



## ARCHITECTURE AS PEDAGOGY

When the planning committee met to discuss building Buntrock Commons, they dreamed of a building that was not just another structure. To do so, they read David Orr's *Architecture as Pedagogy*:

*"...academic architecture is a kind of crystallized pedagogy and that buildings have their own hidden curriculum that teaches as effectively as any course taught in them."*

~David Orr

Designers were adamant to build a place where people could both gather and learn. The building, connected to Boe Memorial Chapel and Rølvaag Memorial Library, reflects the important connection between body, spirit, and the mind.

Dean Buntrock '55 strongly believed in the mission of the college, and the building would not have been possible without his gift. He and his wife, Rosemary, also took part in the planning of the building and influenced its design.

## BUILDING FEATURES

Sustainability was a key consideration when designing Buntrock Commons. Much of the time, sustainable features go unnoticed, even if they are in plain sight.

- **Insulation.** The insulation inside Buntrock Commons is 30% better at insulating than mandated building code.
- **Carpet.** The carpeting is made from recyclable materials and is rented. Thus, it is easy to return, recycle, and replace the carpet squares if one is damaged.
- **Roof.** The roof of Buntrock Commons is made from slate, a natural material. It is expected to last 100 years and will outlast 4 or 5 shingle roofs.
- **Paper.** The St. Olaf Post Office and Print Center purchases paper with at least 30% recycled paper content.
- **St. Olaf Bookstore.** The Bookstore purchases clothing from vendors who pay their workers fair wages. It also belongs to organizations that protect workers' rights and improve working conditions worldwide.

# ST. OLAF COLLEGE BUNTROCK COMMONS



More Than Meets the Eye:  
Sustainability at Buntrock  
Commons

# STAV HALL

When building Buntrock Commons, students insisted on creating a central location where everyone could eat together. Stav Hall is now the center for food and conversation at St. Olaf. Knowing that most students would frequent the cafeteria three times a day, Stav Hall has a dramatic design and a comfortably sized room, with different sized tables and nooks to allow for various kinds of groups and conversations.

Fun Fact: The ceiling beams were recycled from a Lake Superior shipwreck.



## INTENTIONAL DESIGN IN ACTION

### Crossroads

This area is the intersection of all major paths on campus during the day. Modeled with mall architecture in mind, it was designed especially for people to see and be seen. Like the roof, it has a slate floor (which lasts a hundred years) that does not require toxic cleaning chemicals.

### The Cage

The Cage serves as a community eating location for faculty, staff, and students. It serves Peace Coffee (shade-grown and organic) and makes sustainable purchasing decisions.

### Fireside Lounge and PO Boxes

Fireside was designed for student gathering. Located next to the PO boxes, students can easily look for their friends after checking their POs. Deciduous trees shade Fireside in the summer, but the falling leaves expose the windows to natural lighting in fall and winter.

### Lighting

The nooks and windows allow for natural light exposure. Additionally, the light fixtures in Buntrock Commons are highly efficient to reduce electricity use.

