



PACIFIC NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF ART: ARLENE AND HAROLD SCHNITZER CENTER FOR ART AND DESIGN

PROJECT-AT-A-GLANCE

Overview

- 145,000-square-foot historic building renovation
- Completed in 2014
- Certified LEED Platinum

Estimated Savings

- 813,700 annual kilowatt hours of electricity
- 3,200 annual therms of natural gas
- \$64,700 annual energy cost savings
- \$288,914 Energy Trust cash incentive

Awards

- 2016
 - Daily Journal of Commerce TopProjects Award, Top Honors in Renovation
- 2015
 - American Institute of Architects Portland, Mayor's Award Finalist

Project Contributors

- Brad Cloepfil, Allied Works Architecture
- Glumac

Utility Providers

- Portland General Electric
- NW Natural

Pacific Northwest College of Art, a small private college at the forefront of creative design, needed a new space to anchor its growing campus on the North Park Blocks in downtown Portland. The college found what it needed by renovating one of Portland's historic gems—the city's original main post office built in 1918.

The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Center for Art and Design showcases PNCA's vision and entrepreneurship through the imaginative repurposing of a government building into an inspiring, sustainable and energy-efficient campus hub. The building includes studios, classrooms, media labs, a library, black box theater, gallery space and the college's center for student services—all lit with skylights and LEDs and kept comfortable with an efficient variable refrigerant flow HVAC system.

Originally designed by San Francisco architect Lewis Parsons Hobart, who also designed Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, the center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The renovation preserves the building's exterior and marble-lined corridors, but includes major interior improvements. The original skylights, which had been covered for 40 years, are now an integral part of the design, illuminating nearly every working space.

The onetime mail sorting room has become a collaborative atrium, complete with a cable-suspended mezzanine around the perimeter.

The center achieved LEED® Platinum certification and received Energy Trust of Oregon cash incentives for design assistance, energy modeling, energy-efficient equipment and building commissioning.

Sustainable Design Highlights:

- Restoration/reuse of a building comprising a full city block
- Uncovered original skylights, added additional skylights, cut away corridors to maximize daylight
- LED lighting
- HVAC system using variable refrigerant flow with dedicated outside air (one of the first in Portland)
- Low-flow water fixtures
- 35 percent of the building's energy supplied with green power