

# 40<sup>1977</sup>/<sub>2017</sub> Athletic Business

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30TH ANNUAL

ARCHITECTURAL SHOWCASE ISUE

65 STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

# THORNTONS ACADEMIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LOUISVILLE, KY.

[Photos by Vaughn Fountain]

## ARCHITECT OF RECORD:

Rosser International Inc.  
Atlanta, Ga.

## ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT:

Murphy Group Architects  
Lexington, Ky.

**SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 49,489

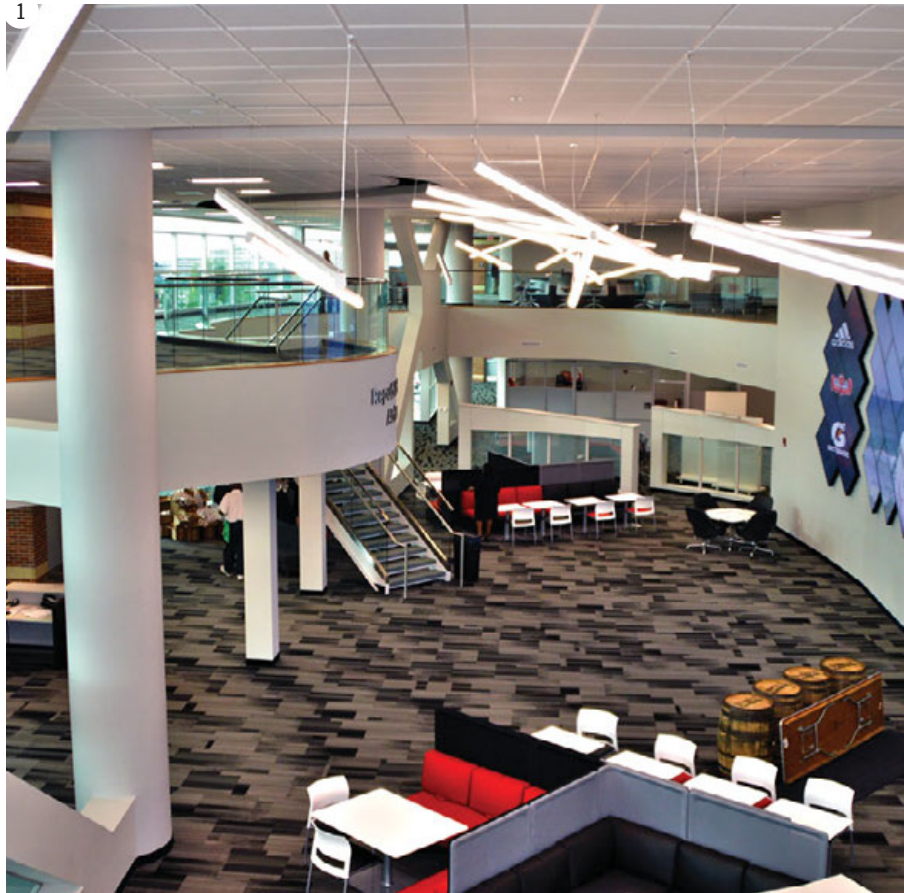
**COST:** \$14.5 million

**OCCUPANCY:** August 2016

The University of Louisville's Thorntons Academic Center of Excellence serves as the home for the athletic department's academic services staff and outreach programs. The building is prominently located at the south end of Papa John's Cardinal Stadium beneath Norton Terrace, providing easy access for all of the school's 650 student-athletes. It features individual tutor rooms, learning labs, group study areas, classroom space, offices, computer labs and dining areas.

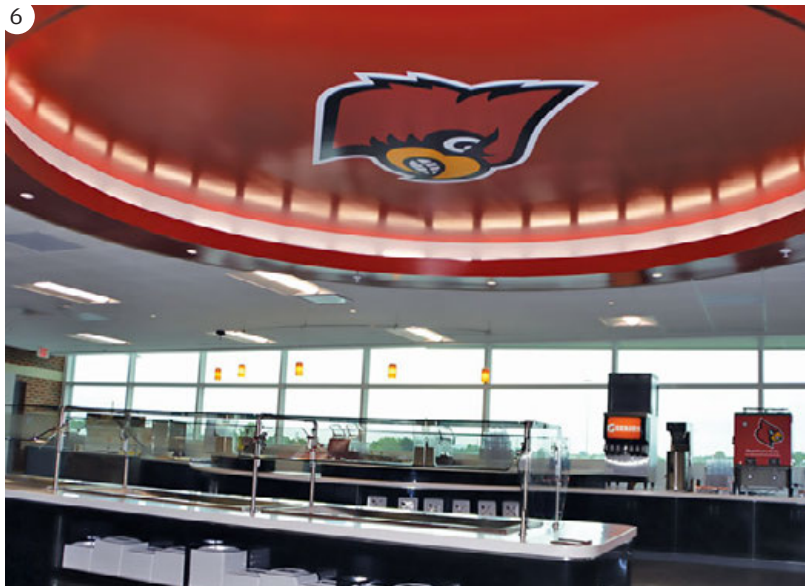
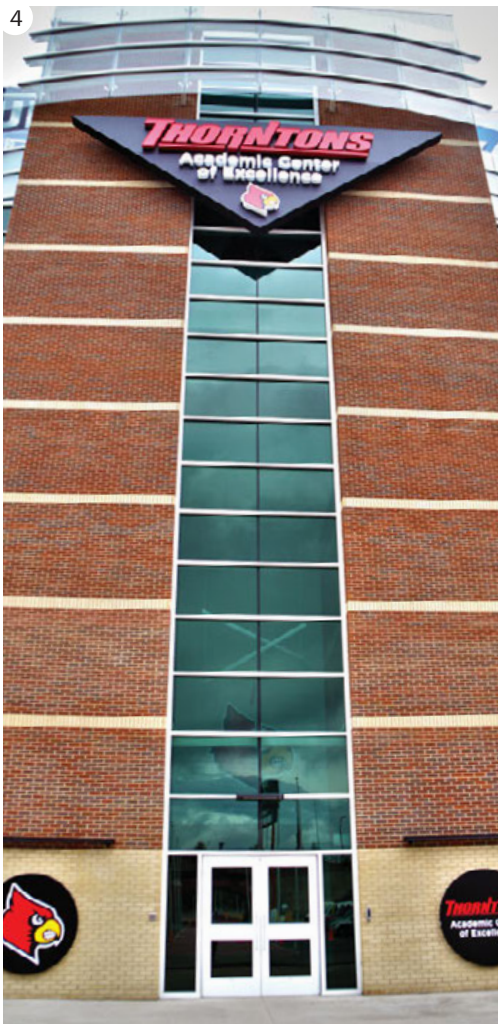
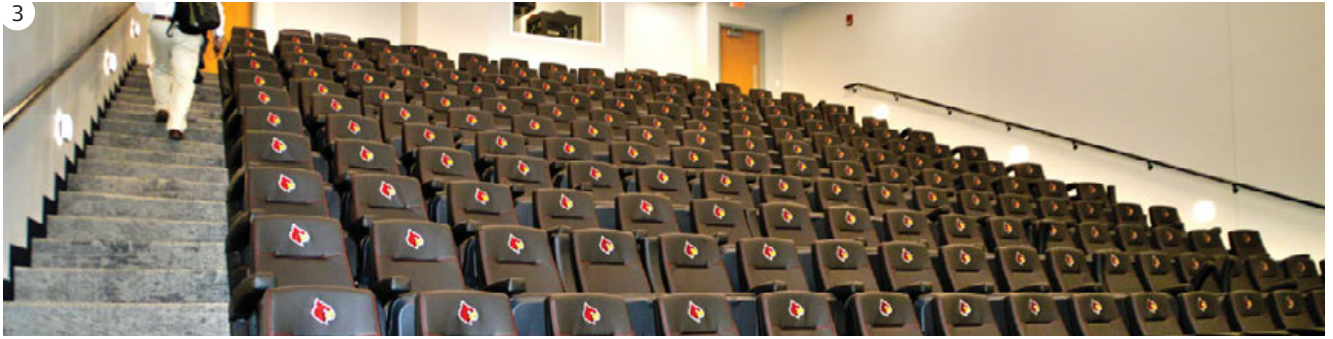
The new building was conceived as a quality "end" to the existing stadium, providing a high-finish glass facility where previously exposed stadium supporting structure had stood. The two-story structure's first floor is actually 24 feet above ground level, in part to retain the openness of the existing stadium concourse. Quieter programming spaces are located upstairs, with group functions and meeting spaces downstairs. Stair towers are integrated with the existing facilities on the terrace above, creating a holistic composition with the overall south stadium facade.

The central space features a swirling suspended light feature consisting of eight-foot "light sticks" complementing the video feature wall, while other areas throughout the facility are lit with high-efficiency LED fixtures. A subdued color scheme of grays and whites allows University Red to be a spark within appropriate spaces.



1 Atrium light sticks are a unique component of the facility's central space.

2 Finish materials were selected for ease of maintenance and to highlight marketing partnerships and sponsorships.



3 A 240-seat auditorium connects the lower and upper floors.

5 Conference and study space serve Louisville's student-athletes.

4 Green glass and brick help the building match the stadium to which it's attached.

6 The use of bold reds reinforces school branding.