CASE STUDY: FLEXIBILITY

THE GATEWAY
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore

Completed: 2008
Project Size: 99,000 sq. ft.
Stories: 11
Project Cost: $32 million
Architects: RTKL Associates Inc.

AWARDS:
American Institute of Architects Maryland (AIA Maryland)
Honor Award for Excellence in Design, 2009

A WORK OF ART, FOR ARTISTS.

Famous for its eclectic mix of buildings representing different periods of Baltimore’s development, the Gateway breathes new life into the Maryland Institute College of Art. The Gateway offers apartments to accommodate 217 students, a multi-use performance space, the college’s largest student exhibition gallery and the Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Career Development. The award-winning structure is another shining example of how concrete can be used to build exciting and visual structures that are as functional as they are dynamic.

01. Building with difficult site constraints.
Given the constraints of the building site and the needs of the college, the building was designed as a distinctive circular structure sectioned into three pods of residential units surrounding a private central courtyard.

02. Flexibility of concrete showcased in its design.
The round shape of the residential wing, one of the building’s central features, was formed by a faceted cylinder elevated on slender concrete columns.

03. Concrete balconies add to the building’s functionality.
Concrete balconies and walkways ring the interior of the hollow residential wing, providing for basic circulation as well as vantage points for watching outdoor performances in the courtyard.

04. Using concrete to achieve difficult shapes.
The flexibility of concrete is on full display in the drum shape of the residential wing. Concrete structural slabs create the support and shape the building needs to achieve its unique design, without sacrificing safety or strength.