

BEST OF
2008
AWARDS

Center for the Sciences and Student Services, St. Agnes Academy, Houston

EXCELLENCE AWARD: K-12, Design



The new Center for the Sciences and Student Services at St. Agnes Academy celebrates the centennial anniversary of the 840-student, all-girls' college preparatory private school. The three-story building serves as a premier science laboratory/lecture space and the campus' new entrance housing the student services center.

The structure is designed to be a low-energy-consuming building. The rotunda is partially tempered rather than conditioned by surrounding conditioned spaces and by return air passing back to the air handlers. The rotunda is protected against solar gain by insulated low-curved glass. The mechanical system is designed to provide comfort and high-quality indoor air for all occupied spaces

as efficiently as possible.

Lobbies function as student lounges and double as gathering and work spaces. Corridors are outfitted with built-in seating alcoves and power outlets to provide students the opportunity for individual study.

The science classrooms, which were designed with maximum flexibility, allow the opportunity for any of the various science classes (biology, chemistry, physics, or general science) to be taught in any or all of the classrooms.

Key Facts

Submitted by: Turner Partners Architecture

Owner: St. Agnes Academy, Houston

Architect: Turner Partners Architecture, Houston

General contractor: Fretz Construction, Houston

MEP engineer: Holste and Associates, Houston

Structural engineer: Pinnacle Structural Engineers, Houston

Civil engineer: Landtech Consultants Inc., Houston

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Azure Condominium Tower, Dallas

EXCELLENCE AWARD: Multifamily, Design



The new 31-story Azure high-rise is the tallest condominium residence tower in Uptown and the first in the Harwood district.

The 375-ft tower, built in stone with metal detailing and sheathed in blue-tinted glass, is highlighted by a blue light that illuminates the building façade. It has 156 luxury homes, views of the Dallas skyline, a junior Olympic swimming pool, fitness center, private 18-seat film theater and landscaped podium gardens.

The landscaped and raised podium supporting the pool and waterfalls presented cost and scheduling challenges for the owner, design and construction team. The fixtures, furnishings, equipment and stone purchased overseas added logistical roadblocks.

The project team overcame obstacles by reorganizing the owner and general contractor team and dividing responsibilities. Contingency plans were updated daily and tracked by the owner, and equal value or superior materials and labor were always made available.

The team met milestones by implementing additional staffing, accelerated subcontractor schedules and the utilization of temporary power and dry-in.

Key Facts

Submitted by: Harwood International

Owner: Harwood Living, Dallas

Design architect: James KM Cheng Architects Inc., Vancouver, B.C.

Architect of record: Perkins+Will, Dallas

General contractor: Balfour Beatty Construction, Dallas

Landscape architect: SWA Group, Dallas

Interior architect: Gensler, Dallas, and Harwood Design Studio, Dallas

Structural engineer: Thornton Tomasetti, Dallas