

FOR STARTERS | A FRESH DESIGN

Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center, University of Rhode Island 45 Upper College Road, South Kingstown



STREET VIEW: The new Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center, left, at the University of Rhode Island in South Kingstown, as seen from Upper College Road. It is built on the site of the old welcome center.

JUST A MEMORY: The former Welcome Center building, below, used for basic assistance, was constructed in 1978.



Building owner:
University of Rhode Island

Architect:
DBVW Architects

**Developer/
General contractor:**
E.W. Burman Inc.

Cost: NA

Use: The Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center at the University of Rhode Island is considered by school officials as the front door to the school's South Kingstown campus. The new 11,000-square-foot building, which replaces the old facility, features an open, light-filled reception area where staff greet visitors and groups congregate for campus tours. The facility is expected to serve roughly 50,000 visitors each year. The building's amenities include interactive displays, informal presentation areas, conference and office space, and restrooms. The architectural design boasts traditional components such as gabled roofs, dormers and porches in creative compositions, and a modern-style structure. Wood clapboards and vertical siding are combined with its large expanses of glass in a reinterpretation of historic Rhode Island village architecture. The building recently achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification.

PHOTOS COURTESY DBVW ARCHITECTS/
HEIDI GUMULA



MEET AND GREET: The reception area and hallway leading to the large presentation room.



TAKING A LOAD OFF: The welcome room is an area where visitors can relax.

SHOW PLACE: The presentation room with its vaulted ceiling.