



UT STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER AUSTIN, TEXAS

50% reduction in potable landscape water use

24.5% improvement on baseline building performance rating

90% of occupied space has quality views

LEED® Facts

UT Student Activity Center
Austin, TX

LEED for NC 2.2
Certification awarded April 29, 2012

Gold 42*

Sustainable Sites 10/14

Water Efficiency 3/5

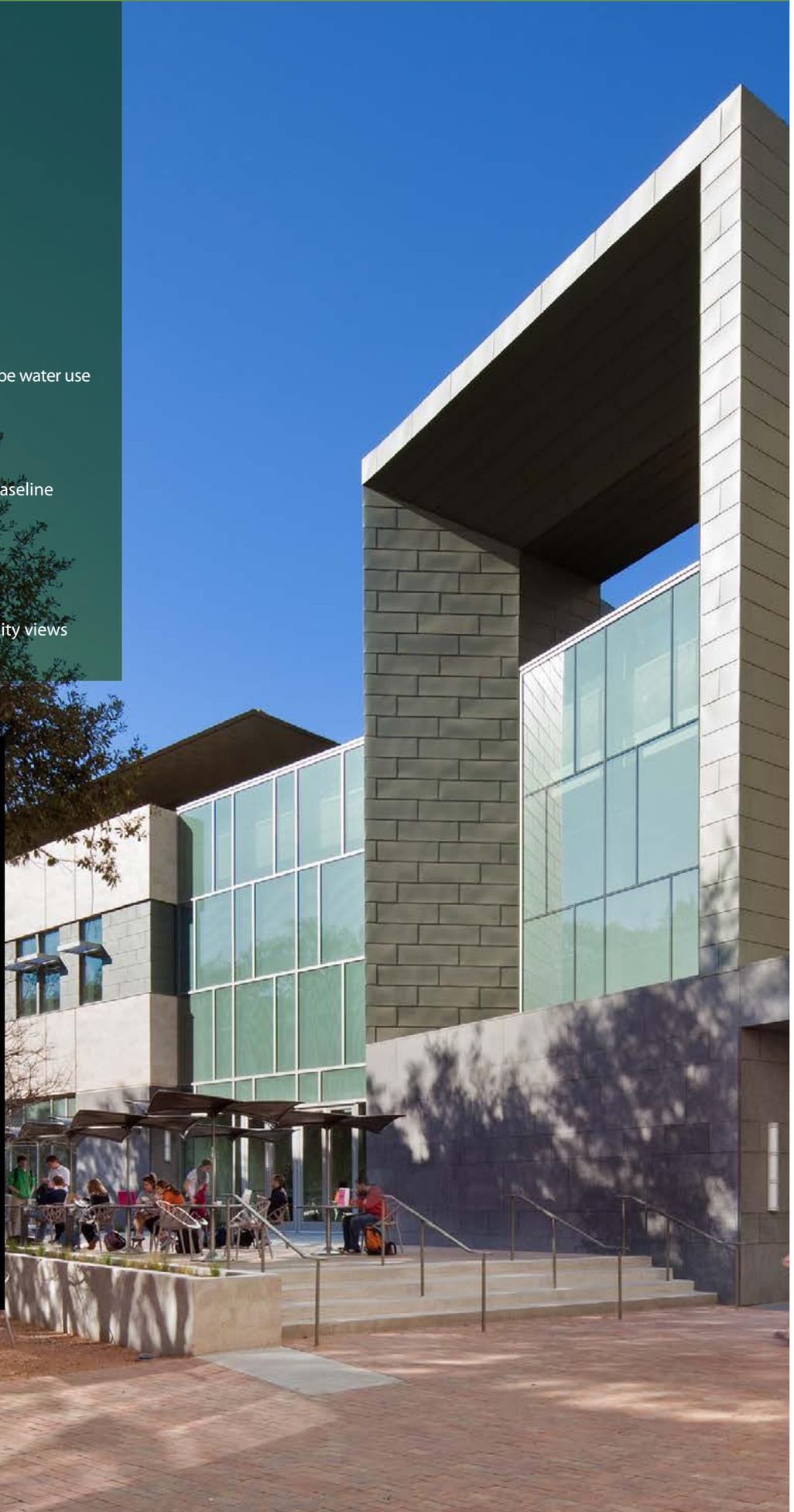
Energy & Atmosphere 7/17

Materials & Resources 7/13

Indoor Environmental Quality 10/15

Innovation & Design 5/5

*Out of a possible 69 points



The information provided is based on that stated in the LEED® project certification submittals. USGBC and Chapters do not warrant or represent the accuracy of this information. Each building's actual performance is based on its unique design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Energy efficiency and sustainable results will vary.

UT STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER

Major Project Highlights

Sustaining Campus Community

PROJECT BACKGROUND

As a Tier 1 University, UT Austin had an undersized and outdated union on the west edge of campus. The Student Activity Center (SAC) culminates almost 60 years of student lobbying for another dedicated social and cultural center on the east side of campus.

The building operates 24 hours a day and spaces are designed to change use throughout the day and year. In keeping with priorities articulated by students, SAC is focused on activity spaces: a 5,000 sq. ft. ballroom, a 500-seat auditorium, black box theater, rehearsal space, food court, 12 student meeting rooms, student organization offices, student assembly space, and outdoor gathering spaces. Ample study lounges and informal gathering areas are scattered throughout the facility. An indoor food court and coffee bar open to over 46,000 sf of landscaped courtyards, substantially increasing the seating and providing an enjoyable dining experience in the temperate Austin climate.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS**Planning Process**

Hundreds of students participated in interactive workshops to identify and prioritize program goals for the SAC.

Encourage Learning

The SAC acknowledges that much of learning takes place outside the classroom. Although it includes a 500 seat highly technologized auditorium, it is primarily designed to respond to changing learning patterns of today's students. Students said, "Give us spaces that do not dictate how we use them. Make them wireless with plenty of outlets and we will decide how to use them throughout the day." The SAC responds with multi-sized meeting rooms, informal study lounges and undefined space that works for individual study, small groups, and larger gatherings – a place that mirrors how we live and promotes life-long learning.

Technology

Technology is ubiquitous and virtually invisible. Wireless internet access, good cell-phone service and virtually unlimited power outlets insure that students can be fully connected at all times. Large screen TV monitors throughout the facility allow for programmed presentations, cable programming and sports watching. Meeting rooms and the auditorium are equipped as smart classrooms, but computer control consoles are moveable to allow the spaces to function for performances as well as for teaching.

Context

At the geographic center of campus adjacent to Rec Sports, the SAC has visible entrances from two major pedestrian circulation corridors. It reinforces previous campus circulation patterns, encouraging students to "cut through" the building. The form is a modern take on the traditional campus architecture. As it touches the historic campus, limestone walls and red tile roof unify it with the existing architecture, yet simple forms and clean lines distinguish it as new. Tucked amidst a mature oak grove, abundant windows bring in ample daylighting and take advantage of the surrounding landscape without violating the historic context.

Materials

The project minimizes adverse environmental impacts by maximizing open, shaded space on the site; reducing water use; using regional and recycled content materials; optimizing energy performance of the enclosure and operating systems; and creating a healthy interior environment with plentiful daylight, views and connections to the outdoors. Recyclable areas are included, while materials were carefully chosen to reduce the solar impact and absorption of the building as a whole thereby lowering the need for electric usage within the building's interior. Roof gardens are used to further reduce the heat island effect and create outdoor gathering space.

"The current students are extraordinarily fortunate that the "wherewithal" came together with precisely the right architect - someone who really listened to learn what they wanted and then had the vision and skills to turn their dreams into reality."

Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President,
UT Austin



Architect: Overland Partners in Association with WTW Architects
Civil Engineer: DAVCAR Engineering
Contractor: SpawGlass General Contractors
Landscape Architect: Hood Design and Bender Wells Clark Design
LEED Consultant: Architectural Energy Corp. - Energy Modeling
MEP Engineer: HMG & Associates
Structural Engineer: Datum Gojer Engineers
Interior Designer: Studio 8 Architects
Project Size: 148,000 square feet
Total Project Cost: \$ 68 million

Photographs Courtesy of: Chris Cooper Photography

ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website to learn more.



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