UAlbany’s Renovated Market Blends Old With New

This fall the University at Albany in New York raised the curtain on its newly renovated convenience store, 518 Market. Located in the Campus Center Food Court and named after Albany’s area code, the 2350-square-foot space was completely overhauled into a bright, contemporary store that reflects the University’s goals of sustainability while maintaining the architectural integrity of the campus.

“We designed, gutted and rebuilt the store with the University’s current goals and history in mind,” stated University Auxiliary Services’ Executive Director Stephen Pearse. “And the result is the right balance between functional and sustainable, with subtle lighting elements that are reflective of the University’s post-modernist architectural design by Edward Durell Stone.”

The ‘saucer’ light fixture, an iconic design Stone wove into the entire UAlbany uptown campus as well as other prominent buildings throughout the U.S., is reflected at 518 Market by two six foot LED-sourced ring pendant fixtures placed prominently at the store’s entrance (see photo insert).

Campus Center Director Scott Birge, who has studied and worked on the UAlbany campus for over 39 years, is excited about the look and feel of 518 Market. “It’s a kick to see the old design integrated into a new look that is energy efficient,” stated Birge. “The fact that we have revamped this design idea with a sustainable component means we are moving in the right direction of preserving our history yet being mindful stewards of our environment.”

The market’s other sustainable features include floor to ceiling glass door merchandisers (replacing highly inefficient stand-alone two and four door units) along the entire back wall. The units contain LED lighting, on/off motion light sensors, heavy-duty shelving and are Energy Star qualified. This new refrigeration system has increased capacity by over 200% while significantly decreasing the cost per square foot of refrigerated space.

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