

## Construction

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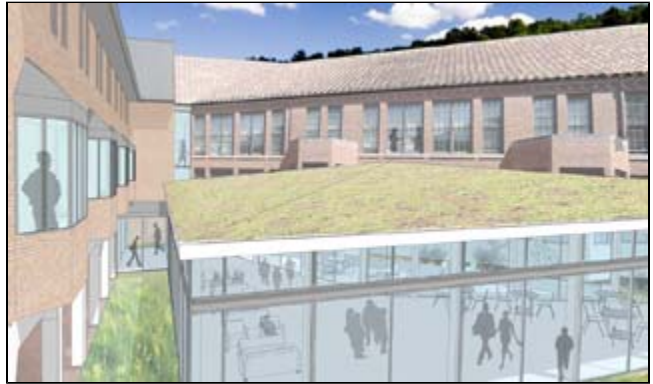
### Western trying out GC/CM method

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The \$60.4 million renovation of Western Washington University's Miller Hall marks the university's first use of the GC/CM method.

Work began this month on the phased project, which is designed to improve the character, as well as the academic and office spaces, of both the original 1940s-era building and a 1968 addition. The 134,000-square-foot project is scheduled to be done in December of 2011, and achieve LEED silver certification.

Mahlum Architects designed the project, and Dawson Construction is the GC/CM. Other members of the project team are Coughlin Porter Lundeen, civil and structural engineers; CDI Engineers, mechanical; Sparling, electrical; and Berger Partnership, landscape architects.



Rendering courtesy of Mahlum Architects [\[enlarge\]](#)

**The new Miller Hall will house the College of Education, Modern and Classic Languages Department and general classrooms.**

The hall houses the Woodring College of Education, which will remain, and it will become home to the department of Modern and Classical Languages as well as general university classrooms.

New exterior steps and a sloped walkway from the original building will reach out and engage with Red Square, re-emphasizing an entrance that was obscured by the 1968 addition. The main lobby will be restored to better accommodate students exiting and entering three adjacent general-use classrooms, and to provide better way-finding to the Woodring administrative offices.

A new stand-alone, single-story, glass-walled pavilion will be inserted between the two existing buildings in what is now an open courtyard. The glass walls will be disengaged from both buildings and focus the view from the inside toward the prominent historic face of the 1940s building. The area between the walls of the pavilion and the existing buildings will be planted with native landscaping, and sliding doors will allow access to a patio on the northeastern side, expanding the indoor-outdoor space. The vegetated roof will be planted with sedums.

The second, third and fourth levels of the 1960s addition will contain faculty and staff offices.

New stairs, elevators and entry lobbies will be introduced to clarify circulation and improve way-finding in the two buildings, which together have nine different levels. Three existing stairs and

two ramps will be removed and replaced by two simplified stair towers and elevators that will provide disabled access to all parts of the buildings. The glass-enclosed staircases will provide visual connection between the building and the rest of the campus.

Eight new vertical shafts topped by skylights will be added to the 1960s addition to bring in more natural light and to better link the vertically stacked departments. New dormer windows will be added to the mansard-style roof to increase the area and provide access to light, air and views.

The asphalt parking areas immediately east of the building will be removed and replaced with landscaping. The removal of the asphalt parking will dramatically reduce stormwater runoff and minimal irrigation will be needed after native drought-tolerant plants are established.

Windows will be operable, mechanical systems will use radiant heating and cooling, and highly efficient lighting will be combined with increased daylighting. Plans call for a “deconstruction” plan to take advantage of the salvage value of materials and to recycle site and building waste to prevent useable materials from going into landfills. The site will accommodate a large population of bicyclists.

Where possible, the project team will use recycled and recyclable products as well as products purchased locally, such as certified wood products. A series of walk-off mats will be used to reduce the introduction of exterior pollutants into the building.