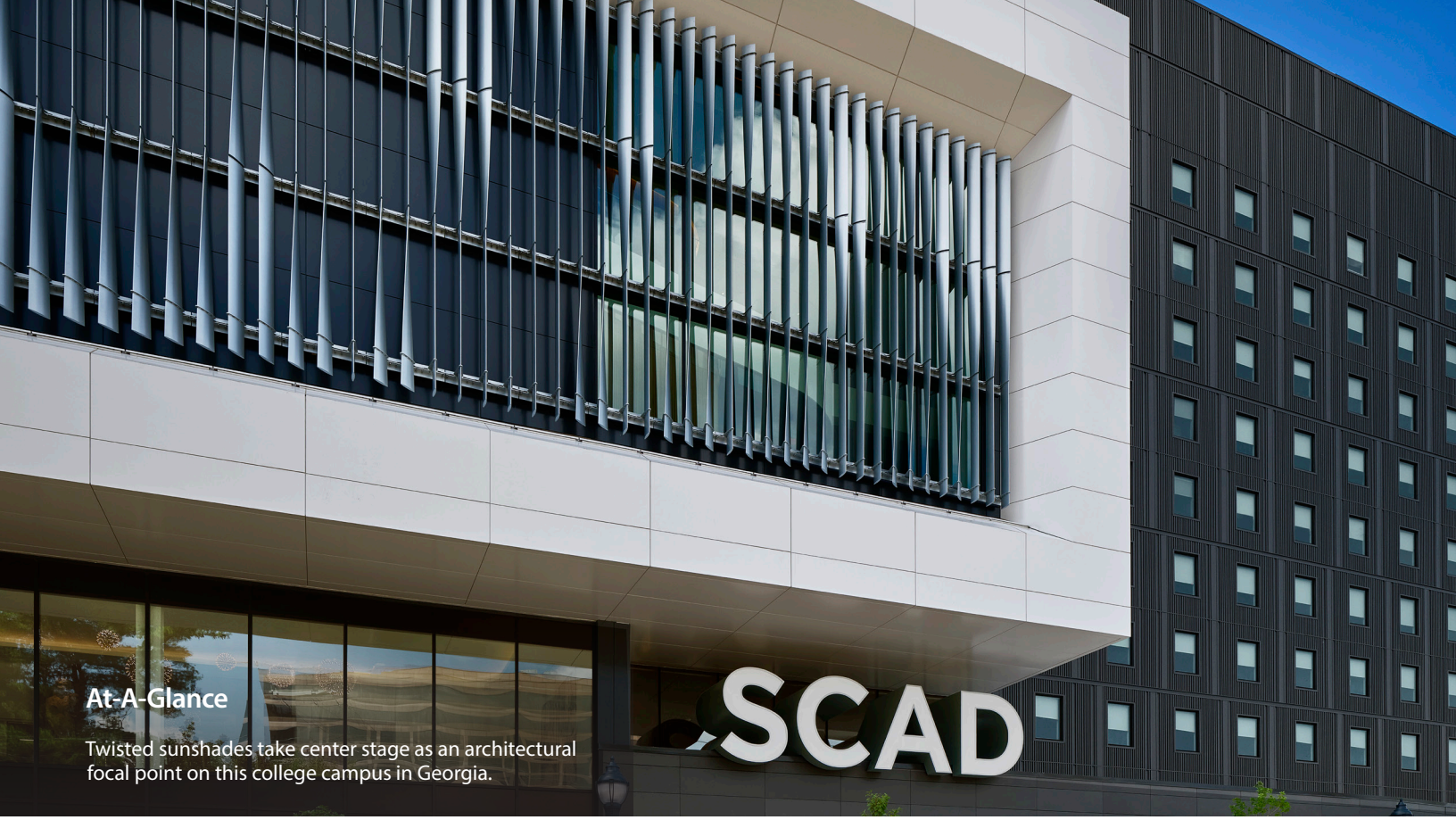



**At-A-Glance**

Twisted sunshades take center stage as an architectural focal point on this college campus in Georgia.

CASE STORY

# Savannah College of Art and Design
## *Atlanta, GA*

### About the Project

Nestled within the vibrant landscape of Midtown Atlanta stands FORTY FIVE, an architectural gem that combines residential, academic, and wellness facilities on the grounds of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Offering residence to more than 400 art students, FORTY FIVE provides more than just a place to stay. Lounge spaces, laundry facilities, and a picturesque rooftop pool are just a few of the amenities – the complex also boasts a 700-seat mainstage, a 150-seat black box theater, a courtyard for outdoor productions, and an impressive 27,000 square feet dedicated solely to academic pursuits.

### Design Goals

Jennifer Wilkins, principal architect at Mackey Mitchell Architects, captures the essence of SCAD's approach to the built environment, stating, "SCAD is really unlike any other higher-education institution I've ever worked with. Their forward-thinking approach prioritizes preparing students for creative careers, and this shines through in their infrastructure investments."


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"Part of the goal of this project was that these public-facing elements like the theater could really have a presence on the street," says Wilkins. During the design process, Mackey Mitchell Architects explored ways to fit the complex's solid volume within its surroundings.

Enter twisted sunshades from Construction Specialties. These metal extrusions feature a consistent twist throughout their length, and the blades can be mounted at varying angles to cater to different design needs. For SCAD, CS' BetterBuilt Studio™ collaborated on a custom system inspired by an open staircase in the building that similarly appears to twist.

Project manager Forrest Shaw with Southeastern Architectural Systems notes, "We were fortunate enough to be able to go check out CS's facility and watch the process. People think it's just twisted metal, but what they're able to do is pretty remarkable. They can take a straight-as-an-arrow piece of aluminum, twist it for about 20 seconds, and then it's ready to go."

## Solution

The twisted sunshades present an illusion of movement, capturing both the attention of visitors and the essence of SCAD's dynamic creative spirit. Functionally, they reduce glare and allow a filtered light ambiance within the building. They also minimize solar heat gain, resulting in lower energy costs. The fixed facade barrier they provide enhances the overall safety and security of the building.

FORTY FIVE stands as a testament to SCAD's commitment to providing its students with unparalleled experiences, all while pushing architectural boundaries. The harmonious blend of functionality and aesthetic appeal in its design serves as an inspiration to architectural and design aficionados worldwide.

"SCAD is an institution where I think students and faculty are very creative, they're very talented, and they come to a space every day to learn and to teach," says Rodd Workman of Specialty Products of the Carolinas which served as the architectural rep firm for the project. "I think that something as unique as the twisted sunshade helps the design team come up with a project that makes people feel welcome and very proud to be at the college."

Learn more about BetterBuilt Studio →


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