

The Switzer Group Wins Outstanding Design Award for St. John's University Manhattan Campus

New York, July 14, 2015 The Switzer Group Interior Architects received an Outstanding Design award from the American School & University 2015 Educational Interiors Showcase design competition for the common areas of St. John's University's new Manhattan Campus at 51 Astor Place. The awardees are selected by a jury of school administrators and AIA-member architects; primary consideration is given to the design firm's solution to stated educational program requirements.

Housing St. John's School of Risk Management, a division of the Peter J. Tobin College of Business, and The Language Connection, its intensive English language institute, the new location places the university centrally within one of the city's higher education hubs and in close proximity to cultural and business institutions and the emerging technology corridor. The university occupies part of the concourse and first floors, and the entire second floor, of the Fumihiko Maki steel and glass building.



Central to the interior design were the twin themes of connectivity and modernity. The Switzer Group created a sleek design for the interiors, emphasizing the volume of space within the 16 and 22 ft. slab-to-slab heights. Large open areas and glass partitions that maximize access to light and views connect the interiors to the vibrant neighborhood beyond. A concrete and steel interconnecting stair, backed by an illuminated three-story branding graphic, transverses the space to link the campus's three floors and communal areas.

Within the common areas, stainless steel and aluminum architectural elements, concrete tiles, and a neutral palate with accent colors present a progressive, 21st century image to current and future generations of St. John's students. Wood, including a slat-wood rotunda ceiling, adds warmth to the library and reading room.

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Founded in 1975, The Switzer Group (www.theswitzergroup.com) is a nationally ranked, award-winning interior architecture firm headquartered in Manhattan. A strategic space planning and design organization, The Switzer Group specializes in creating interiors that promote and achieve higher business performance.