

Crossroads Center

New building design exemplifies

by Ann Haver-Allen

The Crossroads Center is open for use, although work continues on the landscaping. The College's philosophy, which centers on experiential education, environmental responsibility, sustainable systems, and social justice, was the driving force behind the construction of the Crossroads Center. The design embodies green building technologies, flexible community space, and strong connections to the overall campus and landscape.

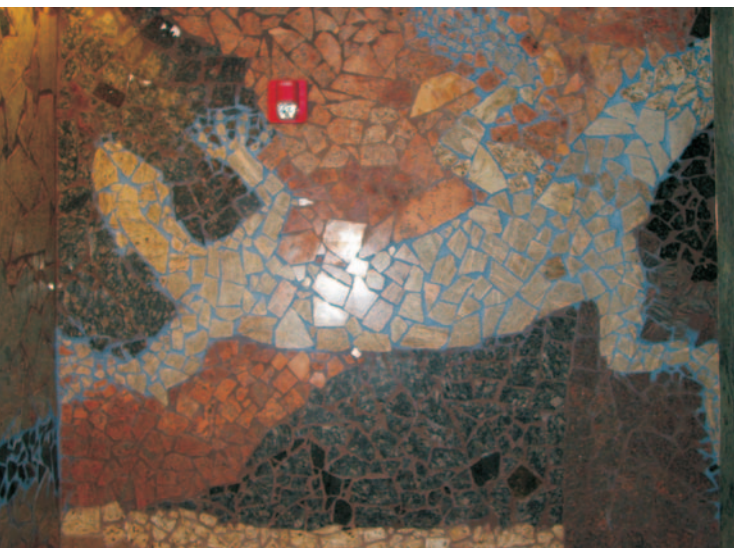
Two-foot thick rammed-earth walls and finished concrete floors store and release energy, mitigating temperature swings. A 72-panel photovoltaic system produces energy while also providing a shade canopy for the south face of the Information Commons.

WeddleGilmore Architects of Tempe designed the building.

"The Crossroads Center includes rammed earth walls, reclaimed concrete retaining walls, integration of beetle-killed ponderosa pine, vegetated green roof, photovoltaic panels, and an energy management system in addition to the use of extensive natural ventilation and natural daylighting," said Philip Weddle, who led the design efforts for the Crossroads Center. "The facility acts as a case study for green building for the Prescott region. It is evidence of great commitment on the College's part to walk the talk of their mission statement."

The 22,000-square-foot building incorporates a two-structure configuration with a landscaped garden as a central focus. The information commons—an integration of the library with technological and social functions—occupies one half on the total structure. The library is two-story with an open mezzanine level on the second floor (see story, page 6).

The café and community



Above left, beetle-killed trees are used as majestic columns fronting the information commons side of the new Crossroads Center. Photo by Travis Patterson. Left, bathroom murals were created using old granite countertops that were donated by Clark Granite & Marble of Chino Valley. Photo by Julie VanSant. Above, this sculpture by Construction Coordinator Don Routson welcomes visitors to the library. Photo by Travis Patterson. Above right, a bridge connects the north building to the south building. Photo by Bridget Reynolds.

opens for business

Prescott College mission

meeting rooms are on the ground level of the other half of the structure. The café has a garden-view orientation that blends seamlessly into the natural space. A second-story pedestrian bridge connects one structure to the other.

The second floor has six classrooms with multimedia capabilities, and will have a roof vegetable garden and a “green” roof over the café, which will include native grasses and wildflowers. The vegetated roof decreases heat island effects while reducing solar heat gains through the roof. It will also assist in reducing storm-water runoff.

The Crossroads Center enables Prescott College to constructively engage the campus and the greater world in teaching, research, and discussion about the various challenges and opportunities facing

our local and global communities and serves as the central gathering point for Prescott College’s learning community through integration of the information commons (library), café, technology, classrooms, and social spaces.

In addition, the Crossroads Center functions as a conference services facility integrated with the daily needs of the College’s academic enterprise.

Don Routson of Williamson Valley was the construction coordinator. The grand opening will take place Feb. 17 to 19, 2005. A schedule of events is online at: www.prescott.edu/news/schedule.html ☹

To view a 12-minute video about the Crossroads Center, see www.prescott.edu/crossroads/video.html.



Far left, Tricia Biel-Goebel '01 is one of the artists who worked on the murals in the bathrooms of the new Crossroads Center. Photo by Ann Haver-Allen. Above is the café's outside dining area overlooking Butte Creek. Photo by Bridget Reynolds. Left, Beetle-killed pines were used in the design. Top photo, the building's exterior is designed to weather. Photos by Travis Patterson.