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“LEED-ing” Sustainability Efforts at The Doseum

From solar energy and water recycling to habitat restoration, The DoSeum was designed and constructed with a thoughtful, sustainable approach and offers a number of features to make it both kid and environmentally friendly.

The DoSeum partnered with San Antonio-based Lake|Flato Architects to fulfill its vision of a vibrant space that showcases smart, sustainable features. Well known for incorporating the natural environment into its modern designs, the award-winning firm created a project that is not only beautiful, but one that will provide environmental learning opportunities to its visitors, young and old.

“We had a vision of designing up to children,” said Trey Rabke, Lake|Flato’s lead designer on The DoSeum project. “Many of the green features of the building are highlighted so that guests have the opportunity to see them in action and learn from them. We wanted this to be a sophisticated, sustainable building that will be enjoyed by children for generations to come.”

The DoSeum is slated to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and is among the most sustainable museums in Texas.

Sustainability Features

Solar Energy

On The DoSeum’s roof, more than 600 solar panels produce approximately 20 percent of the facility’s energy. A solar tree at the museum demonstrates how the rooftop solar system functions, allowing guests to learn about solar energy.

Water Conservation

A water reclamation system will capture approximately 180,000 gallons per year from the museum’s HVAC system. The water is then reused for on-site irrigation. A 33,000 gallon cistern shows museum guests how condensate is captured from the rooftop units, and pumped to the cistern. Additionally, storm water runoff from the street is filtered through two natural bioswales at The DoSeum before flowing back into the San Antonio River.

Green Construction

All building materials for The DoSeum were extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured, in Texas, and reused materials were incorporated wherever possible. Non-toxic materials, including paint, wood and flooring, were used throughout the building to create a safe play environment for children. Following construction, at least 50 percent of the museum’s outdoor footprint was restored with native or adopted vegetation to help promote biodiversity.

Recycling

The DoSeum strives to recycle 90 percent of waste materials during daily operations. Recycling bins are available throughout the facility. Upon building completion, 98 percent of construction waste was recycled.

Alternative Transportation

The DoSeum is located within walking distance of four public bus lines. Secure bicycle racks and a B-Cycle bike-share station at The DoSeum to encourage cycling. Designated parking spots are also available for low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles.

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