

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COMMONS

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Client: Harvard Real Estate Services



LEED | SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

CERTIFIED LEED-NC GOLD

AWARDS

BUILDING PROJECT OF THE YEAR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 2009

HONOR AWARD – EXCELLENCE IN
PLANNING FOR A DISTRICT OR
CAMPUS COMPONENT
SOCIETY FOR COLLEGE AND
UNIVERSITY PLANNING / AIA-
COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURE FOR
EDUCATION, 2008

Harvard University Graduate Commons represents an ambitious plan to add graduate student housing on campus and to transform the edge of the University's campus at the Riverside neighborhood in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The site was previously occupied by irregular surface parking lots and required different urban design solutions to both allow density and reinforce the residential character of the neighborhood through careful infill and building relocation.

The central element of the project is a new six-story residence hall with 141 apartments located on Cowperthwaite Street. The building also features 189 parking and 104 bicycle spaces on three levels below grade. To maintain the permeability of the block, and to mediate between the scale of Harvard's adjacent residential towers and the pedestrian-scaled neighborhood, the building is carefully manipulated in massing and height to fit comfortably within its context.

The residences provide significant opportunities for planned and unplanned interaction: a multi-function common room, dining room, and roof deck, plus laundry facilities and study rooms. The façades are clad in brick, copper, limestone, and granite—materials that closely relate to the vernacular of Harvard's historic residential buildings.







