

{ Building  
for the  
Future. }

# 2009 ANNUAL COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION REPORT

A SUPPLEMENT TO  
COLLEGE PLANNING &  
MANAGEMENT MAGAZINE



# On the Shelf

## Campus construction struggles with a problematic economy.

BY PAUL ABRAMSON

A funny thing happened on the way to the opening of a new library building at California's Fresno State College, according to an article in *Library Journal*. The \$105M building is complete, but the college lacks the funds necessary to provide "computers, seating, curtains, signage, special equipment, and the like," Peter McDonald, dean of library services told the publication. A State budget shortfall has held up about \$8M for the library's

finishing touches, "everything that is essentially not nailed down to the floor."

Fresno State may well become the poster child for a great deal of college construction completed during 2008 and starting or finishing in 2009. Construction projects apparently are going ahead, using dollars that have been previously committed and are in the pipeline, but the present economy — including major losses in college endowments — may put furnishing and running new facilities on hold. As one administrator of construction projects at a state university wrote to me, "our planning has slowed. Buildings we intended to open in 2013 may now be pushed to 2015. Fundraising has been hit, so many campus projects have been shelved or will be delayed."

### A SHORT CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

I have been tracking college construction for *College Planning & Management* magazine since 1995, when \$6.1B worth of construction was put in place (see Table 1). Construction stayed close to \$6B a year from 1995 through 1999, when it reached \$6.8B.

Starting in 2000, college construction began to shift into a higher gear. In 2000 it broke the \$7B barrier for the first time ever, then jumped to \$9.8B and then \$11B the next two years, largely in response to a growing demand for seats in college classrooms and beds in residence halls.

By 2005, annual construction was up above \$13B. In 2006, it topped \$15B before falling back slightly to \$14.5B in 2007, as reported a year ago.

At that time, I suggested that the drop to \$14.5B in completed construction probably was not significant. But the projections we were showing for major cuts in construction spending in 2008 could be a sign of significant belt-tightening and even cutbacks.

As the United States and world economies have continued to deteriorate in the last year, those projected cuts have now occurred. College construction fell to just under \$13.3B in 2008, a drop of \$1.2B from the year before, and it is projected to fall even further in 2009. And that is construction funding. It says nothing about the funding necessary to furnish and staff the new buildings. As noted earlier, Fresno

### Regional Definitions

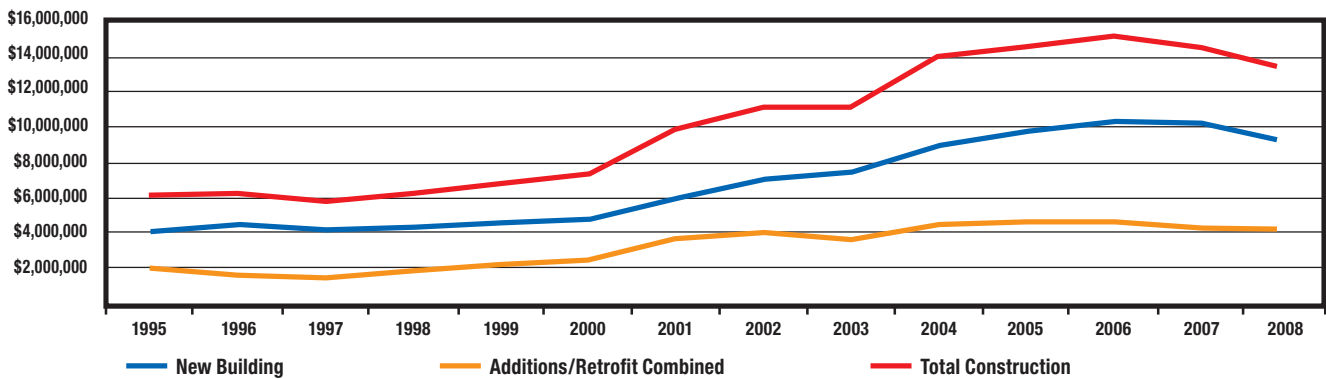
Region 1:	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Region 2:	NJ, NY, PA
Region 3:	DE, DC, MD, VA, WV
Region 4:	KY, NC, SC, TN
Region 5:	AL, FL, GA, MS
Region 6:	IN, OH, MI
Region 7:	IL, MN, WI
Region 8:	IA, KS, MO, NE
Region 9:	AR, LA, OK, TX
Region 10:	CO, MT, ND, NM, SD, UT, WY
Region 11:	AZ, CA, HI, NV
Region 12:	AK, ID, OR, WA

Cover photo courtesy of Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc.  
Photo above: iStockphoto.com / Nikada

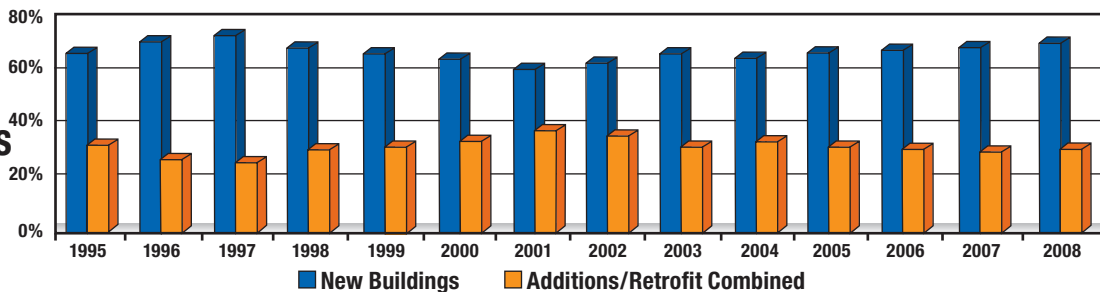
**Table 1 College Construction Completed (\$000's), 1995 Through 2008**

	<u>1995 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1996 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1997 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1998 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1999 Cost</u>	<u>% of Cost Total</u>
<b>New Bldgs</b>	\$4,131,972	67.7%	\$4,528,792	72.4%	\$4,260,969	73.8%	\$4,384,893	69.2%	\$4,567,166	67.2%
<b>Additions</b>	\$507,809	8.3%	\$541,697	8.7%	\$529,013	9.2%	\$857,051	13.5%	\$986,864	14.5%
<b>Retrofits</b>	\$1,463,373	24.0%	\$1,181,310	18.9%	\$986,993	17.1%	\$1,090,206	17.2%	\$1,239,307	18.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$6,103,154		\$6,251,799		\$5,776,975		\$6,332,150		\$6,793,337	
	<u>2000 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2001 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2002 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2003 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2004 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
<b>New Bldgs</b>	\$4,780,898	65.6%	\$6,029,621	61.8%	\$7,050,533	63.8%	\$7,453,511	67.4%	\$9,024,829	66.0%
<b>Additions</b>	\$1,039,178	14.3%	\$1,586,614	16.2%	\$1,732,084	15.7%	\$1,761,110	15.9%	\$2,151,836	15.7%
<b>Retrofits</b>	\$1,467,785	20.1%	\$2,147,947	22.0%	\$2,272,794	20.6%	\$1,843,611	16.7%	\$2,491,079	18.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$7,287,861		\$9,764,182		\$11,055,411		\$11,058,232		\$13,667,744	
	<u>2005 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2006 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2007 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>2008 Cost</u>	<u>% of Total</u>		
<b>New Bldgs</b>	\$9,792,474	67.4%	\$10,327,086	68.6%	\$10,186,254	70.2%	\$9,345,152	70.3%		
<b>Additions</b>	\$2,067,987	14.2%	\$2,109,843	14.0%	\$1,774,674	12.2%	\$1,981,866	14.9%		
<b>Retrofits</b>	\$2,662,689	18.3%	\$2,615,611	17.4%	\$2,539,088	17.5%	\$1,972,920	14.8%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$14,523,150		\$15,052,540		\$14,500,016		\$13,299,939			
<b>New</b>	\$9,792,474	67.4%	\$10,327,086	68.6%	\$10,186,254	70.2%	\$9,345,152	70.3%		
<b>Add/Retro</b>	\$4,730,676	32.6%	\$4,725,454	31.4%	\$4,313,762	29.8%	\$3,954,786	29.7%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$14,523,150		\$15,052,540		\$14,500,016		\$13,299,938			

**At a Glance History of College Construction** College Construction Completed, 1995 Through 2008



**At a Glance Percent of Total Dollars**



**Table 2 College Construction Completed in 2008, Nationally and by Region (\$'000's)**

Region	New	Add	Renovate	Total	% of Spending for			% Reg Is
					New	Add	Renovate	of Nation
1	\$723,910	\$130,822	\$98,191	\$952,922	76.0%	13.7%	10.3%	7.2%
2	\$1,012,779	\$179,030	\$271,947	\$1,463,756	69.2%	12.2%	18.6%	11.0%
3	\$548,773	\$111,497	\$180,469	\$840,740	65.3%	13.3%	21.5%	6.3%
4	\$708,732	\$181,807	\$180,065	\$1,070,603	66.2%	17.0%	16.8%	8.0%
5	\$773,625	\$187,970	\$154,216	\$1,115,811	69.3%	16.8%	13.8%	8.4%
6	\$462,240	\$221,434	\$215,726	\$899,400	51.4%	24.6%	24.0%	6.8%
7	\$414,835	\$208,320	\$103,055	\$726,210	57.1%	28.7%	14.2%	5.5%
8	\$571,435	\$70,762	\$168,128	\$810,325	70.5%	8.7%	20.7%	6.1%
9	\$1,449,011	\$332,484	\$248,458	\$2,029,953	71.4%	16.4%	12.2%	15.3%
10	\$563,787	\$34,648	\$87,237	\$685,672	82.2%	5.1%	12.7%	5.2%
11	\$1,908,814	\$272,333	\$196,486	\$2,377,633	80.3%	11.5%	8.3%	17.9%
12	\$207,211	\$50,761	\$68,942	\$326,914	63.4%	15.5%	21.1%	2.5%
<b>National</b>	<b>\$9,345,152</b>	<b>\$1,981,866</b>	<b>\$1,972,920</b>	<b>\$13,299,939</b>	<b>70.3%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**To read this table:** Colleges in Region 1 (New England) spent \$724M on new buildings completed in 2008, \$131M on additions to existing buildings, and \$98M on retrofit of existing buildings, for a total of almost \$953M on all construction. Seventy-six percent of Region 1's college construction dollars were spent on new buildings. Region 1 colleges spent 7.2 percent of all the money spent on college construction last year.

State could be the poster child for college construction in difficult economic times.

These are among the findings of this 14th Annual Survey of College Construction prepared for *College Planning & Management* magazine in conjunction with Market Data Retrieval, a company of Dun and Bradstreet (D&B). Market Data Retrieval sends survey forms and makes follow-up telephone calls to every college in the U.S., seeking information on their construction programs. As projects are identified, often in the very early stages, contacts are continued in order to add detail and accuracy to the reports. These reports are grouped into 12 regions (see list on page CR2) by year construction is expected to be completed and started, and are analyzed and used by the author to project construction totals.

### CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, NATIONALLY AND BY REGION

College construction completed in 2008 totaled \$13.3B (see Table 2), more than a billion dollars less than in 2007. Of that amount, \$9.3B (70.3 percent) was spent on entirely new buildings. The balance went to adding space to existing structures and renovating existing space, each totaling just under \$2B.

To better understand and estimate how

and where construction is taking place, the nation was divided into 12 regions and construction plans and programs of each region's colleges were examined.

In terms of construction put in place in 2008, colleges and universities in Region 11 (including California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii) were the largest spenders, with a total of almost \$2.4B put in place. Eighty percent of that (\$1.9B) was for new buildings. Colleges and universities in Region 11 were responsible for almost 18 percent of all college construction dollars spent on work completed in 2008. Despite the high spending level, Region 11 colleges cut their construction spending in 2008 by half a billion dollars from the previous year.

Colleges in Region 9, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, completed more than \$2B worth of construction, with almost \$1.5B for new buildings. Regions 9 and 11 together were responsible for one-third of all college construction completed in 2008.

Colleges in three other regions also completed more than \$1B worth of construction last year. Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) put close to \$1.5B in place, with almost 70 percent of the dollars being spent on new build-

ings. Those in Region 5 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi), with \$1.115B spent, and Region 4 (Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee), also exceeded \$1B in spending.

New England colleges (Region 1 includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont) fell below \$1B in spending, at \$953M. It may be a sign of the times that, while spending for new buildings remained high (\$723M), renovations to existing buildings were cut back. Renovation projects often are vulnerable to cuts when money becomes tight.

Region 6, including Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, with just under \$900M, continued to pull back on its construction spending. This region also put a smaller percentage than any other region into new construction (just 51 percent), reporting that almost half of their construction activity was to expand and renovate existing space. Region 7 (Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) spent \$726M.

### WHAT'S UNDERWAY?

Construction completed in 2008 is history. Expected construction to be put in place in 2009 is underway right now.

**TABLE 3** College Construction Projected to Be Completed in 2009, Nationally and by Region (\$000's)

Region	New	Add	Renovate	Total	New	% of Spending for			% Reg Is of Nation
						Add	Renovate		
1	\$604,657	\$38,439	\$152,850	\$795,946	76.0%	4.8%	19.2%	6.5%	
2	\$744,289	\$207,932	\$206,118	\$1,158,339	64.3%	18.0%	17.8%	9.5%	
3	\$582,369	\$115,638	\$168,737	\$866,744	67.2%	13.3%	19.5%	7.1%	
4	\$858,679	\$94,909	\$129,042	\$1,082,630	79.3%	8.8%	11.9%	8.9%	
5	\$617,389	\$235,836	\$89,588	\$942,813	65.5%	25.0%	9.5%	7.8%	
6	\$416,792	\$197,691	\$144,231	\$758,714	54.9%	26.1%	19.0%	6.2%	
7	\$502,147	\$105,301	\$87,965	\$695,412	72.2%	15.1%	12.6%	5.7%	
8	\$428,924	\$116,076	\$138,985	\$683,984	62.7%	17.0%	20.3%	5.6%	
9	\$1,363,850	\$126,010	\$307,060	\$1,796,919	75.9%	7.0%	17.1%	14.8%	
10	\$480,636	\$47,362	\$78,524	\$606,522	79.2%	7.8%	12.9%	5.0%	
11	\$1,668,914	\$252,665	\$490,367	\$2,411,946	69.2%	10.5%	20.3%	19.8%	
12	\$232,214	\$42,115	\$82,292	\$356,621	65.1%	11.8%	23.1%	2.9%	
<b>National</b>	<b>\$8,500,858</b>	<b>\$1,579,974</b>	<b>\$2,075,759</b>	<b>\$12,156,591</b>	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**To read this table:** Colleges in Region 1 (New England) expect to spend \$605M on new buildings to be completed in 2009, \$38M on additions to existing buildings, and \$153M on retrofit of existing buildings, for a total of almost \$796M on all construction. Seventy-six percent of Region 1's college construction dollars will go for new buildings. Region 1 colleges are projected to spend 6.5 percent of all the money spent on college construction to be completed this year.

**TABLE 4** College Construction Projected to Start in 2009, Nationally and By Region (\$000's)

Region	New	Add	Renovate	Total	New	% of Spending for			% Reg Is of Nation
						Add	Renovate		
1	\$583,437	\$114,326	\$128,033	\$825,796	70.7%	13.8%	15.5%	6.5%	
2	\$766,239	\$390,677	\$97,671	\$1,254,586	61.1%	31.1%	7.8%	9.9%	
3	\$493,883	\$66,639	\$130,911	\$691,433	71.4%	9.6%	18.9%	5.4%	
4	\$647,147	\$104,336	\$120,222	\$871,705	74.2%	12.0%	13.8%	6.9%	
5	\$614,421	\$187,104	\$223,271	\$1,024,796	60.0%	18.3%	21.8%	8.1%	
6	\$455,899	\$216,677	\$213,198	\$885,774	51.5%	24.5%	24.1%	7.0%	
7	\$557,823	\$104,502	\$48,560	\$710,885	78.5%	14.7%	6.8%	5.6%	
8	\$453,424	\$65,814	\$102,397	\$621,635	72.9%	10.6%	16.5%	4.9%	
9	\$1,687,286	\$626,524	\$151,682	\$2,465,491	68.4%	25.4%	6.2%	19.4%	
10	\$294,679	\$98,673	\$107,433	\$500,785	58.8%	19.7%	21.5%	3.9%	
11	\$1,744,783	\$147,169	\$595,644	\$2,487,595	70.1%	5.9%	23.9%	19.6%	
12	\$194,645	\$26,976	\$148,341	\$369,962	52.6%	7.3%	40.1%	2.9%	
<b>National</b>	<b>\$8,493,666</b>	<b>\$2,149,416</b>	<b>\$2,067,362</b>	<b>\$12,710,444</b>	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**To read this table:** Colleges in Region 1 (New England) expect to spend \$583M on new buildings being started in 2009, \$114M on additions to existing buildings, and \$128M on retrofit of existing buildings, for a total of \$826M on all construction. More than 70 percent of Region 1's construction dollars are destined to be spent on new buildings. The projected construction plans of Region 1 colleges starting in 2009 account for 6.5 percent of all college construction projects projected to start this year.

Colleges report that they expect to complete less than \$12.2B worth of construction this year (see Table 3). Of that amount, \$8.5B (70 percent) will go into new buildings. Another \$2B will be used to retrofit, renovate, and upgrade existing structures.

Despite budget cuts, colleges in Region 11 project that they will continue as the nation's most active construction region

at \$2.4B, with almost \$1.7B going to new buildings opening this year. One of those completed buildings, of course, will be the aforementioned Fresno State library. Other new buildings in the region may suffer the same fate, opening on time but not fully furnished.

Colleges in Region 9 say they will complete almost \$1.8B worth of work in 2009, a

drop from last year's total. Only two other regions expect to top \$1B in construction spending this year.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

What is coming next? Colleges were asked about construction they were planning to start during calendar year 2009. Table 4 shows the results. The total projected

**Table 5** Profile of New Buildings Currently Underway

Building Type	Median Size (Sq. Ft.)	Median Cost	Cost per Sq. Ft.			Buildings in Sample
			Low Quartile	Median	High Quartile	
Academic	60,000	\$15,163,000	\$186.64	\$244.54	\$390.07	55
Admin/Office	22,000	\$4,000,000	\$144.98	\$267.03	\$443.28	13
Early Childhood	12,000	\$4,717,500	\$208.33	\$325.00	\$402.17	15
Library	73,500	\$19,900,000	\$225.81	\$324.56	\$481.82	18
Performance	70,000	\$25,000,000	\$230.10	\$340.66	\$408.34	21
Physical Education	53,000	\$12,000,000	\$158.73	\$258.24	\$458.33	41
Residence Halls	80,000	\$15,700,000	\$162.50	\$203.70	\$262.30	41
Science	65,000	\$21,382,500	\$249.58	\$339.70	\$460.00	143
Student Union	60,000	\$18,100,000	\$184.78	\$236.88	\$350.88	44
Technology	49,100	\$10,000,000	\$181.42	\$279.41	\$526.10	27

**To read this table:** The median academic building in this sample of buildings recently completed or currently being constructed will contain 60,000 sq. ft. and will cost \$15.2M. The median cost will be \$244.54 per sq. ft. One quarter of the academic buildings will cost \$186.64 per sq. ft. or less. At the other end of the scale, one out of four academic buildings will cost \$390.07 per sq. ft. or more. This information was gathered from a sample of 55 academic buildings completed in 2008 or currently under construction.

is \$12.7B, possibly showing a slight rebound in construction activity. Unfortunately, another explanation could be that projects expected to start a year ago are now on the “start this year” docket and may be deferred again. Hopefully the economic stimulus President Obama is promising will provide additional college construction funding, but it would appear that the stimulus money that does come will be more likely aimed at renovation projects rather than new buildings. New buildings often need money from wealthy donors and willing alumni, and those may be more difficult to find.

#### ■ RETROFIT

##### When Colleges Renovate a Building, Here is the Work They Most Often Undertake\* (% of projects)

Electric Overhaul	46.1%
HVAC	43.3%
Plumbing	30.3%
Lighting	29.5%
Flooring/Carpeting	26.6%
ADA Compliance	22.7%
Roofing	22.3%
Fiber Optics/Cable	22.1%
LAN's	19.2%
WAN's	18.8%
Fire Alarms	18.7%
Security Equipment	18.1%
Tile	15.1%
Bathrooms	15.1%
Windows	12.9%
Parking	12.7%
Storage	11.0%
* Retrofit undertaken in at least 10% of reported projects	

#### WHAT'S IN A BUILDING?

Every college that plans and constructs a new building designs that building for its own specific needs and purposes. An academic building at one institution will have a different mix of classrooms, labs, and offices than one at another. Some colleges will put science labs in their academic buildings; others construct buildings strictly for science. Similarly, student unions run the gamut from simple gathering and foodservice areas to including theaters, bowling alleys, and the like.

Nevertheless, when a college says that it is building a science building, an academic building, a library, or performing arts building, there is a certain commonality of facilities that we all expect. That commonality allows some comparison from campus to campus in terms of cost and size. **Table 5** provides information on ten building types that were identified by colleges. In each case, it is assumed that the function that was named is the dominant one for the building, although other facilities may also be included.

Information was gathered on 55 new academic buildings completed in 2008 or underway now. Among those 55, the median size was 60,000 sq. ft., and the median cost was \$15,163,000. In terms of cost per sq. ft, the academic building right in the

middle is being constructed for \$244.54 per sq. ft. One-quarter of the academic buildings are being constructed for \$186 or less, while one-quarter at the other end of the scale cost \$390 or more per sq. ft. (It should be noted that the median for each variable was found independently. The 60,000 sq. ft. library building was not necessarily where the cost was \$244.54 per sq. ft.)

Looking at some of the other building types identified, the median among 18 library buildings was 73,500 sq. ft. and cost almost \$20M. With 21 performance venues, the median size was 70,000 sq. ft. and the cost \$25M. There were 15 reports of early childhood centers (presumably for teaching purposes) averaging 12,000 sq. ft. and costing just under \$5M.

Physical education and athletic facilities ranged from field houses to natatoriums and from gymnasiums to locker rooms to stadiums. Forty-one facilities falling into this category had a median cost of \$12M. Reports on 44 student unions showed the median size to be 60,000 sq. ft. and the cost per sq. ft. at almost \$237.

The median cost per sq. ft. for science buildings was more than \$339, and one-quarter of these buildings cost \$460 or more. (See Graphs A through D for the history of costs for four key building types.)

There was a total of 143 science buildings

identified that had been completed in 2008, were scheduled for completion this year, or to start this year. I wondered if the spread of time would show any trends in cost or size.

Among 54 completed in 2008, cost (median) was \$285.93 per sq. ft. The median size was 70,000 sq. ft. There were 56 science buildings scheduled to be completed in 2009. The median size will be 54,500 sq. ft., and they will cost \$385.42 per sq. ft. Thirty-three buildings scheduled to be started in 2009 were reported. They are bigger (111,000 sq. ft.) and are projected to cost a little more than \$354 per sq. ft.

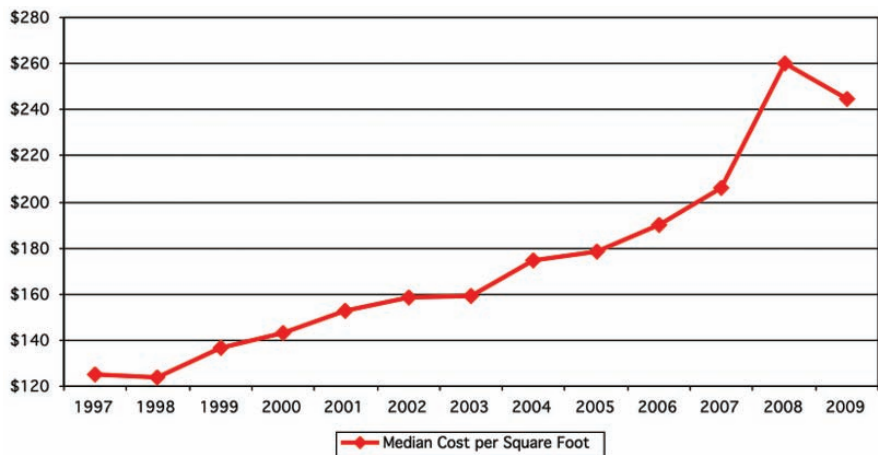
Some other building types identified were dining halls (the median among five will provide 15,000 sq. ft. at a cost of \$4M and \$314.20 per sq. ft.) and alumni centers. Eleven of these were reported, with a median cost of \$10M, or \$262.75 per sq. ft. Five private colleges reported chapels. They were spending an average of \$4M on these buildings at a sq. ft. cost of \$307.29.

One other building type of interest is parking garages. We were able to find ten of these under construction at a median cost of \$15.6M. The sizes ranged from 300 to 2,000 parking spaces (the median was 1,233). The median cost per parking space was \$13,111.

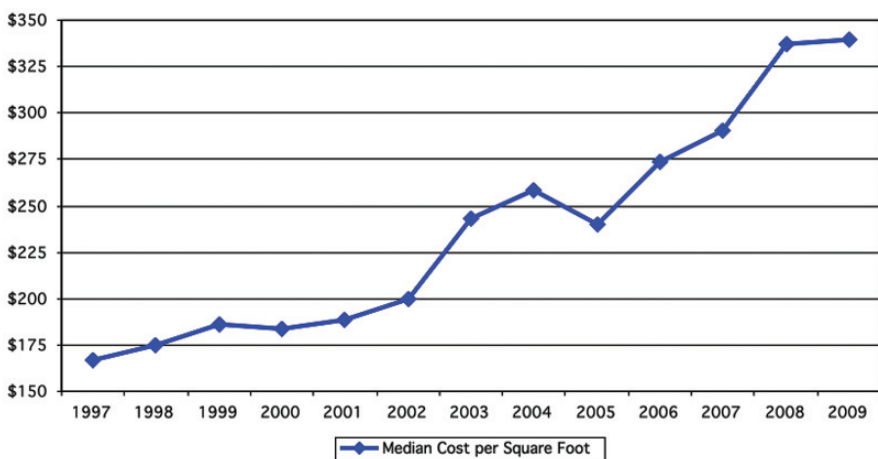
**WHAT'S BEING RENOVATED?**

With almost \$2B being spent in 2008 on renovation of existing buildings, it seemed important to know what kinds of work are most often undertaken for that amount of money. The list in the box on page CR6 shows that when renovation projects are started on a college campus, overhauling the building's electrical and HVAC systems comes first. Plumbing and lighting are also frequently involved, along with carpeting. There are no great surprises in this list, but the inclusion of parking as a focus of one of eight projects may explain why colleges are willing to spend better than \$13,000 per car to provide additional spaces.

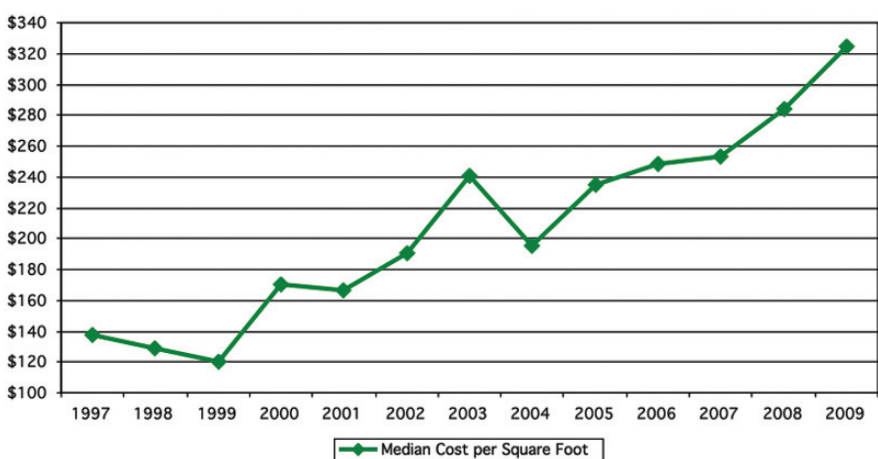
**Graph A: Median Cost per Sq. Ft. for Academic Buildings**



**Graph B: Median Cost per Sq. Ft. for Science Buildings**



**Graph C: Median Cost per Sq. Ft. for Library Buildings**



**RIISING COSTS**

We have been publishing cost information on various building types since 1997. In Graphs A through E, we have tracked the median cost of construction per sq. ft. for four building types during that period of time. The four were chosen because we receive more reports on those than other types, and they are constructed on virtually every college campus.

The median cost per sq. ft. for academic buildings was just over \$120 in 1997 and stayed closed to that mark in 1998. Since then (see Graph A), it has risen significantly. Two years ago, the median cost for academic buildings rose above \$200. This year the cost has settled in close to \$250 per sq. ft.

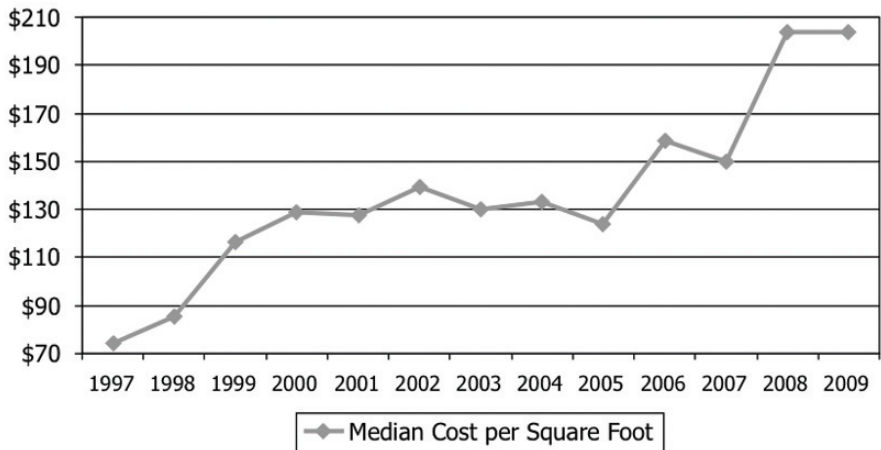
Of course, it is important to remember that each year a different set of buildings (and colleges) is involved. Conceivably, one year all buildings of a particular type could come from major universities and the next year from small community colleges. However, with a sampling as large as this one, that's unlikely.

Science buildings (Graph B) always cost more than academic buildings. In 1997, they cost \$170 per sq. ft. By 2004 the cost had risen above \$250 per sq. ft. and now stands at \$340 per sq. ft. One quarter of the 143 buildings studied did or will cost more than \$460 per sq. ft.

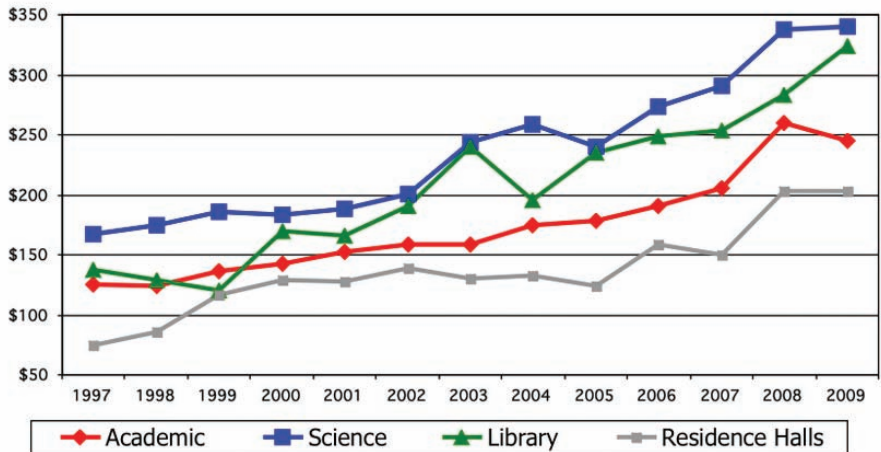
The cost for library buildings (Graph C) has risen to almost \$325 per sq. ft., jumping \$42 per sq. ft. during the past year. Of course, the buildings we call libraries today are quite different from those constructed even ten years ago. They have become home to a tremendous amount of sophisticated technology, which certainly drives up the cost. Eighteen buildings are in this year's sample.

Graph D looks at the median cost per sq. ft. for residence hall buildings. The days of inexpensive, minimally furnished housing for students have obviously passed. A decade ago, in 1997, the median residence

**Graph D: Median Cost per Sq. Ft. for Residence Hall Buildings**



**Graph E: Median Cost per Sq. Ft. for College Buildings**



hall was being constructed for about \$75 per sq. ft. Today, the median cost among 41 residences was more than \$203. Only one of four cost less than \$162 per sq. ft.

A more thorough study of residence hall costs and amenities is now underway and will be reported in the May issue of *College Planning & Management*. [CPM](#)

*Paul Abramson is the education industry analyst for College Planning & Management magazine and the president of Stanton Leggett & Associates, an education consulting firm located in Mamaroneck, NY. He can be reached at intelled@aol.com.*

**DOWNLOAD THIS REPORT**

For your reference and convenience, a PDF of this report can be downloaded from [www.webCPM.com](http://www.webCPM.com) (click on Research and Reports).

**COLLEGE**  
Planning & Management

Find this report and much more @ [www.webCPM.com](http://www.webCPM.com)