

Bentley Commons at Keene KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Merlino Design Partnership, Inc. GULPH MILLS, PENNSYLVANIA AND **Stampfl Hartke Associates** HOLICONG, PENNSYLVANIA



Creative Encounters, Inc.



Alain Jaramillo Photography



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Located in the heart of downtown Keene, New Hampshire, the historic renovated MacMillan building will become the new home of Bentley Commons at Keene. A completely renovated 100-year-old mill building will be the centerpiece of the property. The four-story addition will bring modern living quarters to residents. Amenities include a "hike and bike" trail that runs along a small stream bordering the property, various lounges and card rooms, and all the modern necessities for daily living.

The design team has approached this endeavor with painstaking detail and a strong emphasis on saving the past. This effort comes not only from an ecofriendly perspective, but also for nostalgic reasons. Studies have shown that residents are more receptive to saving a piece of the past than

just creating something new.

The original mill building is being converted into the community center of this new complex. Most of the original brick and truss work will remain intact. In addition, much of the wood is being reclaimed for other uses on the project. Even the wood flooring has been recycled from an area of New Hampshire. All of these elements need to be carefully blended with an "age-appropriate" interior design that is both inspiring and inviting. It marks a true change in thinking on the senior living model.

Jury comment: Mill conversion creates a great sense of place. Jury felt conversion, although more expensive than new construction, was a wise investment for this development as well as the community in whole.



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PROJECT CATEGORY: Conversion
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR: Toby Watterson, Executive Director
FIRMS: Merlino Design Partnership, Inc., (610) 313-9550; Stampfl Hartke Associates, (215) 794-1925
DESIGN TEAM: Bruce Hurowitz, Principal-in-Charge; James Landis, Interior Architect; Kimberly Hyde, Senior Interior Designer (Merlino Design Partnership, Inc.); David Hartke, Principal-in-Charge; Michael Ketchum, Project Manager (Stampfl Hartke Associates); Dennis R. Cregan, Vice President Construction (Kaplan Development Group)
PHOTOGRAPHY: Alain Jaramillo Photography; Creative Encounters, Inc.
NUMBER/TYPE OF HOUSING UNITS: 109 apartments
TOTAL AREA (SQ. FT.): 88,547 (new); 18,473 (renovation)
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (EXCLUDING LAND): \$12,000,000 (new); \$3,000,000 (renovation)
CONSTRUCTION COST/SQ. FT.: \$136 (new); \$162 (renovation)
COMPLETION: October 2008



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