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Library Earns Energy Star Rating

Austin Energy recently awarded the new Wells Branch Community Library a Two-Star Green Building Rating for achieving a high standard of sustainable design and construction resulting in lower initial and long term energy usage.

The design team, led by Moman Architects, incorporated an environmentally friendly and energy efficient design. Along with other requirements which were met, the two-star rating was achieved by selecting recycled construction materials, products with little or no off-gassing, utilizing energy efficient materials, incorporating an abundance of natural lighting in the design and including a large cistern and storage tank which catches and stores rainwater for irrigation purposes.

Notable design elements in the 16,000 SF facility which meet the "green building" requirements include stained concrete, cork and bamboo flooring, covered porches, the water cistern and skylights. Energy efficiency is achieved through moisture barriers, high rated insulation and efficient mechanical systems.

Reflecting on the project, John S. Moman, AIA, said, "We are very excited to receive a two-star rating as this is difficult to achieve in a commercial project. Although it took extra effort from the entire team, I commend everyone involved in the project for working together and being committed to meeting the necessary requirements."

General Contractor, Zapalac-Reed Construction, structured their construction procedures to adhere to the strict guidelines of the Green Building Program. Construction waste was monitored as well as the recycling of materials when possible.

Susan Robinson, Project Manager at Moman Architects, offered some insight about "green" building. "This type of architecture not only promotes energy efficiency and the use of sustainable materials but adds the dimension of designing a building with an everlasting aesthetic appeal. This includes using the services of local craftsmen for certain products, such as the outside lighting fixtures which feature the Texas star."

Members of the Board of Directors of the Wells Branch Community Library District were initially interested in water harvesting. Since the group was already interested in an environment friendly facility, the design team encouraged them to pursue Green Building Design for the project. The result is a very inviting space that will serve the community for many years.

Dianne Koehler, Board President, commented, "We are very proud of this facility and the fact that we could build it with the least amount of impact possible on our environment and the greatest amount of energy efficiency. Moman Architects did a fantastic job of meeting our expectations in the design."

Members of the design team included Moman Architects, Hendrix Consulting Engineers, Hall-Bargainer Landscape Architects and Baker-Aicklen & Associates Civil Engineering.

Jeff Musgrove with American Realty served as Project Manager for the Library District.

The library is located at 15001 Wells Port Drive and is open to the public.