

Houston's Hermann Park Lake Plaza Receives Leed Gold Certification From The U.S. Green Building Cou

Written by Claire Bloxom

Monday, 08 March 2010 15:13 - Last Updated Monday, 08 March 2010 16:05



Designed by Overland Partners Architects, the \$11 million, eight-acre Plaza features landscaped grounds with native plantings, scenic promenades, and five new buildings

HOUSTON, March 8, 2010 – Houston's Hermann Park Lake Plaza has officially been awarded

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LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Designed by San Antonio-based Overland Partners Architects, the \$11 million, eight-acre Hermann Park Lake Plaza opened in May 2009 as the threshold to the 445-acre Hermann Park, Houston's finest and most-visited public park.

The Plaza features newly landscaped grounds with native plantings, new scenic promenades, and five newly-constructed buildings, including a paddle boat pavilion with a boathouse, the Hermann Park Mini-Train depot with satellite stations around the park, a public restroom facility, a café and terrace, and a volunteer and maintenance building. Also, the Plaza's new Tiffany & Co. Foundation Bridge arches across a 7.5-acre lake lagoon, offering romantic views from a newly accessible vantage point, increased connectivity within the park, and enhanced beauty of the area without disturbing the natural surroundings.

A variety of green strategies addressing site, water, energy, materials and resource conservation were incorporate in its design. For example, shed roofs were designed to produce positive airflow through breezeways to cool pedestrians in Houston's hot climate; all mature trees were saved and incorporated into the Plaza's design; and the glulam timber wood used in the buildings' construction is a renewable resource with six million trees planted daily in the United States.

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Green building was a major focus of the project, and the plaza received LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

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