

Mission Park



Architect: Mitchell & Giurgola,
Philadelphia, PA
Date completed: 1971
Project cost: \$5,400,000
Most recent major renovation: 2004
Renovation cost: \$5,793,027
Function: Dormitory and dining hall
Energy use in 2006: 2,134,240 kWh¹
Square footage: 96,000 ft.²
Energy use per square foot: 22.23 kWh/ft.²
Number of students housed in 2006²: 305

'06 House energy use³; # Students housed in '06; '06 Energy use per capita

Pratt: 137,440 kWh; 71.5 students; 1,922.2 kWh per student
Armstrong: 141,040 kWh; 78 students; 1,808.2 kWh per student
Dennett: 161,000 kWh; 89.5 students; 1,798.9 kWh per student
Mills: 100,560 kWh; 66 students; 1,523.6 kWh per student

Mission Park History & Design⁴

Rumor has it that Mitchell & Giurgola, in a volatile time on American college campuses, designed the Mission Park dormitory and dining hall to be riot proof, limiting the size of stairwells, hallways, and even dividing the upper floors of the dorm into two halves, connected only on the first floor so as to prevent unwanted congregating of students. Whether or not this is true, until its 2004 renovation, the austere and severely angular concrete building, with a floor plan reminiscent of both an eagle with wings unfurled and a jagged lightning bolt, had uninviting and parking garage-like hallways and stairwells (in contrast to the airy, glazed dining hall).

In 2004, the College drastically changed the building's interior, ripping out clusters of bedrooms to create spacious, light filled common rooms, fully furnishing them with couches and tables that the students chose democratically. With its panoramic views of the mountains and the oddly trapezoidal rooms that make fitting rectangular furniture a challenge, Mission is divided into four houses: Armstrong, Pratt, Mills, & Dennett. Mission Park has long been almost entirely sophomore housing, but Fall 2006 marks its conversion to first-year housing, greatly reducing the number of first-years with roommates.

Mission Park Energy Use⁵

Despite the efficiency gains from its 2004 renovation, Mission consumes a great deal of electricity because it uses electric heating for the dorms, unlike the other buildings on campus, and the steam lines from the College's central steam plant only heat the dining hall area. Mission uses almost exclusively fluorescent lighting to save energy, and its large windows make electric day lighting largely unnecessary. Mission rooms also contain individual thermostats to allow students to control room temperature during the heating months.

¹ Figure includes electricity use for the dorms and the dining hall.

² Based on actual numbers of students housed for the year, irrespective of the capacity of the house. Source: Jared Powell '06 compilation of housing data from Linda Brown.

³ House figures do **not** include dining hall use.

⁴ http://www.williams.edu/admin/facilities/propertybook/const_proj.php; 2006.

⁵ Clark, Don: Facilities, Utilities Program Manager.

Photo: Mission Park dormitory with its dining hall in the left foreground: Jared Powell, '06.