

BSC Lakeview Residence Halls

Photography Courtesy of ArchitectureWorks



This aerial view shows the new Lakeview Residence Halls extending in an east-west orientation between existing dorms (right) and a new lake below. Behind projecting bays are the living rooms of four-bedroom suites.



Brick, fiber-cement paneling and other exterior materials were selected for long-term maintenance benefits. Detailing helps give the buildings a domestic character.



A large cistern installed under the lawn between the dorms collects roof runoff for use in irrigation.

By Philip Morris



A recent field trip for a Birmingham-Southern College environmental class had the students touring their own backyard: the new Lakeview Residence Halls designed by ArchitectureWorks of Birmingham. Located on what had been parking lots near existing dorms, the paired four-story buildings with 170 beds overlook a new lake created as part of an overall campus enhancement.

In reviewing the LEED strategies for the project, architect Jay Pigford told the students that the biggest move was the most basic: orientation of the long buildings on a roughly east-west alignment to make the most of sun angles. "That, and the use of exterior materials that have long-term sustainability, are what provide the biggest benefit in energy consumption and reduced long-term costs for the owner," he said. Other steps included high-performance HVAC and water-heating systems, recycled and regionally sourced building materials and a 15,000-gallon rainwater cistern used for irrigation.

The steep slope helped keep the new dorms in scale with adjacent ones with just three floors at street/plaza level. The bottom floors are masonry construction, the upper floors are wood frame with 5 ½-inch studs to increase strength and create better insulation.



Banks of windows, like those in this suite living room, capture views and daylight. High ceilings also help distribute light.