



Case study

# ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY GUS MACHADO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND RICO FAMILY PLAZA





## PROJECT DETAILS

### Owner

St. Thomas University

### Architect

Bermello Ajamil Partners

### Mesh Type

Tigris



## BIG MESH ON CAMPUS

St. Thomas University (STU) in Miami Gardens, Fla., is a private, nonprofit, Catholic university with rich cultural and international diversity. The institution is committed to the academic and professional success of its students who become ethical leaders in the global community.

The University has a long tradition of academic excellence and is known for embracing new concepts and carrying out impressive programs of research over a wide variety of disciplines.

To further the university's commitment to excellence, expansion and growth is a constant initiative and recently included the addition of the Rico Family Plaza at the Gus Machado College of Business. The task of design was given to Miami-based architecture firm, Bermello Ajamil Partners.

The 46,521-square-foot complex includes a state-of-the-art classroom building, the Business School Administration Building and the Center for Career Development. This cutting-edge complex entails an open architectural style, which utilizes multi-purpose spaces and combines a robust technology infrastructure with the functionalities needed to learn real-world business practices.

One way of creating an open feeling that still projects stability was by incorporating metal mesh in the design. Between the Gus Machado College of Business and Rico Family Plaza, stands 1,200 square feet of material – representing nine panels at approximately 12' tall x 14' wide, with woven in round bar and eyebolts. GKD Metal Fabrics was brought on board in 2018 to help supply this solution which effectively provides both flow and security for the campus.

**“For this work, providing a material that offers weight and durability without creating a large amount of deflection during worse case scenarios was key,” explains Dale Payne, GKD chief engineer. “GKD Omega 1510 metal mesh was selected to both secure and protect an exterior stair while GKD Tigris was used above the stair run.”**

Completed in summer of 2020, Gus Machado School of Business and Rico Family Plaza have enhanced the student experience, bringing a touch of strength and modernity to the campus.

### Contact Information

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