

2001 AWARD OF MERIT: INSTITUTIONAL PROJECT

*Baruch College
Academic Complex*

The Baruch College Academic Complex is a \$190 million, 786,000-sq.-ft. vertical campus that is actually four buildings in one. If it were four buildings, they would consist of a performing arts center, a classroom building, an athletic facility and a student activity center. However, since the project is in the middle of Manhattan, one of its biggest challenges was combining the four buildings in one as a vertical campus.

Other project challenges included the structural steel, the exterior, the schedule and coping with a tight labor market.

Due to the large open spaces in the lower levels as well as the open interior atriums through the middle of the building, the structural steel frame had to be designed to span large open areas while supporting fully closed floors above it. This design element resulted in the need for long span trusses throughout the building. It also required special steel framework that was detailed, fabricated, transported and erected within a tight schedule. Sloping columns on the exterior of the building were also a design element required by the curvature of the building exterior. These geometrically complicated members also had to be detailed, fabricated and delivered with the conventional steel framework within a tight schedule.

The curved design of the building's exterior was the result of complying with zoning requirements and the need to maximize the size of the floor plates of the building. From the sixth floor to the upper roof level, the exterior slopes inward as it ascends upward and is comprised of a combination of curtain wall, metal siding and strip windows.

The fast-track schedule also presented a challenge. Contracts were awarded early for the structural steel, concrete superstructure and ductwork.

In addition, the project was built during the tight labor market that resulted in a shortage of various construction trades for long periods during the project. The solution was to work extended overtime in order to progress the work and to increase the workforce with overtime incentives.

This project was recognized for its solutions to complex challenges. The jury cited this four-in-one vertical campus for its aesthetics and singular accomplishment of one building being able to serve so many needs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TDX CONSTRUCTION CORP.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

ARCHITECT: Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, NYC

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT: Castro-Blanco Picioneri, NYC

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Weidlinger Associates, NYC

MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING ENGINEER: Cosentini Associates, NYC

SITE & CIVIL ENGINEER: Vollmer Associates, NYC

FOUNDATION CONTRACTOR: Urban Foundations Engineers, Elmhurst, N.Y.

CONCRETE SUPERSTRUCTURE

CONTRACTOR: Shroid Construction Inc., Long Island City, N.Y.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR: L.K Comstock & Co. Inc., Maspeth, N.Y.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR: J.H. Electric of NY Inc., Huntington, N.Y.

STRUCTURAL STEEL CONTRACTOR: Canron, Conklin, N.Y.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Trataros Construction Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: TDX Construction Corp., NYC

OWNER: City University of New York, NYC

DEVELOPER: Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, Albany, NYC