

CASE STUDY

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW  
LEWIS KATZ BUILDING





The Dickinson School of Law is the oldest law school in Pennsylvania and is housed in the Lewis Katz Building, one of the most innovative and sustainable buildings on the university's campus.

The 114,000-square-foot space is the law school's first structural presence on the campus and houses a light, bright, curving library as the central focal point. Inside the building, students can enjoy a variety of study environments, from standard classrooms to a 250-seat auditorium and a full-sized courtroom setting.

Architect: Ennead Architects  
Associate Architect: Office for Planning and Architecture  
Curtain Wall & Skylight Consultants: Heintges Consulting Architects & Engineers P.C.  
Glazing Contractor: Duratherm Window Company, LLC

Photography: © Josh Partee

## **GROUNDBREAKING IN EVERY SENSE**

The Lewis Katz Building has truly stood the test of time in terms of its location, design, construction and materials used. Located at the edge of Pennsylvania State's University Park campus, the building is the gateway to the University. The architectural design of the building is in perfect harmony with the gentle, rolling nature of the surrounding environment. The two ends of the slightly curved building are designed around specific elements of the reflecting landscape, the adjacent botanical garden and the distant Mount Nittany.

In addition to reflecting its surroundings, the building design creates a floating sensation with the overhanging top floor. Kawneer's 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall and 7500 Wall® Curtain Wall System were used to achieve the effect.

## **INSPIRATIONAL IN EVERY SENSE**

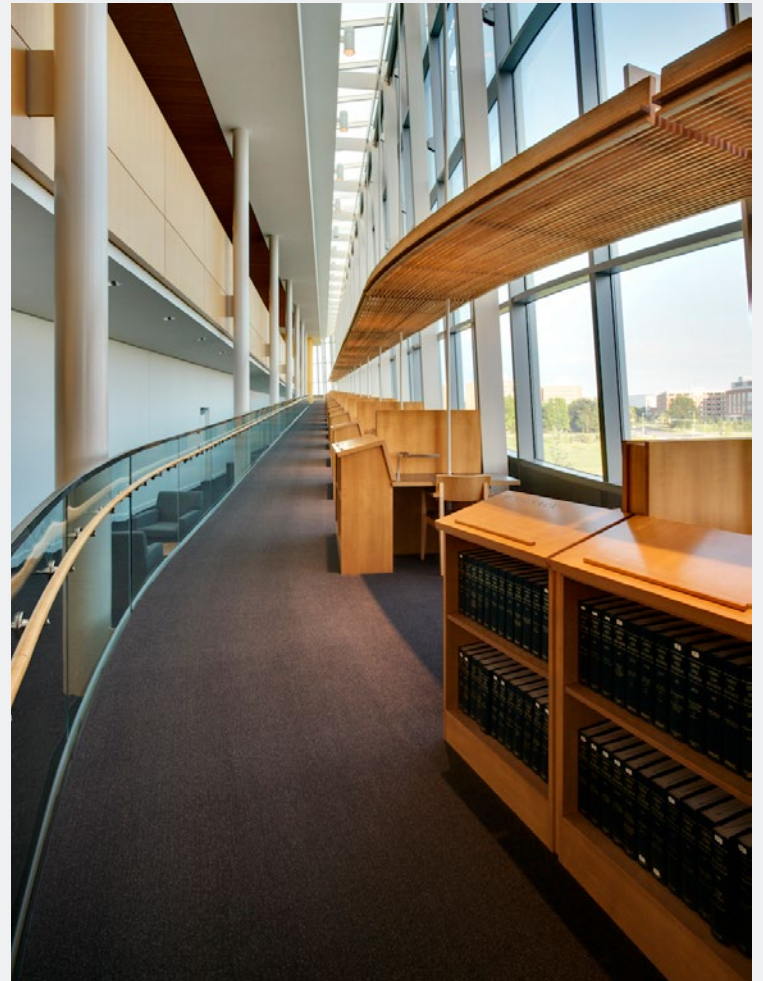
A major goal for the project was to create a bright and welcoming environment for students and professors. Kawneer's contribution to the project included 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall, which is seismically tested to AAMA 501.4 and AAMA 501.6 standards and 7500 Wall® Curtain Wall System, which provides ultra-thermal performance. Above the curtain wall, Kawneer's continuous 2000 Skylight runs the full length of the building, and 190 Standard Entrances were chosen to offer a modern, slim look that can withstand the rigors of constant traffic. The LEED Silver® -certified building features 8225TL Thermal Windows and contains several "green" features such as a vegetated roof, bike racks, abundant use of natural light and locally sourced materials.

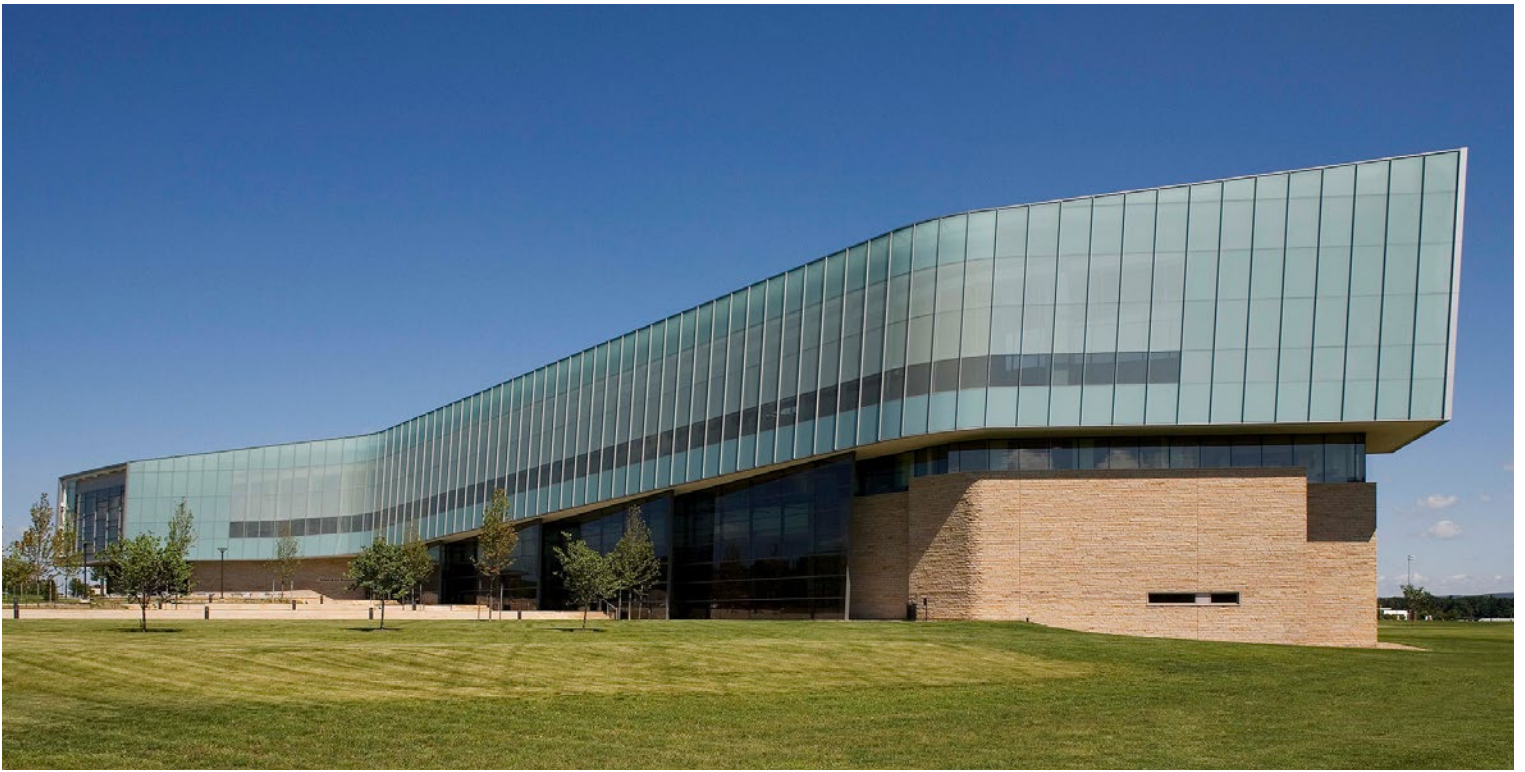




## CHALLENGES

- To create a bright, welcoming environment that has a positive impact on the surrounding area and occupants
- To facilitate the desired levels of natural daylight without compromising the structural integrity





## SOLUTIONS

- Kawneer's 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall and 7500 Wall® Curtain Wall System provide design freedom, offer abundant views of the inspiring surroundings and welcome natural light to reduce the building's electricity usage.
- 2000 Skylights deliver a low-cost, high-performance system suitable for sloped glazed areas or roof-mounted skylights.
- 190 Standard Entrances are constructed and tested to withstand the rigors of constant use.
- 8225TL Thermal Windows deliver a high-performing thermal solution that is lifecycle tested, which verifies the durability of the window.

## PRODUCTS USED

- 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall
- 7500 Wall® Curtain Wall System
- 2000 Skylight
- 190 Standard Entrances
- 8225TL Thermal Windows