Featured School:

The University of Michigan
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States

http://www.bus.umich.edu/

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AACSB International
Stephen M. Ross School of Business

Construction Began: October 2006
Open for Business: January 2009
Size: 274,000 gross square feet
Floors: 6, plus 1 below grade
Cost: 145 million USD
Architectural Firm: Kohn, Pederson & Fox, New York, NY
Construction Firm: Gilbane / Clark
More Information: http://www.bus.umich.edu/learningcommunity/
Features:

- Offices: 190 faculty and faculty support offices
- Classrooms: 16 classrooms, comprising 12 tiered and 4 flat. There are 24 break out/group study rooms and a 500 seat auditorium.
- Other: Other features include a large winter garden, 250 seat colloquium and video conference room employing Cisco’s TelePresence technology.

Background:

A business school committed to leadership and innovation requires a distinctive home that fosters such a dynamic approach. In January 2009, the Ross School’s new 270,000-square-foot building opened for classes. The facility is a 21st-century structure designed to help catalyze business education by supporting the school’s commitment to action-based learning. It is a place built to nurture ideas that shape—and people who lead—complex, global organizations.

The facility has enabled the school to bring together many elements to improve both the classroom experience for students and faculty, as well as creating a better Ross “campus” feel for the entire community. In addition to providing an up-to-date classroom experience with new tiered and flat classrooms allowing for better student and team interaction along with enhanced group study meeting rooms, activities at the school are now centered around the massive Winter Garden (pictured to the right), an atrium that has become the hub of the school. In one space, there is now a welcoming entrance and gathering spot for the school where hundreds of students, faculty and staff mingle together day and evening for meals, studying, project work, and informal gatherings.

The facility is equipped to be sustainable. It incorporates many architecturally innovative and environmentally responsible features, designed to meet the requirements for the Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The facility has earned the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver Certification. Some of these features include high-efficiency lighting and daylight-dimming systems. If there is a significant amount of light
entering the building, the energy consumed decreases due to the dimming of lights. To capitalize on this further, the building utilizes large skylights to bring light into offices and teaching spaces without having to rely solely on electric lighting. Faculty offices are also equipped with a sensor to detect when rooms have been vacant for a period of time. After a certain threshold, the room’s temperature is lowered to conserve power. The facility is also equipped with a green roof that filters rainfall. Called a “living roof,” this roof helps to insulate the building, reducing the costs for heating and cooling. An additional benefit to the roof is the improved air quality through the trapping of airborne particles. This kind of roofing is also expected to last two to three times longer than standard roofing. Finally, the building utilizes many features throughout focused on environmental sustainability. A sampling of these features include cork flooring (a renewable resource), drip irrigation, low-flush toilets, and automatic faucets.¹

Below are two images, demonstrating the natural light that the facility is able to draw in:
More than just a learning facility, the building reflects the values of the Ross community. In form and function, it supports the collaborative culture, embodies the commitment to environmental sustainability, and reflects the importance of incorporating creativity in business.


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