

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT SUPPORT CENTER

The two-story, 178,000 square foot Restaurant Support Center is integrated into the land as an original goal to respect the Prairie landscape and natural terrain of the site. The exterior is predominately enclosed in long-lasting natural wood which embraces the principles of inspiration, "delights with imagination and warmth," and acknowledges the forward-thinking approach to an enduring, sustainable, solution that is consistent with Applebee's goals.

In addition to the desire for unassuming and unpretentious elegance, the natural zinc metal and wood plank cladding materials provide an inherent high performance skin for the building's modern enclosure. The wood, as well as the metal sheeting, are part of a "Rain Screen" enclosure that incorporates cladding, air cavity, drainage plane, and airtight support wall that diminish the forces attempting to drive moisture into the wall, allow the skin to breathe, and require minimal maintenance.

The building is comprised of a long north-south spine that acts as main street circulation within the building. Four wings perpendicular to the spine take advantage of and control sunlight. Numerous windows throughout the building help maximize daylight and provide views of the lakes to the east.

Between each wing is an enclosed two-story atrium for special functions and an exterior courtyard. These two-story volumes house the culinary center and large assembly spaces which will be used for public gatherings, dining, employee recognition events, internet café, collaboration areas, and breakout for training rooms. These spaces also provide vertical circulation between the floors by means of open stairways. This arrangement of wings interrupted by atriums and courtyards will help maximize the daylight penetration into the building and will provide a visual and physical connection to the outdoor environment for the associates.

The interior design concepts considered the needs of the Applebee's community and associates. Circulation paths and links throughout the building enable easy access for associates and visitors. BNIM utilized comfortable, natural materials that display earthy hues and tones. BNIM and Applebee's worked together to create open, social, non-hierarchical spaces that can be used for a variety of occasions. The overall interior approach contributes to the healthy and productive atmosphere of the Restaurant Support Center.

RELEVANT FEATURES:

- Effective lighting design
- Atrium spaces for gatherings and recognition
- World-class Culinary Center
- Open and collaborative environment
- Simple and honest materials
- Design and construction that minimizes operating cost and cost effectively supports the business
- Amenities include a fitness center, lounge areas, coffee bar, ATM banking service, privacy rooms, training facilities, and outdoor spaces