

Western Michigan University

Heritage Hall Alumni Center

Kalamazoo, Michigan



Client Challenge

The legacy of WMU was founded in 1903 when its historic home "East Hall" was built on approximately 20 acres on Prospect Hill. As the University grew, it expanded westward to include the present West Campus (now the main campus). The team was challenged to renovate the historic East Hall into a new Alumni Center, celebrating WMU's history.

TowerPinkster Solution

The historic character of the original building was restored which entailed keeping and restoring the original masonry exterior and openings, repairing metal cornice work and replacing existing windows with period-appropriate windows.

The programmatic change in use from administration and classroom functions to an Alumni Center allows for a blending of style. The central grand stair and main corridors were retained, emphasizing the original horizontal and vertical circulation through the building. More open, public areas also were provided. The importance of reinforcing these connections are emphasized by a strong branding campaign consisting of displays, artifacts and historic elements from campus. A cafe area, library and guest offices are also featured.

The Alumni Center includes office space to house the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Meeting rooms, a large banquet area and warming kitchen accommodate 160 people.

Size: 40,500 SF

Firm Role: Master Planning, Architecture, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture Services

