Green Building on College Campuses

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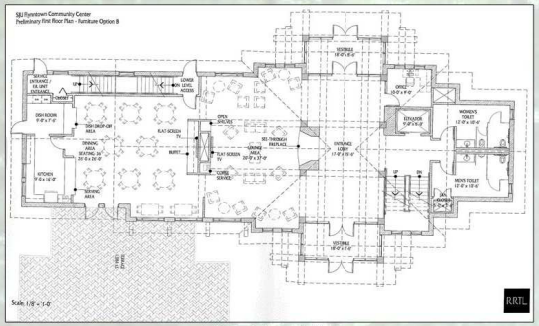
Introduction

Green building has become a major trend throughout the world, particularly on college campuses. These buildings provide excellent visual teaching aids for students and faculty in monitoring energy use and waste. St. John's is currently designing a community center for the Flynntown area on campus. The goal is for the building to receive LEED Silver certification. Construction of this new facility is scheduled to begin this summer with it being open for use by the fall of 2009.

Preliminary Sketch of Community Center
Source: RRTL Architects

Conclusion

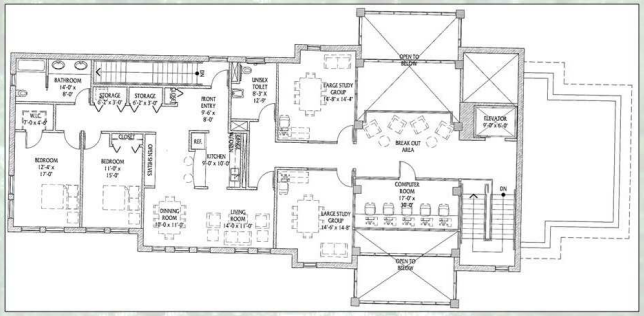
I have found that St. John's has made steps in the right direction by deciding to build green for this project. However, when comparing the University to other institutions, I feel that there is more the school could do. I think that there needs to be a more conscious effort of energy use by individual buildings on campus. I also feel that many of the campus buildings are in need of "green" renovations. I believe that the starting point for change is through education of green building practices for University administration in charge of the design and construction of campus facilities.



First Floor Plan
Source: RRTL Architects

Methods

Throughout the semester I have attended design committee meetings between St. John's University officials, RRTL Architects, and the Weidt Group to gain an understanding of how St. John's has gone about planning and designing this new facility. I have also looked at many other colleges and universities and examined the green buildings they have developed and the steps taken in designing and constructing them.



Second Floor Plan
Source: RRTL Architects

Adam J. Lewis Center, Oberlin College
Source: http://www.oberlin.edu/ajlc/ajlcHome.html

Olin Hall, Carleton College
Source:http://people.carleton.edu/%7Elordj/Olinroof.htm

Lillis Business Complex, University of Oregon
Source: http://greensource.construction.com/projects/0606_lillis/3.asp