



Total Building Design

Kevin Barth
Management Partner
Reflection

The participation in the AEI Student Design Competition was one of the most valuable experiences in my educational career. This was a fantastic opportunity to not only apply the knowledge I've learned throughout my time at Penn State, but also refine the skills and processes I've studied while contributing to in-depth structural, mechanical, and electrical designs.

Our process began with a detailed plan developed by the entire team. By creating a collaborative environment in which to work and study, the group was able to learn from each other, enabling a more developed understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each design partner. Working in such a close-knit group provided me with valuable teaming and management experience that I look forward to carrying into my career. The process also allowed me to deeply research and apply different construction necessities and aspects, such as scheduling, estimating, and constructability, which could be applied to the thesis topics of our project and my future career.

While the competition project was often stressful and required an enormous time commitment, the freedom to work through a process as a team, and the people I was able to spend my final year with, created a truly memorable experience that I wouldn't trade for the world. As Vince Lombardi once said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." By striving to better ourselves during the entire process and pushing a perfect project, Patrice Mulhern, Chris Bright, Jimmy Weaver, Yuka Narisako, Adam Jesberger, Todd Holbert, Cody Slack, and I, regardless of competition results, have achieved excellence.