

# Harvard University Dining Commons

*An informal cafe and pantry invites students to socialize and converse*



This interiors project was created to help fulfill Harvard University's initiative to invite graduate students into a full sense of academic community. Working closely with the client manager and Harvard Dining services specialists, JLA advised on program development, augmenting a simple food service facility with new insights on both practical and social improvements. JLA lead the program development by soliciting input from a variety of stakeholders including the students themselves and academic deans of student life from contributing faculties.

The final project includes grocery pantry, convenience store, coffee bar and take-out food concepts to flexibly serve the widely variable needs of the graduate student population. The adjacent commons provides both hard and soft seating social/dining space. Movable partitions allow adaptation to the needs of university-wide functions and improve the potential for additional income stream. The clutter of special servicing including trash, recycling, tray storage/drop-off, shelving, and audio/visual is neatly assimilated into the room's pattern of thick walls. Lighting, vents, fire detection, sprinklers and door tracks are neatly integrated into the layered gypsum ceiling. The result is a dynamic facility which forms a new hub of graduate social life and welcomes students living in a previously disconnected area of the campus.

### Features

- Flexible food service for users on the go
- First convenience store combined with food service on Harvard campus
- Attractive lighting and built-ins create a meeting place
- Movable partitions allow extended uses and additional income stream
- Functional details are accommodated into overall visual concept, reducing clutter

### JLA Role

Lead Design Architect, Co-Architect of Record

**Associate Architect** Bergmeyer Associates, Co-Architect of Record

**Personnel** Jonathan Levi FAIA (JLA), *Project Designer/Partner-in-Charge*; Matthew LaRue AIA (JLA), *Project Architect*; Darryl Filippi RA (BAI), *Project Manager*

**Client** The President and Fellows of Harvard College

**Location** Cambridge, MA

**Size** 2,700 sf

**Construction Cost** \$675,000

**Construction Complete** 2004

### SITE & FLOOR PLAN

- 1 Kitchen
- 2 Residential lobby
- 3 Entry
- 4 Patio
- 5 Lounge
- 6 Dining
- 7 Servery

