

The Ohio Aerospace Institute Building

Nine Ohio universities, together with governmental and private agencies, make up the consortium of the Ohio Aerospace Institute. The purpose of this building was to create an atmosphere for advanced university research, communication, and application. The building was designed to allow resident and visiting scholars to join together and share their on-going research.

The Institute created a collegial atmosphere, which makes unplanned contact easy and, indeed, unavoidable. To this end, single or double offices are interspersed with open office workstations. Common areas are located at key points of circulation so that chance encounters can be turned into productive conversations around tables or on lounge furniture.

This dual nature of the Institute is reflected in its design, both in its interior spaces and as an object in the landscape. The building's design is intended to reflect the excitement of the aerospace enterprise. Because of its proximity to the airport, its appearance from the air was considered important. While a literal reference to spacecraft is not appropriate, the forms convey an image consistent with the building's use.

Modern technology is utilized to maximize energy, efficiency and acoustical quality in the building. The specially coated window assemblies are filled with argon gas and lined with tailor-made gaskets for optimum insulation.

Three different types of glass make up the curtain wall: reflective glass for areas that house closed offices, classrooms, administrative offices, the auditorium, and the skylight; tinted glass for the front of the building where the entrance and three-story atrium are located; and tinted glass with a low-emissivity coating for scholar work areas.

Although the scholar portion of the facility is not open to the public, it is visually accessible. This has been accomplished by offsetting each of the three floor levels. The two upper floors, mezzanine and balcony step back in the plan, to overlook the floor below. A softly curved roof encloses the entire space, including the atrium.