

Facts & Figures

Owners: The Commonwealth of Virginia; The Rector of the University of Virginia

Type of Project: A new basketball arena

Size: 366,000 square feet

Cost: \$129.8 million

Construction Time: August 2003 - June 2006

The Need: A signature basketball arena for the university that also functions as a multipurpose event venue

The Challenge: Creating a contemporary facility that relates to the historic university campus



University of Virginia Facilities Management
Project Manager

VMDO Architects
Architect (lead architect)

Ellerbe Becket
Architect (design architect)

Barton Malow Company
Construction Manager

Bat Masonry Company, Inc.
Masonry Contractors

Faulconer Construction Company, Inc.
Site Contractors

G.C. Zarnas & Co., Inc.
Painting & Wallcovering Contractors

Nitsch Engineering
Civil Engineers

Patton Harris Rust & Associates
Civil Engineers

Piedmont Plaster & Drywall
Drywall Contractors

Professional Products, Inc.
Technology Design-build

Stafford Stone Works, LLC
Tile & Stone Contractor



Charlottesville, Virginia

University of Virginia John Paul Jones Arena

The University of Virginia John Paul Jones Arena was recently built on the university's campus to accommodate both the men's and women's basketball programs as well as play host to concerts, ice shows, circuses and other events.

According to Steve Duethman, principal and project manager for Ellerbe Becket, the project's design architect, the project had precise image and functional goals. The arena serves as a gateway that imparts the sense of pride and

excitement associated with the tradition of Virginia basketball while providing for modern conveniences and amenities, he said. "An intimate, 'close-to-the-court' environment creates a home court advantage for the Virginia Cavaliers."

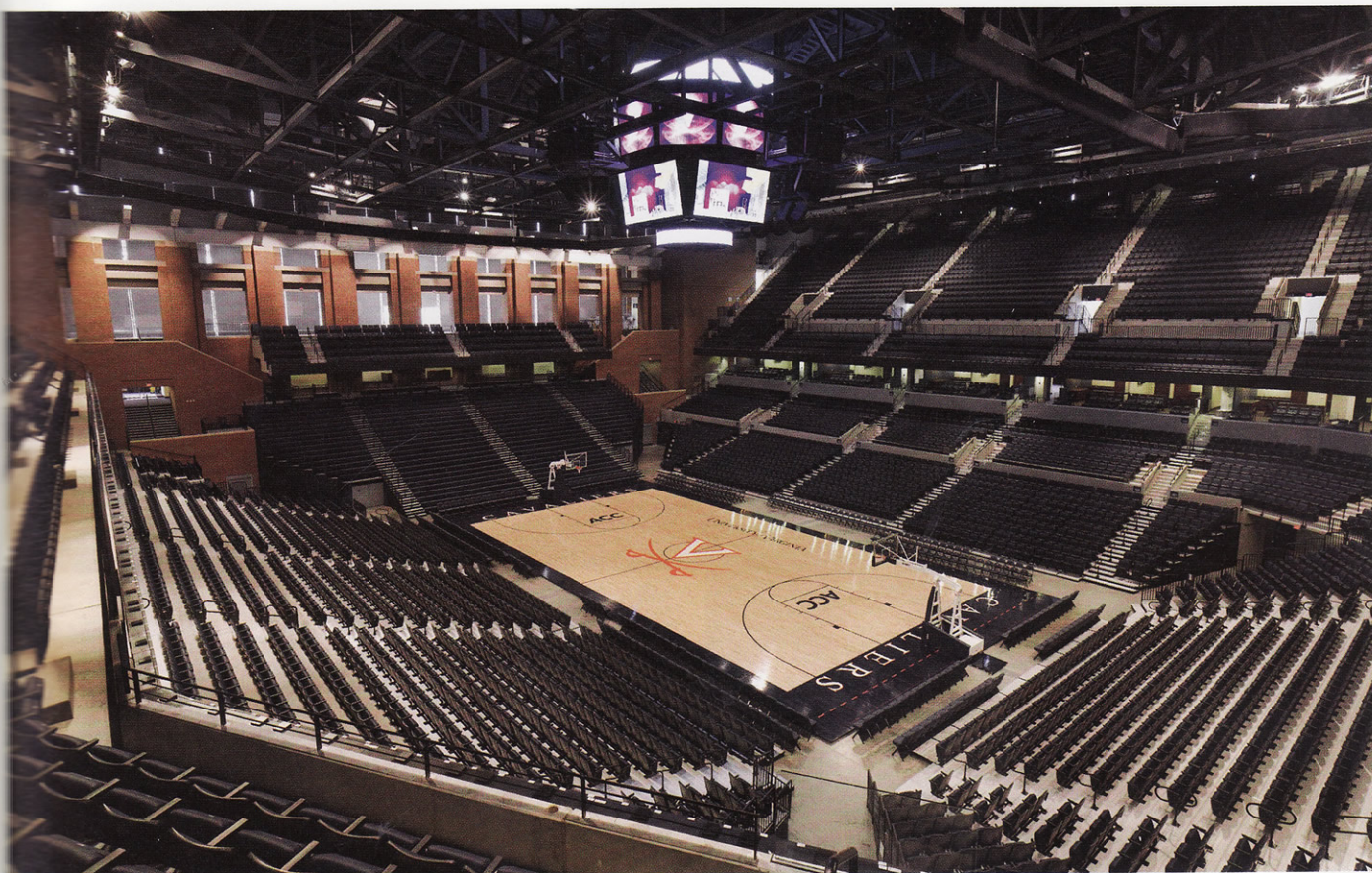
The arena features 15,000 seats with unobstructed views, 20 suites, a 300-capacity clubroom, a practice facility, locker rooms and weight room/training facilities. "The seating bowl drove the design," said Duethman. "We wanted to put

patrons as close to the action as possible and make each ticket price point special. Our structural expertise in this building type allowed us an opportunity to maximize the cantilever of the upper seating bowl to bring the seating closer to the court. We also wanted an iconic interior for the seating bowl so that when you see it on television you know immediately that it is John Paul Jones Arena at University of Virginia. The brick proscenium at the east end with the cast-stone trellis is unmistakably Virginia. We developed the seating bowl in a horseshoe configuration with the open end at the east proscenium, where telescopic seating provided for students can be retracted for an event."

One of the project's challenges involved controlling the building's volume, scale and proportions to better relate to the other structures in the university's athletic precinct. The team worked diligently to fashion a modern arena that also blends with the historic campus. A grand pergola crowning the arena's main



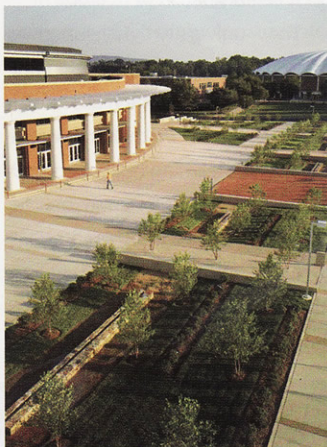
Photos courtesy of © Prakash Patel



entrance makes a tremendous first impression as patrons approach the structure. This unique design element is reminiscent of the campus's architectural vocabulary, first established by Thomas Jefferson who founded the university in 1819.

"Our relationship with VMDO Architects was very collaborative," said Duethman. "We worked together to develop a design that was seamless in terms of how exterior materials complemented the interior spaces and [integrated] the 'Virginia' context. We also had a great relationship with Jon Oliver, the university's executive associate director of athletics, who was responsible for the development of this project. His openness to new ideas that would make this state of the art and his involvement in the design collaboration were refreshing."

Phil Kirby, project manager for Barton Malow Company, the project's construction manager, said his company tackled the



Photos courtesy of © Prakash Patel

communications challenges on the project by setting up, hosting and managing a Prolog website, which tracks all aspects of the construction process. "This greatly simplified communications," he said.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the team members, the new arena was successfully completed. The collaboration resulted in a successful slam-dunk for the University of Virginia. ■

— Marilyn Campbell



Surveying
Land Planning
Civil Engineering
Landscape Architecture

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