The School of Education with a green roof plaza over parking (at left), the new east wing, the central atrium, and the 1910 west wing (at right).
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 2010

The School of Education project for the University of Wisconsin in Madison involved the historic preservation and adaptive reuse of an L-shaped existing building, and the design of an L-shaped addition such that the two pieces interlocked in an intimate way to create a greater whole. Built between 1900 and 1910, the existing brick building (composed of south and west wings) was in a poor state of repair, in need of a complete upgrade of all systems. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, these wings were carefully surveyed, and their exteriors and important interiors were meticulously restored. The program called for a substantial addition, which took the form of a brick east wing attached to a new 2-story atrium. The atrium was built over a new large lecture hall, and covered with a green roof terrace. The new atrium faces north, allowing for extensive clear glass overlooking a view of Lake Mendota and the Muir Woods, a forest preserve devoted to Madison alumni John Muir. This atrium is surrounded on two floors by glazed conference spaces, an art gallery and a café, producing the social hub of the institution. The existing south and west wings had both been built to a rigorous 8’-6” module, producing an intimate human scale building. The new east wing and the atrium were both built to this same module, clearly evident in a screen of tall, slender stone planes that provide shelter for an exterior terrace outside of the atrium. An underground parking garage serves the facility, entirely covered by a green roof plaza over which passes a major campus path. Certified LEED Platinum in 2011, the project achieved a high level of energy efficiency by using radiant water for all heating, and radiant chilled beams for cooling, the first of its kind in the region.
The new east wing (at left), the new atrium and conference center, and the restored 1910 wing (at right).
The atrium is spanned by a second floor bridge.

Section through the green roof plaza (left), the atrium, and the 1900 south wing (right).