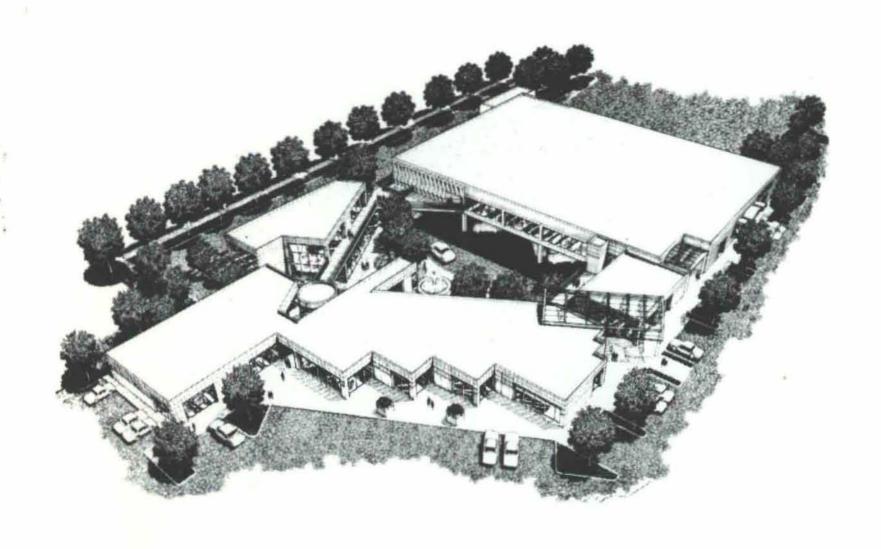
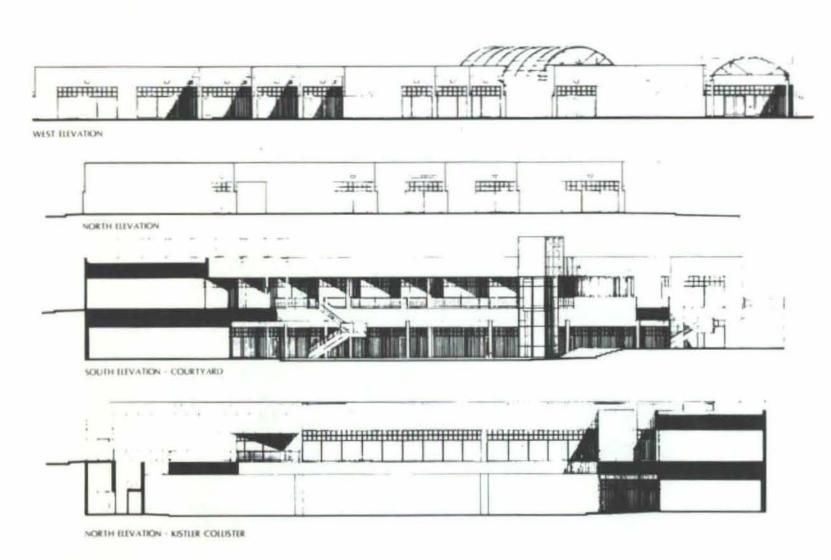
Kistler Collister's Fashion Square

Albuquerque, New Mexico



Patrick McClernon Architects/Planners, P.A.







Founded in 1909, when New Mexico was a territory, Kistler-Collister is among the state's largest and oldest locally owned retail business.

As the integrity of the 1960s facade has remained a classic statement of this time, efforts were made to reinforce rather than change this image. Acid washed precast concrete panels relate to the diamond faceted panels utilized in the initial phase. The respect for the original fabric that allows the sense of the original building to come through with dignity was carefully considered.

The glazed canopies on the major street facade echo the original double-curved concrete canopy. The angle of the major canopy draws attention to the angle of the plan inside the courtyard and to a glimpse of the interior open space visible beyond the shop facade. These materials all reflect the up-scale nature of the specialty shops.

The expansion added 37,000 square feet of additional space. Enlarging the anchor tenants space by 6,000 square feet gave the opportunity to open this store to a series of additional specialty shops and a restaurant on two levels creating an inward focused courtyard open to the sky yet sheltered from the extreme elements much as the traditional southwest plaza has developed through history. The two level scheme, while separating pedestrian activity, allows views from each shop unifying the collective effort of retailing. The upper street level tenants have store fronts on two sides allowing both maximum store front visibility and a connection to the internal access of both levels. The strong urban feeling which results is unlike anything offered in this community of 500,000 people which traditionally has small strip centers with no anchors or large regional malls with no definable personality.

The stepped facades, aligned on an angle but maintaining a rectangular grid in plan, create sparkling facets of light in the display windows. Facing the boulevard, each shop front is marked by a band of yellow tiles matching the original glazed brick. The strength of the color creates a ribbon-like band which ties the yellow and neutral elements together in the general harmony of color.

Within the courtyard, the two levels of promenades, ramps and stairways add to the life of the center by allowing visibility of all the shops simultaneously and concentrating pedestrian activity. The restaurant space, placed at the focal point, within the court, opens to a view of the central fountain, glass elevator and its own terraced landscaped outdoor dining area.

Completion Date:

June 1988

Client:

Kistler Collister and Company, Inc.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

General Contractor:

Bradbury & Stamm Construction Co., Inc. Albuquerque, New Mexico

Structural Engineer:

Bacchus Consulting Engineering

Mechanical/Electrical

Engineers:

Coupland/Moran Associates, Inc.

Civil Engineers:

Easterling & Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architect:

Heads Up

Photography:

Robert A. Brazell, Crested Butte, Co.

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