



**Carroll College Student Center**  
**Helena, Montana**  
**Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems**  
**and Milosav Cekic Architects**

PLANNED FOR A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE, THE STUDENT CENTER (ABOVE) is a reflection of Maximum Potential's environmental "process framework" (see pages 64-71), and architect Milosav Cekic's complementary design stance. The architects sunk the center into a sloping site at the crossing of the campus' most-used pedestrian paths. They designed massing and details to echo the low, rambling mining structures in the region and to respond to the predominantly Collegiate Gothic context. The plan hinges on a sheltered central plaza and conference center that opens onto a manmade skating pond. A hexagonal dining and entertainment structure (site plan, left) adjoins the circular conference center and features a one-lane bowling alley that extends into the landscape. Guest quarters and small meeting rooms occupy the other leg of the L-shaped plan, which terminates in a cylindrical stair and water tower that will collect runoff for reuse in the building's water system. Cekic and Max Pot's Pliny Fisk intended the forms of the student center to reflect actual programmatic services. For instance, an observation tower marking the intersection of the conference center and recreation area houses an exposed elevator in a mineshaftlike frame (bottom), crowned by a wind generator that will help power the complex. Inside the conference center, mine pulley systems that once brought minerals to the surface will raise and lower large room dividers. In sympathy with the region, the architects specified concrete made of fly ash reclaimed from local coal-burning and stone from the building's excavation or quarries in the area. The overlapping design sources for the student center—some contextual, some environmentally conscious, others downright practical—are intended to create a remarkably coherent compound that, once funding is secured, will become a vibrant focus of campus life.

