



AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS AUSTIN, TEXAS

20% less energy use than ASHRAE standard

50% of construction waste recycled

45% of concrete replaced with flyash

LEED® Facts

Austin Resource Center for the Homeless Austin, TX

LEED for New Construction
Certification awarded February 22, 2008

Silver	34*
Sustainable Sites	11/14
Water Efficiency	4/5
Energy & Atmosphere	2/17
Materials & Resources	6/13
Indoor Environmental Quality	6/15
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.

AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS

ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS

ARCH provides the homeless with a safe haven while reducing the environmental impact

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Located at East 7th Street and Neches, the site was being used as a public parking lot before the Resource Center was built. In cooperation with the City's Great Streets Plan, the sidewalks adjacent to the project were widened and trees added. The relocation and adjustment of affected utilities was coordinated with the City of Austin. The facility, designed by the local firm LZT Architects, includes a double-height lobby, health clinic, laundry facilities, locker room, and computer room on the first floor; kitchen, dining room, meeting rooms, showers, sick room, and administrative offices on the second floor; and sleeping quarters, restrooms, and an outdoor terrace at the top.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

Various design elements that keep the building shaded also reduce the energy needed to cool the building in the summer. Special coating on the roof reflects a significant amount of heat to keep the building cool. PV panels, donated to the project, help contribute to the energy consumed in the building. The carefully crafted building configuration, which includes many cuts and openings in the building volume, allows daylight to penetrate deeper into the building for longer periods of time. On the east and west facades, the architects specified large exterior windows with spectrally selective glazing to admit abundant visible light while blocking solar heat gain. Interior solar screens installed just above eye level reduce light transmission by 97 percent. Coupled with artificial lighting that is controlled by photosensors and dimming ballasts, this careful manipulation of natural light saves a significant amount of energy by greatly reducing the need for electrical illumination. To reduce the load on the city's storm-water-management system, LZT developed a 13,000-gallon rainwater-collection system for landscape irrigation and for the flushing of toilets and urinals. Seeing both an architectural and educational opportunity embedded in this highly functional feature, the designers installed, like a row of sentries, eight 21-foot-tall, 24-inch-diameter galvanized-steel tubes just east of the front door. In keeping with resource-efficient practices, the water cisterns double as solar-shading devices in front of a south-facing window, creating a diffused, pearly light within the lobby.

In an effort to encourage alternative, clean transportation, planners designed a parking lot that limits spaces for cars (to encourage carpooling) and contains more space for bikes. In addition, the site includes a station for recharging electric cars. Its proximity to several bus lines also makes public transportation convenient.

ABOUT ARCH

The Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) serves as the first point of entry into the homeless service system for many of Austin's adults experiencing homelessness for the first time, as well as those who have been living on the streets for years. The ARCH is designed to assess client needs, provide information on how and where to access services, and meet the basic emergency needs of homeless adults, as well as provide a place for homeless people to rest and get out of the elements during the day. Nearly 9,000 homeless men and women utilized the ARCH in 2008-09, including an average of approximately 500 individuals each day.

"Our design team was very excited to work on a LEED project that provides such an important social and cultural benefit to the city"

Murray Legge
Design Architect



Architect: LZT Architects
Owner: City of Austin
Civil Engineer: Urban Design Group
Commissioning Agent: ACR Engineering, Inc.
Contractor: Journeyman Construction, L.P.
Developer: City of Austin
Interior Designer: Bethany Ramey Architect
Landscape Architect: Winterowd Associates, Inc.
MEP Engineer: Encotech Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Project Manager, City of Austin: Cynthia Jordan
Roofing Consultant: Austech Roof Consultants, Inc.
Structural Engineer: P.E. Structural Consultants, Inc.
Sustainability Consultant: The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems
Photography: Thomas McConnell

Project Size: 26,800 sq ft
Total Project Cost: \$5.1 million

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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