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## ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

### Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center and Davis Garage, Wellesley College

Wellesley, Mass.

**Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects**

**Mack Scogin Merrill Elam angles its architecture toward the landscape and culture of Wellesley with the idiosyncratic Wang Campus Center**

*By Nancy Levinson*

In the process of choosing an architect for the campus center at Wellesley College, the school administrators asked the short-listed firms not for conceptual sketches of proposed structures, but instead for analyses of potential sites. The emphasis on landscape instead of buildings might seem unusual, but at Wellesley, a passion for its 450-acre campus dates to the school's founding in the 1870s. In 1902, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., as a consultant to the college, wrote a lengthy letter describing the campus as "not merely beautiful but with a marked individual character not represented so far as I know on the grounds of any other college in the country. The latest evidence of Olmsted's beneficial influence is the Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center.



Photo © Timothy Hursley

Designed by the Atlanta firm of Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects, the 50,000-square-foot building rises on an escarpment overlooking a cattail-filled meadow that slopes down to the lake.

Unfettered by an elaborate program, Scogin and Elam created four intersecting levels of spatially graceful and diversely scaled spaces for eating, drinking, meeting, studying, and relaxing. The ground level includes an atmospheric bistro and pub, with deep red furnishings, and a double-height commons, with a dramatic four-story light scoop. The second level has a wood-paneled living room with a fireplace and, nearby, a coffee bar. The mezzanine has a lounge with a pool table and flat-screen TV; and the top level, two airy dining rooms and a southwest-facing terrace.

The building's exterior is no less expressive. Viewed from any direction, the Wang is an exuberant and asymmetrical composition of jutting volumes, canted walls, swooping ramps, and tilting roofs, all articulated in slate, glass, and copper.

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**the People**

**the Products**

**Owner**

Wellesley College

**Architect**

Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects  
111 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Tel: 404.525.6869  
Fax: 404.525.7061  
[www.msmearch.com](http://www.msmearch.com)

*Principals:*

Mack Scogin, AIA, with Merrill Elam, AIA

*Design team:*

Timothy Harrison, AIA, Christopher Agosta, AIA, David Yocum, AIA, Kimberly Shoemake-Medlock, Jeffrey Collins, Jennifer Pindyck, Barnum Tiller, Christian Rice, Michael Wirsching, Jennifer Hurst, John Trefry, Stephen Trimble, Kevin Gotsch, Andrea Korber, Jane Lee, Ashley Moore, Margaret Fletcher, Brian Bell, AIA, Trey Lindsey, Sophia Greenbaum, Helen Han, Ted Paxton

**Engineer(s)**

Arup [www.arup.com](http://www.arup.com)

**Consultant(s)***Landscape:*

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates  
[www.mvvainc.com](http://www.mvvainc.com)

*Lighting:*

Lam Partners [www.lampartners.com](http://www.lampartners.com)

*Acoustical:*

Arup [www.arup.com](http://www.arup.com)

*Civil engineer:*

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin [www.vhb.com](http://www.vhb.com)

*Geotechnical engineer:*

Haley & Aldrich [www.haleyaldrich.com](http://www.haleyaldrich.com)

*Estimator/cost consultant:*

Vermeulens Cost Consultants  
[www.vermeulens.com](http://www.vermeulens.com)

*Specification consultant:*

Collective Wisdom Corporation

*Food service:*

Ricca Newmark Design  
[www.riccanewmark.com](http://www.riccanewmark.com)

**General contractor**

Richard White Sons [www.rwsons.com](http://www.rwsons.com)

**Photographer(s)**

Timothy Hursley

**Structural system***Steel:*

Breton [www.bretonsteel.com](http://www.bretonsteel.com)

**Exterior cladding***Slate:*

Evergreen [www.evergreenslate.com](http://www.evergreenslate.com)

*Copper:*

Gilbert & Becker  
[www.gilbertandbecker.com](http://www.gilbertandbecker.com)

*Metal/glass curtain wall:*

Aluminum Curtain Wall System, Wausau  
[www.wausauwindow.com](http://www.wausauwindow.com)

*Concrete Pigment:*

Scofield [www.scofield.com](http://www.scofield.com) - Installed by J.M. Marshall

*EIFS, ACM, or other:*

DEFS

**Roofing***Built-up roofing:*

PVC Roof System - Sarnafil Energy Smart  
[www.sarnafilus.com](http://www.sarnafilus.com)

*Green Roofing:*

American Hydrotech  
[www.hydrotechusa.com](http://www.hydrotechusa.com)

**Windows***Aluminum Top Coat:*

PPG Industries - Wausau  
[www.wausauwindow.com](http://www.wausauwindow.com)

**Glazing**

Karas & Karas [www.karasglass.com](http://www.karasglass.com)

*Glass:*

Low E Glazing -Viracon [www.viracon.com](http://www.viracon.com)

**Doors***Entrances:*

Glass - Oldcastle Glass  
[www.oldcastle.com](http://www.oldcastle.com)

*Wood doors:*

The Woodworks

*Sliding doors:*

Oldcastle Glass [www.oldcastle.com](http://www.oldcastle.com)

*Special doors:*

Modernfold, Overhead Door Company  
[www.modernfold.com](http://www.modernfold.com)

**Hardware***Exit devices:*

Van Duprin [www.vonduprin.com](http://www.vonduprin.com)

The Arkansas Office  
1911 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205  
(501) 372-0640, [tharkoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tharkoff@sbcglobal.net)

#### Renderer(s)

Paul Wang, Kevin Gotsch

#### CAD system, project management, or other software used

form-Z [www.formz.com](http://www.formz.com); AutoCad 2002  
[www.autodesk.com](http://www.autodesk.com)

*Door hardware:*  
Blumcraft [www.blumcraft.com](http://www.blumcraft.com)

*Cabinet hardware:*  
Doug Mockett [www.mockett.com](http://www.mockett.com)

#### Interior finishes

*Acoustical ceilings:*  
Decoustics [decoustics.com](http://decoustics.com)

*Suspension grid:*  
Armstrong [www.armstrong.com](http://www.armstrong.com)

*Cabinetwork and custom woodwork:*  
– The Woodworks  
– GWB - National Gypsum Company  
[www.national-gypsum.com](http://www.national-gypsum.com)  
Georgia Pacific [www.gp.com](http://www.gp.com) installed by  
K&J Interiors

*Paints and stains:*  
– Benjamin Moore  
[www.benjaminmoore.com](http://www.benjaminmoore.com)  
– ICF

*Paneling:*  
Bamboo Veneer on Fire-Core - Smith &  
Fong Bamboo [www.plyboo.com](http://www.plyboo.com)

*Plastic laminate:*  
Abet Laminati [www.abetlaminati.com](http://www.abetlaminati.com)

*Special surfacing:*  
Solid Surface at Casework - Cambria  
[www.cambriausa.com](http://www.cambriausa.com)

*Floor and wall tile:*  
– Dal Tile [www.daltile.com](http://www.daltile.com)  
– Bisazza [www.bisazza.it](http://www.bisazza.it)

*Resilient flooring:*  
Armstrong [www.armstrong.com](http://www.armstrong.com)

*Carpet:*  
– Constantine [www.constantine-carpet.com](http://www.constantine-carpet.com)  
– Bentley Prince Street  
[www.bentleyprincestreet.com](http://www.bentleyprincestreet.com)  
– Shaw [www.shawfloors.com](http://www.shawfloors.com)

#### Furnishings

*Chairs:*  
– Tokyo Soft by Driade [www.driade.com](http://www.driade.com)  
– Bohemian, Greg by Zanotta  
[www.zanotta.it](http://www.zanotta.it)  
– Zephyr by Stylex  
– Eames Dining Chair by Herman Miller  
[www.hermanmiller.com](http://www.hermanmiller.com)  
– Eames Lounge Chair by Herman Miller  
[www.hermanmiller.com](http://www.hermanmiller.com)  
– Caper Chair by Herman Miller  
[www.hermanmiller.com](http://www.hermanmiller.com)

- Coconut Chair by Herman Miller  
[www.hermanmiller.com](http://www.hermanmiller.com)
- Spounge Chair by Edra [www.edra.com](http://www.edra.com)
- Series 7 by Fritz Hansen  
[www.fritzhanzen.com](http://www.fritzhanzen.com)
- Wing Chair by Thos. Moser  
[www.thomasmoser.com](http://www.thomasmoser.com)
- Bloob Stool by Frighetto [www.frighetto.it](http://www.frighetto.it)
- Winthrop by Bernhardt  
[www.bernhardt.com](http://www.bernhardt.com)
- Flower Chair by DePadova  
[www.depadova.it](http://www.depadova.it)
- Bix Sectional by Metro  
[www.metrofurniture.com](http://www.metrofurniture.com)
- Ronda by Emu Americas  
[www.emuamericas.com](http://www.emuamericas.com)
- Custom Pieces by Galerkin  
[www.galerkin.com](http://www.galerkin.com)
- Harry by B+B
- Armchair Bambala by B+B  
[www.bebitalia.it](http://www.bebitalia.it)
- Aki + Biki by Cassina  
[www.cassinausa.com](http://www.cassinausa.com)
- Alessandra by Moroso
- Fjord Foot Stool by Moroso
- Los Muebles Amorosos by Moroso
- Hotel 21 by Moroso [www.moroso.com](http://www.moroso.com)
- Washu by Powell + Bonnell  
[www.powellandbonnell.com](http://www.powellandbonnell.com)
- Blottoman by Nienkamper  
[www.nienkamper.com](http://www.nienkamper.com)
- Tatone by Baleri Italia [www.baleri-italia.com](http://www.baleri-italia.com)

*Office:*

Steelcase [www.steelcase.com](http://www.steelcase.com)

*Tables:*

- Splash by ICF [www.icfsource.com](http://www.icfsource.com)
- Au Lait by Vecta [www.vecta.com](http://www.vecta.com)
- Confair Folding by Wilkahn  
[www.wilkahn.com](http://www.wilkahn.com)
- Fliptop by Werndl
- Florence Knoll by Knoll
- Bloob by Frighetto [www.frighetto.it](http://www.frighetto.it)
- Swiss Table by Depadova  
[www.depadova.it](http://www.depadova.it)
- Coffee, End by Thos. Moser  
[www.thomasmoser.com/](http://www.thomasmoser.com/)
- Phoenix by Moroso [www.moroso.com](http://www.moroso.com)
- Cambi by Emu Contract  
[www.emuamericas.com](http://www.emuamericas.com)

*Custom Area Rugs:*

Brintons [www.brintons.com](http://www.brintons.com)

*Upholstery:*

- Textile Mania [www.textilemania.com](http://www.textilemania.com)
- Donghia [www.donghia.com](http://www.donghia.com)
- Kuadrat
- Maharam [www.maharam.com](http://www.maharam.com)
- Toray Ultrasuede [www.ultrasuede.com](http://www.ultrasuede.com)
- Anzea [www.anzea.com](http://www.anzea.com)
- Sina Pearson [www.sinapearson.com](http://www.sinapearson.com)
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics

[www.rosebrand.com](http://www.rosebrand.com)

– Brentano

[www.brentanosupholstery.com](http://www.brentanosupholstery.com)

– Knoll [www.knoll.com](http://www.knoll.com)

– B+B [www.bebitalia.it](http://www.bebitalia.it)

– DesignTex [www.dtex.com](http://www.dtex.com)

### Lighting

– Design Plan (QDL/QHL)

[www.designplan.com](http://www.designplan.com)

– Lithonia Lighting [www.lithonia.com](http://www.lithonia.com)

– Se'lux [www.selux.com](http://www.selux.com)

– Translite Sonoma [www.translite.com](http://www.translite.com)

### Conveyance

*Elevators/Escalators:*

Thyssen Krupp Elevators

[www.thyssenkruppelevator.com](http://www.thyssenkruppelevator.com)

### Plumbing

*Water Fountains:*

Halsey-Taylor [www.halseytaylor.com](http://www.halseytaylor.com)

*Sinks:*

Corian [www.dupont.com](http://www.dupont.com)

*Toilets:*

Kohler [www.kohler.com](http://www.kohler.com)

*Flushers:*

Sloan [www.sloanvalve.com](http://www.sloanvalve.com)

*Faucets:*

Chicago Faucets

[www.chicagofaucets.com](http://www.chicagofaucets.com)

### Kitchen Appliances

*Refrigerator:*

Kolpak [www.kolpak.com](http://www.kolpak.com) (walk-in); Perlick

[www.perlick.com](http://www.perlick.com) (undercounter)

*Dishwasher:*

Hobart [www.hobartcorp.com](http://www.hobartcorp.com)

(undercounter, commercial)

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<http://archrecord.construction.com/projects/portfolio/archives/0607wellesley.asp>