

**MIT - Simmons Hall**  
Overview of the Building Structure

James C. Parker, PE  
Amy T. Stern, PE  
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Wednesday September 24, 2003

## Presentation Overview:

- Background & General Information:
  - Project Design Team & Construction Team
  - Architectural Features & Vision
  - Building Statistics
  - SGH's Role in Project
- Structural Design & Construction Issues:
  - Foundations
  - CIP Concrete Slabs, Beams, Walls, Elevators & Stairs
  - Exterior Precast Concrete Walls
  - Construction Scheduling
  - Special Inspections
- Questions & Answers



### Project Design Team:

**Owner:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology - MIT (Cambridge, MA)

**Consulting Project Managers:** Casali Group (Cambridge, MA)

**Design Architect:** Steven Holl Architects (New York, NY)

**Associate Architect:** Perry Dean Rogers & Partners (Boston, MA)

**Structural Engineers:** Guy Nordenson and Associates (New York, NY)

**Structural Engineers of Record: Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger (Waltham, MA)**

**MEP Engineers:** Ove Arup & Partners (Cambridge, MA)

**Geotechnical Engineers:** Haley & Aldrich (Boston, MA)

**Civil Engineers:** SEA Consultants, Inc. (Cambridge, MA)

### Project Construction Team:

**Construction Manager:** Daniel O'Connell's Sons (Waltham, MA)

**Concrete Subcontractor:** S&F Concrete (Hudson, MA)

**Rebar Subcontractor:** Bart & Lund

**Concrete Supplier:** Aggregate Industries (Saugus, MA)

**Precast Concrete Subcontractor:** Bolduc (Quebec City, Quebec, Canada)

**Precast Erector:** Daniel Marr, Inc.

Special Inspections & Materials Testing Services:

**Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (Arlington, MA)**  
**Thompson & Lichtner Company, Inc. (Cambridge, MA)**

### “Community”

Even before ground was broken, *Progressive Architecture* magazine recognized Simmons Hall for the inventive ways in which it promotes community.

Excerpted from MIT website



### “Openness”

"Open" is the word that was volleyed across the table most often in the extensive community-wide planning discussions for the newest undergraduate dormitory, Simmons Hall. And open it will be. Open to light and air, open to undergraduate and graduate students, open to faculty and artists-in-residence who will live, work, eat, study, and be entertained within its dynamic spaces.

Excerpted from MIT website



“Openness”

"Open" is the word that was volleyed across the table most often in the extensive community-wide planning discussions for the newest undergraduate dormitory, Simmons Hall. And open it will be. Open to light and air, open to undergraduate and graduate students, open to faculty and artists-in-residence who will live, work, eat, study, and be entertained within its dynamic spaces.

**“Sponge Concept”**



- “The residence is envisioned as part of the city form....with a concept of ‘Porosity’.”
- “The Sponge concept..transforms a porous building morphology via a series of bio-technical functions.

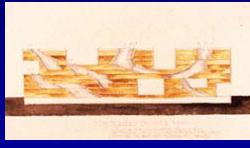
As written in SHA Schematic Design Narration

**“The Lungs”**



- “Air drawn up through main “Lungs” via slow RPM fans operated by roof top photovoltaic cells....”

As written in SHA Schematic Design Narration

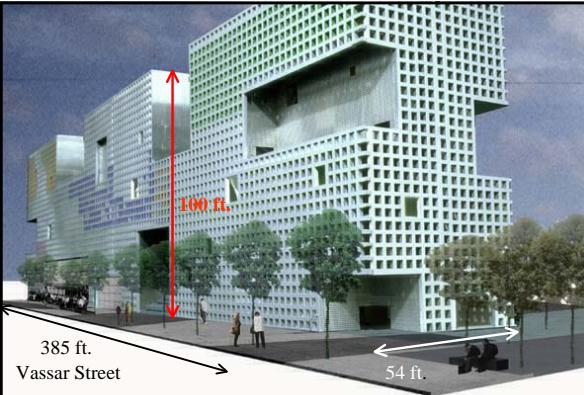



**Building Statistics:**

- The dorm contains 350 student beds:
  - 253 single and double rooms
  - 17 suites for housemaster, assistant housemaster, visiting scholars and graduate resident advisors
- Approximately 180,000 square feet
- Construction schedule of 22 months
  - Groundbreaking: November 2000
  - Occupancy: September 2002

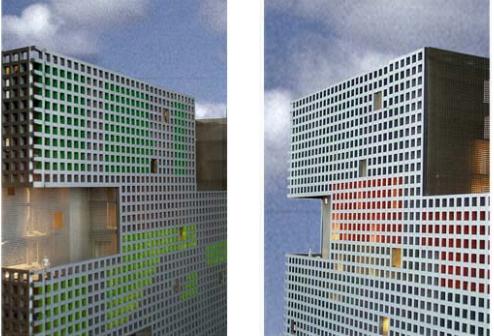


**Site 229-243 Vassar Street**



**Building Dimensions:**

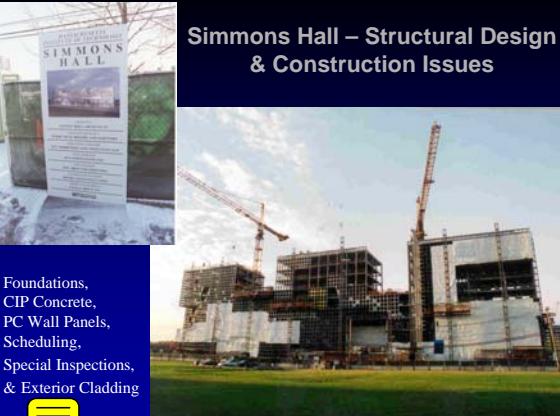
- 100 ft.
- 385 ft. Vassar Street
- 54 ft.



Terraces

### SGH's Roles:

- Engineer of Record
- Developed and designed foundation solution for difficult site
- Led design development of "Perfcon" exterior frames.
  - Resolved critical detailing issues
  - Studied constructability
  - Studied alternate material solutions (VE session)
  - Developed means and methods of analysis and design
- Provided construction documents and specifications
- Full-time engineering site presence, special inspections and construction administration
- Façade consulting, peer-review and water testing



**Simmons Hall – Structural Design & Construction Issues**

Foundations, CIP Concrete, PC Wall Panels, Scheduling, Special Inspections, & Exterior Cladding

### Foundation & Sitework Issues:

- Concern: Approx. 200' soft compressible Boston Blue Clay underlying the project site:
  - Differential settlements
  - Heave during excavation
- Solution: Floating Mat "Raft" Foundation
  - Pre-construction soil stresses = post-construction soil stresses (ie. weight of soil = weight of building)
  - Finite Element software package used to Analyze/Design Mat Foundation to prevent differential settlements

### Foundation & Sitework Issues - Cont'':

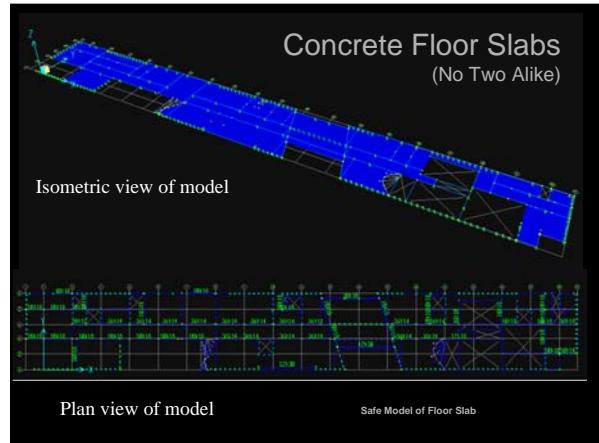
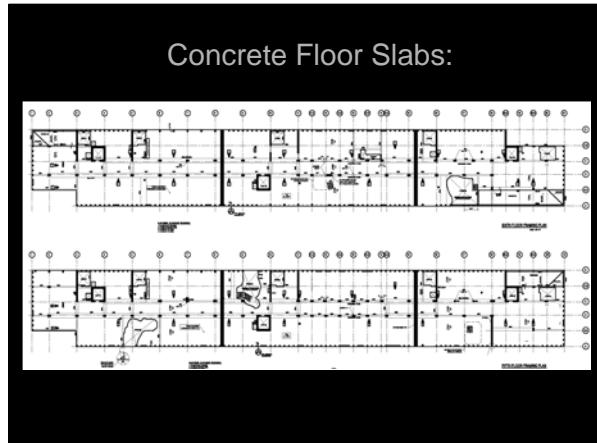
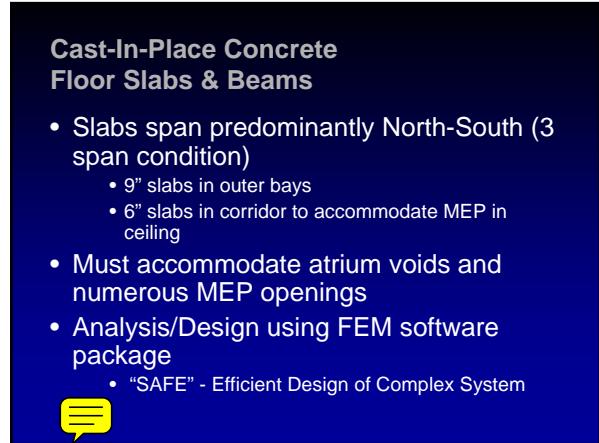
- Water Table:
  - Mat foundation approx. 10' below water table
  - Dewatering wells used to keep excavation dry until basement was complete
- Proximity to Working Railroad Tracks
  - Excavation Shoring to prevent settlement of tracks
  - Sheet Piling around perimeter of site with cross-lot bracing
- Contaminated Soils
- Bad Weather

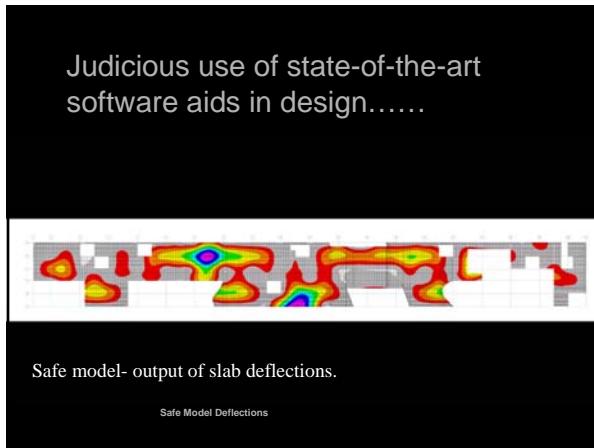


Sitework:

Looking West Along Vassar St.  
7 November 2000

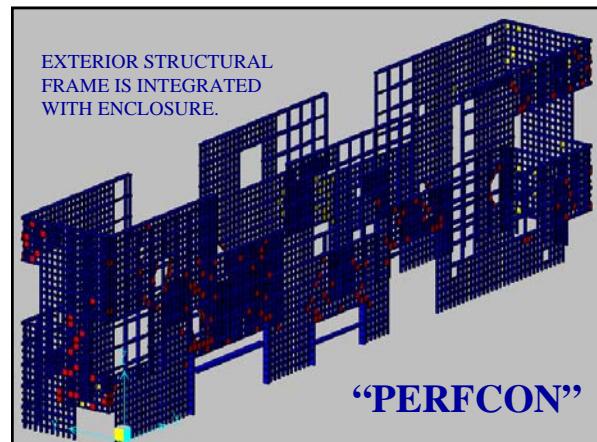
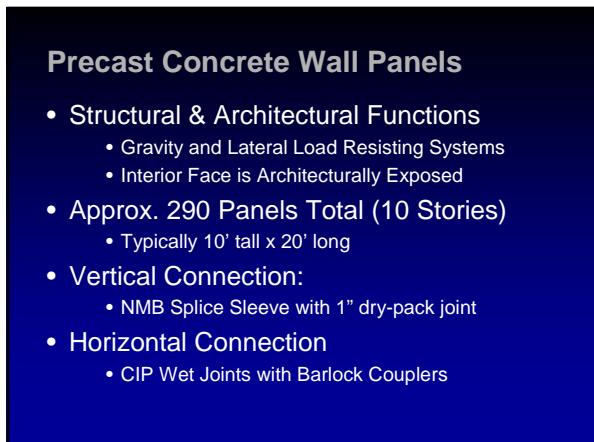
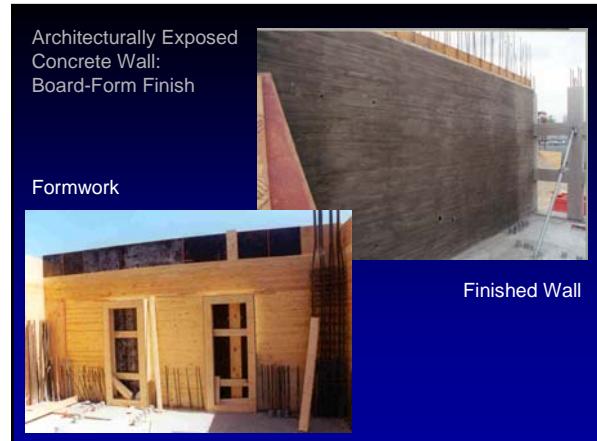
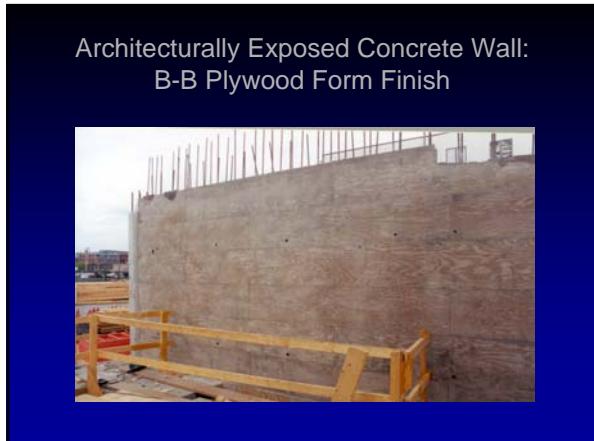
Looking East Down Vassar St.  
20 October 2000

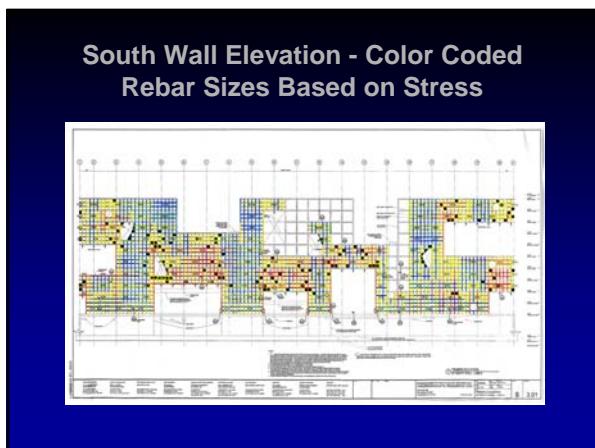
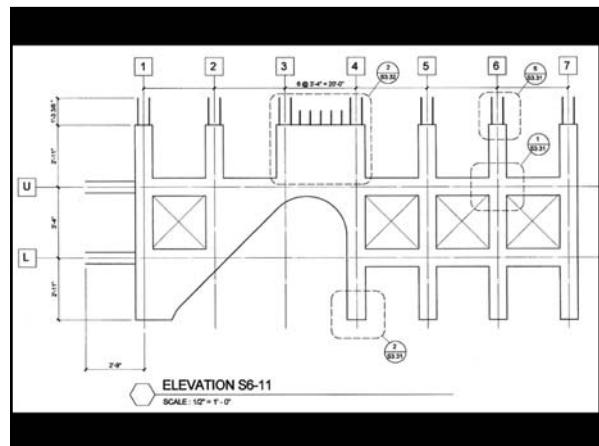
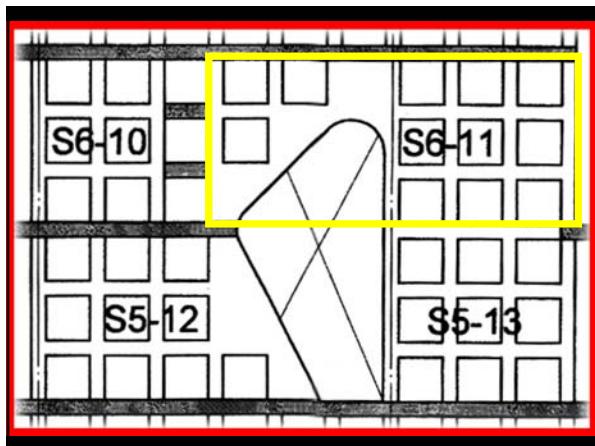
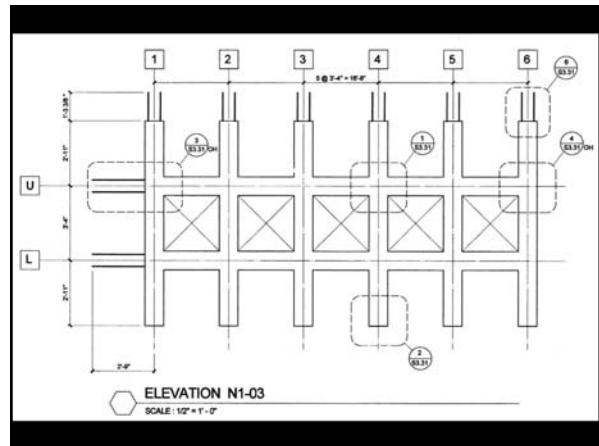
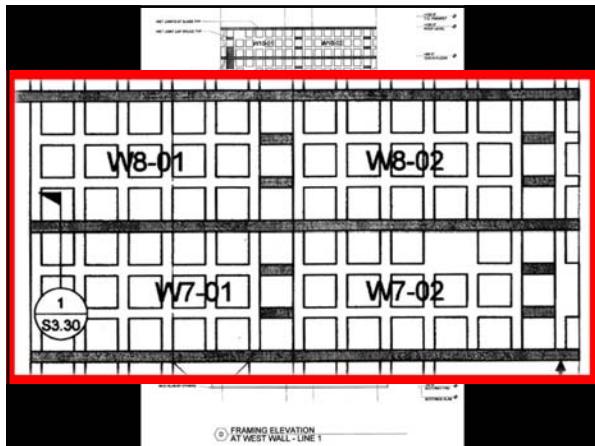


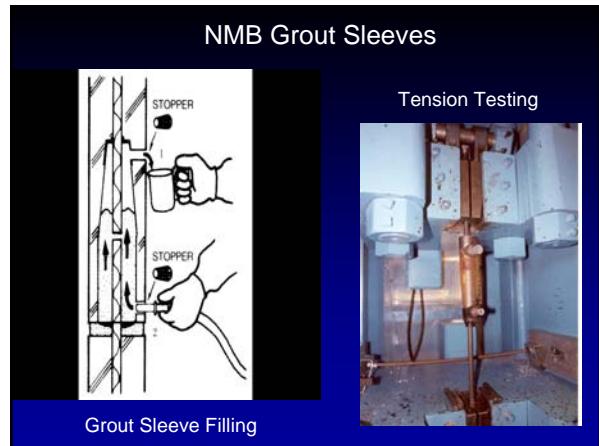
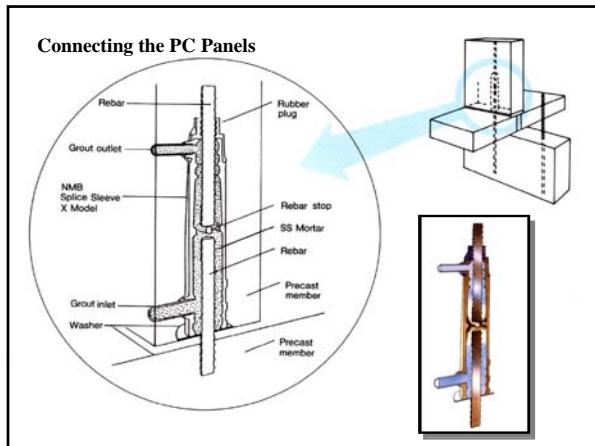


- ### Lateral Load Resisting Systems:
- Transverse Direction:
    - CIP Reinforced Concrete Shear Walls:
      - 3 Elevator Cores (10'x10'x128')
      - 6 - 11" thick x 20' Long Shear Walls x 118' tall
    - East and West Exterior Precast Walls
  - Longitudinal Direction:
    - North and South Exterior Perfcon Walls
    - Intermediate Concrete Moment Frames on Interior Grid lines B & C











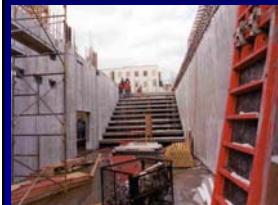
### Precast Concrete Wall Panels

Sinco-wilson sleeves to gain tolerance      Grouting & Dry-Packaging



### Miscellaneous Precast Concrete Elements

#### PC Prestressed Planks



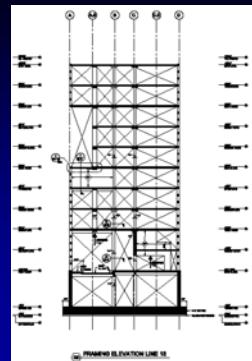
#### PC Long-Span Beams



### Interior Concrete Frames:

- Gravity Load Resisting System:
  - Several transfer beams for discontinuous columns
  - Vierendeel trusses used for long-span heavily loaded sections
  - Hangers used to suspend floors from transfers above
- Lateral Load Resisting System:
  - Intermediate Concrete Moment Frames resist lateral loads (wind and seismic) in longitudinal direction

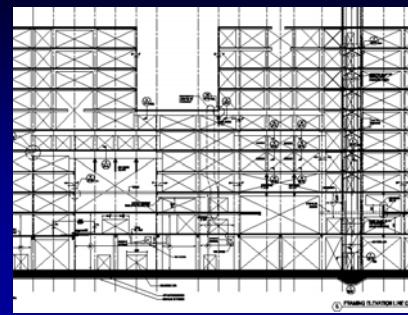
### Transverse Building Section

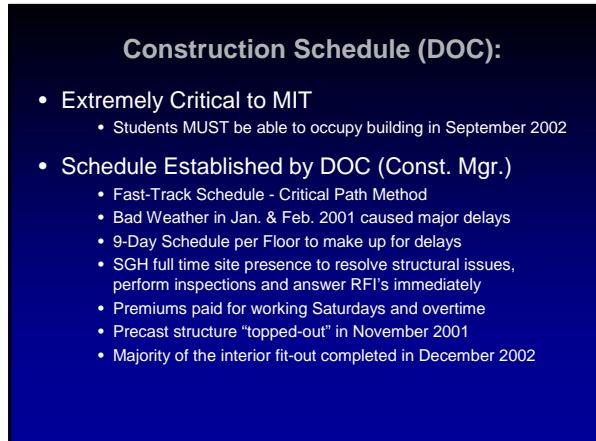
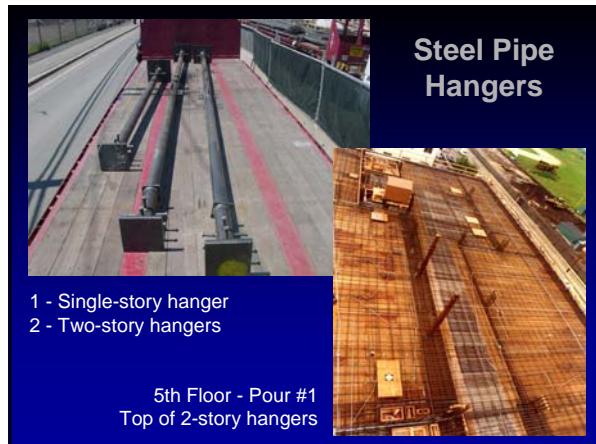


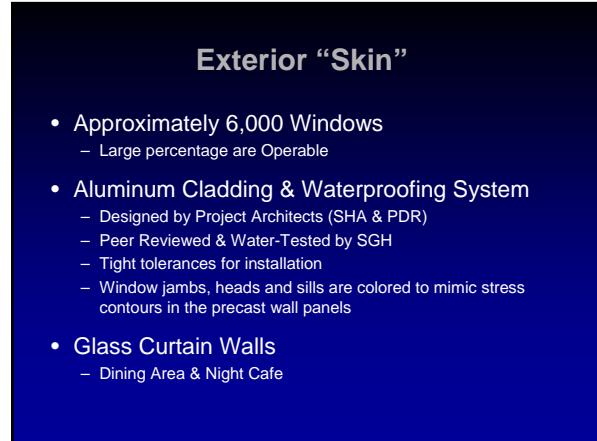
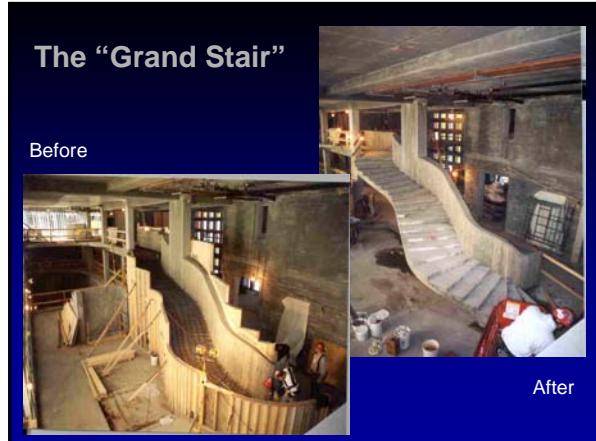
### Interior Elevation - Grid Line C

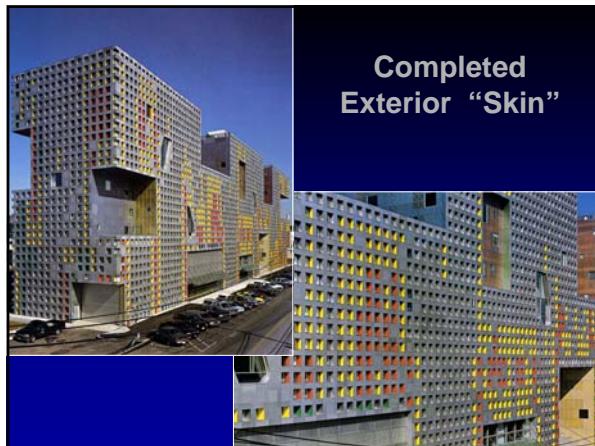


### Interior Transfers on C-Line:

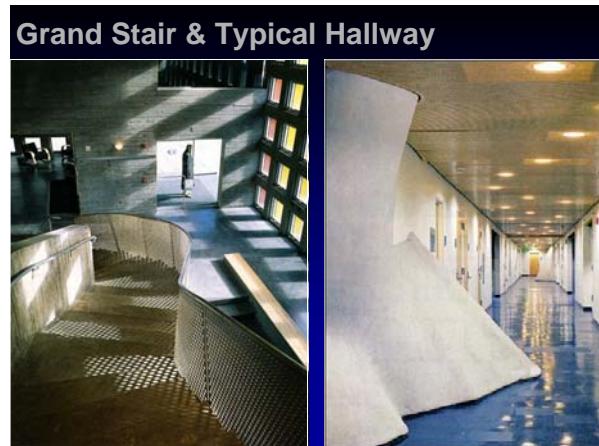




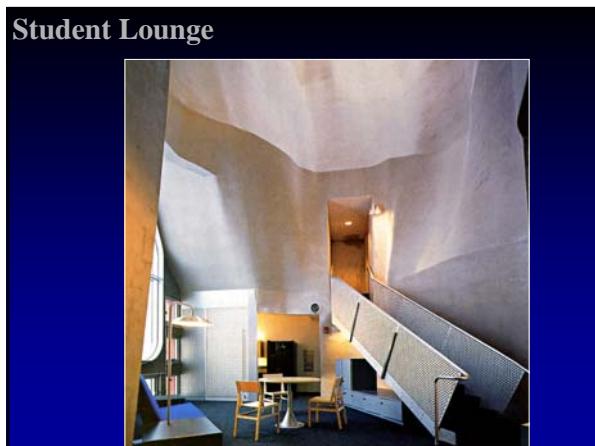




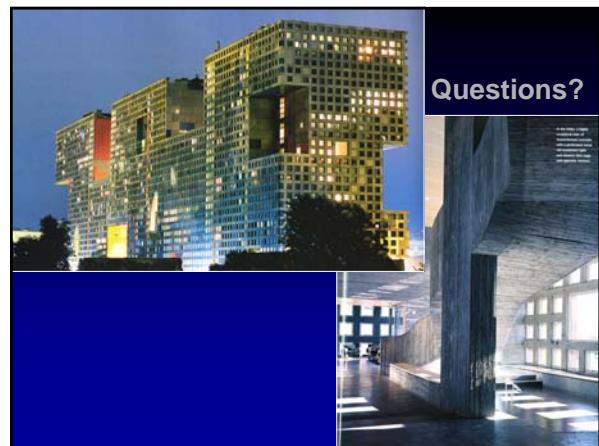
Completed  
Exterior "Skin"



Grand Stair & Typical Hallway



Student Lounge



Questions?