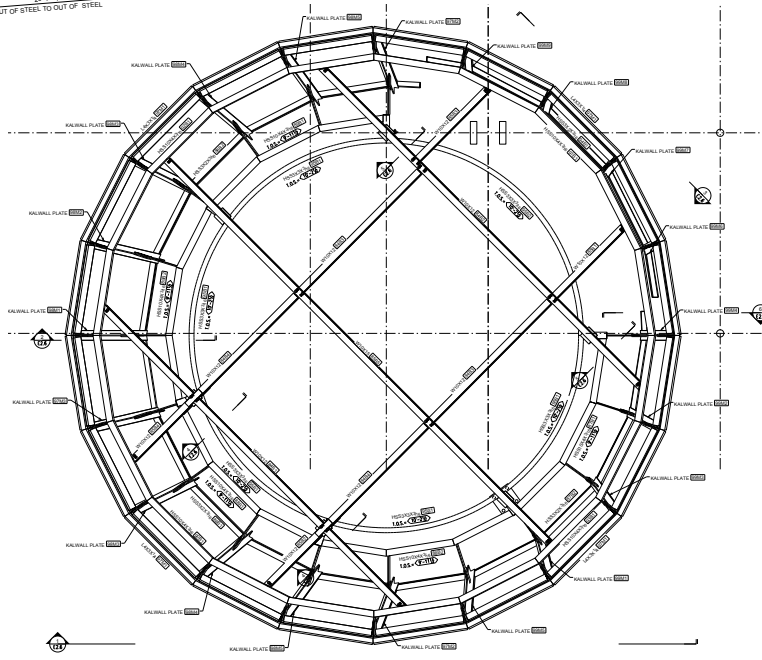
Steel framing cooks up an appetizing new school that hopes to attract and retain the next generation of culinary professionals.

The new International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach for Horry Georgetown Technical College.



One of the building's architectural and structural hightlights is the conference room, which is topped by a skewed cylindrical skylight cap evoking a chef's toque.


Monteith



And perhaps most importantly—especially given the region's history with hurricanes—it provided strength to withstand extremely high wind loads.

Located on Horry Georgetown's campus approximately one mile inland from the Atlantic Ocean, the 30,000-sq.-ft building eschews the flat surfaces and square corners common in the adjacent, older buildings of the campus. Circular steel-framed spaces bookend the facility. At one corner of the building sits a round demonstration kitchen/lecture hall, with the other end anchored by a round conference room. The conference room is topped by a skewed cylindrical skylight cap evoking a chef's toque. Texture is added to the front by the use of tilted rain

Matt Silk

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Entrance framing, before and after coating was applied.

screen panels, and the overhanging roof is supported by double hollow structural sections (HSS) located outside of the building envelope, allowing for an uninterrupted clerestory that lights up the interior concourse.

This concourse acts as both collaboration and social space and seats up to 290 without interfering with circulation. A full-service restaurant, four teaching kitchens, administrative offices and a lecture hall are all adjacent to this public area. All of these spaces, excluding the lecture hall, have glazing panels fronting the concourse, spreading natural lighting from the clerestory into the teaching areas, and letting visitors view classroom activities.

From a steel fabrication standpoint, the project's biggest challenge manifested in the multiple and complicated pitches. Anticipating issues, the project's steel fabricator and erector, Elvis Welding Service, scheduled multiple meetings with the detailer, general contractor Monteith Construction, architect Mozingo +Wallace and structural engineer Kyzer and Timmerman to get a handle on the shop drawings and ensure that all team members were on the same page. Some of the framing for the cylindrical skylight cap—which is round, tilted and tapered outward from bottom to top as a truncated cone—

The circular demonstration kitchen contains a long, curved window requiring a curved steel lintel, which in turn had to support a splayed series of vertical sunscreens on the window, using steel extensions for braces.

Matt Silk

involved two or three different pitches in a single fabricated piece, which created quite a headache in detailing, fabrication and final erection. The circular demonstration kitchen at the opposite end of the building was marginally easier for the steel team, since it at least was level from top to bottom. However, it contained a long curved window requiring a curved steel lintel, which in turn had to support a splayed series of vertical sunscreens on the window, using steel extensions for braces.

With the building now open, the college anticipates that the new steel-framed space will not only continue to attract future chefs and cooks, but also retain them for their full two-year terms. ■

Owner
Horry Georgetown Technical College, Myrtle Beach

General Contractor
Monteith Construction, Wilmington, N.C.

Architect
Mozingo + Wallace Architects, LLC, Myrtle Beach

Structural Engineer
Kyzer and Timmerman Structural Engineers, West Columbia, S.C.

Steel Team

Fabricator and Erector
Elvis Welding Service, Inc., Myrtle Beach

Bender-Roller
WhiteFab, Inc., Birmingham, Ala.


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above: Steel framing facilitated long spans, resulting in a large amount of glazing that allows much of the interior to be bathed in natural light.


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below: The interior of the circular conference room.