IC Then and Now: The Campus Center

Hello! You might take it for granted that Ithaca College has always looked how it does today. However, our campus has seen amazing transformations in its fifty years of life. This is one of several videos that explore Ithaca College’s past and present for the sake of the future! Please join us on this tour of IC’s history and add your own memories and experiences to the project.

Welcome to Ithaca College, Then and Now.

Our first subject is the Campus Center, the heart of campus activities and events.

The Campus Center was dedicated on October 22, 1960, as the Egbert Union building. At the time, Egbert was alone on campus. The Upper Quads were in construction, and even Friends hadn’t been built yet.

Today, buildings and foliage obscure many of the vantage points from which the old pictures were taken.

These photos reveal the extent to which the South Hill campus, almost completely bare in the early 1960s, has matured and expanded over the last five decades. In fact, so much has changed that you may find it hard to immediately identify where these old shots were on campus.

The Campus Center Dining Hall was substantially smaller.

It was expanded in the 1980s as a part of a series of renovations to the building.

Ever seen a concert in Emerson Suites in Phillips Hall? For most of the Campus Center’s history, this structure didn’t exist!

Like the additions to the dining hall, this portion of the structure was added in the 1980s.

Other major renovations included changes to building’s front entrance. In the 1960s, there were two doors into the Campus Center.

Today, one larger door has taken their place, with two stone bastions occupying the spaces where the old doors once were.

Perhaps most important was the addition of the so-called “tunnel” on the building’s West side.

Today, this structure runs from Phillips hall to Dillingham, and includes the Post Office, Mack’s Convenience Store, and the Bookstore.
Of course, the building's insides have changed just as much.

In the 1960s, the Information Desk had wood paneling and lounge-type furniture. Today, that space is the “Central Station Café” with nary a wood panel in sight.

The Campus Center lounges, Clarke and Klingenstein, saw similar changes. Klingenstein used to have a snack bar, which was removed during renovations, and both lounges shed their wood paneling and retro furniture.

Last but not least, IC Square was completely different until very recently. The current facilities were completed in 2005.

Do you have memories of the Campus Center from back then? Or maybe you’d like to share newer memories for posterity. Please add your comments to this video to help us remember Ithaca College, then and now. Thanks for watching.