

THE INNOVATOR

Newsletter

SUMMER 2013

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REVITALIZING FACELIFT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES HOLLAND FAMILY STUDENT CENTER

Photos by TGCE



Tom Green & Company Engineers, Inc.



This revitalizing facelift to the Jackson School of Geosciences Holland Family Student Center has created a 'public face', welcoming students, faculty, and visitors to its community. **McKinney York Architects (MYA)** provided

an inspiring design that incorporated key design elements that reflect the school's studies: earthy tones and building materials; a 6 ft. diameter illuminated projection globe; a 1,600 pound geode specimen from the school's collection; and an exterior courtyard with a rock garden consisting of several varieties of rock specimen.

This renovation (10,000 SF of interior space and addition of 11,000 SF exterior courtyard and landscaped plaza) has received high praise amongst the AEC industry, achieving a LEED-CI Gold Certification, Regional and National ABC Excellence in Construction (EIC) awards, and "Best of the Best Award" for the Central Texas Chapter with the overall highest score. Hats off to a terrific construction team lead by **Flintco** for making this project come to life. *(More on Page 2)*





Photos by TGCE

The project is a fitting exclamation point to the story of MYA's thirty years, crowned by the Texas Society of Architects bestowing its 2013 Architecture Firm of the Year Award.

Here are some elements that are of particular note:

1 TRIBUTE

The school's vision and MYA's interpretation of it would have never come to life without its benefactors. As such, the contributor's names form a highlight of the space.

MYA's classy incorporation/identification of the donors occurs with the embodiment of their names in special carved stone walls and steel cutouts found throughout the renovated space.

2 OUTDOOR RELATIVITY

The exterior courtyard provides a study atmosphere that is one with nature, an excellent use of project relativity by surrounding these future geologists with a rock garden furnished with several different specimen of rock from the School's collection. At night, the courtyard is brilliantly lit so that students can continue to use the outdoor environment that they are, or will become more, accustomed to throughout their studies.

3 CEILING DEVICES

The prominent architectural features allowed TGCE to be creative with our MEP designs to create this 'educational oasis'. The custom suspended wood ceilings required close coordination (in design and construction) with mechanical slot diffuser and light fixture locations. This project also included geological related statues, specimen, and other relative features that required dedicated lighting. The lighting was a mix of fluorescent and LED fixtures with daylighting controls. Occupancy sensing and daylighting control was accomplished with an integrated distributed (addressable) lighting control system.

4 VDC INTEGRATION

Virtual design and construction (VDC) methods were used on this project for several reasons, including: (1) proven success on meeting time and budget demands for most construction teams with whom we've interacted; (2) space demanding MEP systems in tight above ceiling conditions; and (3) portraying built conditions to campus personnel to benefit them long-term in the maintenance of their building.

JOIN THE AIA AUSTIN TOUR OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY STUDENT CENTER
SEPTEMBER 19, 2013
5:30PM - 8:00PM CST
RESERVATION REQUIRED - CLICK [HERE](#) FOR DETAILS



CSSUCCESS

ASIAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER



TGCE was commissioned by **5F Mechanical Group, Inc.** to perform virtual design and construction (VDC) and shop drawing creation for the new **Asian American Resource Center (AARC)**, a City of Austin led project. Managed by the Austin Parks and Recreation division, "...the AARC is dedicated to the preservation, exhibition, cultivation, and celebration of Asian/Asian American culture and heritage through educational programming and community outreach."

The mechanical systems included a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system, a dedicated outside air system, and a packaged Dx air handling unit serving the assembly hall. The mechanical systems on this project were not unique, as they are becoming more common for this type of building because of the energy savings they provide. Performing VDC for the VRF systems is what made this project unique. Often, an Engineer's contract documents illustrate one-line piping to depict the pipe routing leaving the mechanical contractor to use means and methods in installing the engineered systems.

VRF piping is often more space demanding than many would anticipate due to the requirements manufacturers provide (e.g., straight pipe runs before/after fittings, spacing between pipe mains to allow for y-branch fittings, and total pipe length limitations). Also, planning for these requirements in a steel beam and joist construction with varying depths/slopes can be quite challenging. Contractor means and methods alone can't always provide the solution. Construction and design team collaboration is sometimes needed to meet the challenges.

Having performed VDC early in construction, this allowed us to approach these VRF challenges with better understanding of all other building systems (plumbing, fire protection, electrical lighting fixtures and conduit runs) involved with the project

and how/where they would be installed in relationship to our own systems. **Flintco**, the General Contractor, provided a process and personnel that was professional, organized, and efficient. The VDC produced an effective, usable tool for the building construction, and was completed in an enjoyable team atmosphere. An overall success in our book.

~ Greg Maxwell, LEED AP - Designer/CSS Director



Photo by Roy Mata Photography



Photo blend by TGCE



TGCE LIFESTYLES

RENEW YOUR ASHRAE MEMBERSHIP



"ASHRAE is more than an organization to me, it is a place where I can learn and grow. I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without the community that I found through ASHRAE."

Cameron Labunski
P.E., ASHRAE-Certified HFDP, HBDP, CPMP

COMMUNITY

Our very own Cameron Labunski speaks to how ASHRAE has effected his career:

"My involvement in ASHRAE began shortly after college, when a long-term ASHRAE member asked me to serve on our local chapter board. I, like many others, worked my way through the chapter chair positions and continued to serve on local chapter committees. During that time, I served on the ASHRAE Technology Award Judging Panel and was elected as the Region VIII vice chair (RVC) for Membership Promotion. I currently serve on the Professional Development Committee.

ASHRAE is the place where I found community in my profession, a platform for leadership, a model for professional development, technical training, knowledge, and friends. Do you remember when you joined ASHRAE? Do you remember why you joined ASHRAE? If the answers to these two questions are the reason you are where you are today, renew your membership. Support the community that is the members of ASHRAE."

CHEESE BALL CHALLENGE

BREAKING NEWS: Intern Paul Wagner has successfully completed the Cheese Ball Challenge (1lb. 7oz. - Approximately 736 individual cheese balls) in 7hrs 32min.

His prize: pride and a free lunch

His new nickname: Cheese Paul



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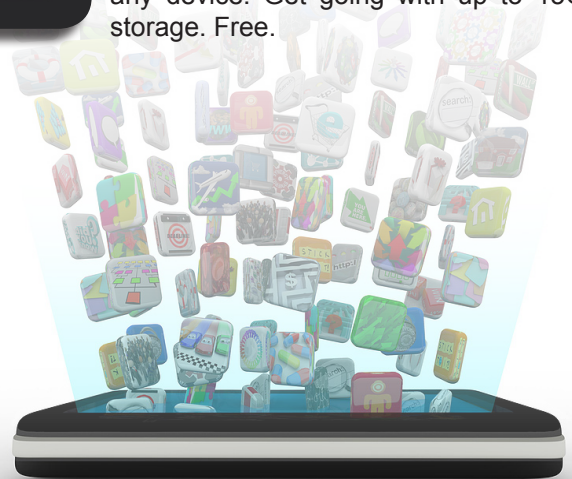


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Google Drive - FREE



Google Drive is one safe place for all your stuff. Upload photos, videos, documents, and other files that are important to you, then access what you need wherever you go, on any device. Get going with up to 15GB of storage. Free.



TOM'S TRIVIA

In the spirit of entering a new athletics season:

1. What are the last two lines of "The Eyes of Texas"?
2. What year marked the end of existence for the Southwest Conference?
3. What UT athletics program has achieved the most conference championships during the University's history?



* All "close to correct" responses will be pooled, with a winner drawn and awarded a \$25 gift card to The Home Depot.

Reply to (CLICK LINK FOR AUTOREPLY) newsletter@tgce.com.
Check our website at www.tgce.com/news/newsletter for results.