

HKS



FIU WELLNESS AND RECREATION CENTER SOUTH FLORIDA

This is a much needed expansion to the existing recreation center on the campus of Florida International University. It is always challenging to expand on an existing facility. Several key issues had to be maintained throughout the design process – connectivity and ease of access, consistency of architectural form and transparency of the facility to the outside environment. The building’s position on the site, orientation, and eventual location of a new entry was based on a clear analysis of the master plan, and leveraging the framed view looking north up Main Street in between two of the “legs” of the adjacent housing development.

The running track placement was another form-generating element, suspended from the roof above the second floor, and curving through the upper levels of the new entrance. The building is organized into simple programmatic elements – weight training on the ground floor, cardio equipment and exercise rooms (including squash and racquetball) on the second, giving way to great views from the running track level over the tree-tops of the nearby nature preserve.

