

**EMERSON
UNITARIAN CHURCH**

EDUCATION BUILDING
HOUSTON, TEXAS
22,265 SQ. FT.

LEED® NC

75% waste recycled

50% water savings

30% energy savings

LEED® Facts

**Emerson Unitarian Church
Education Building - DeLaney Hall
Houston, TX**

*LEED for New Construction
Certification awarded November 2005*

Certified 26*

Sustainable Sites 6/14

Water Efficiency 3/5

Energy & Atmosphere 0/17

Materials & Resources 5/13

Indoor Environment Quality 7/15

Innovation & Design 5/5

**Out of a possible 69 points*

PROJECT PROFILE

EMERSON UNITARIAN CHURCH EDUCATION BUILDING - DeLANEY HALL

PRACTICING WHAT THEY PREACH

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church wanted its new education building to enhance the existing campus, which was heavily influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple. Emerson also wanted the new facility to reflect a strong environmental ethic that would reflect sustainability as the seventh principle of the Unitarian Church. Another consideration was that the building serve as a wise investment.

Emerson's Education Building was the first liturgical building in Texas to seek LEED certification.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

Working with off-the-shelf technologies and products, and with a limited budget,

Bailey Architects designed a sustainable building and site that will deliver long-term savings in operating costs and maintenance, while meeting the congregation's goals. The end result is a building that is over 30% more efficient than a standard building.

The 22,265 square foot building houses classrooms, meeting spaces, and offices for church staff. A two-story lobby area connects the new building to the existing church sanctuary, expanding the entrance hall and creating a much-needed gathering space. The new building's compact footprint replaces several smaller, loosely organized buildings, and provides three times the educational space they offered. An asphalt drive and turn-around were removed and replaced with a landscaped entry court.

As a result, the campus has more landscaped areas than before, and native plants allow for low-maintenance costs. Like the new lobby, the courtyard offers church members necessary space to gather between services and adult education sessions.

All building materials were evaluated for their health and environmental impacts, and the construction process was carefully managed to ensure the highest level of IAQ for the life of the building. Efficient plumbing fixtures and a native landscape reduce the water use on campus. Energy efficiency was achieved through site-responsive architectural design, and occupant-responsive mechanical and lighting design. These measures were estimated to save Emerson, just in utility costs, over \$12,000 annually.

Emerson's commitment to sustainability extends beyond the building design and construction process: Bailey Architects worked with the congregation to develop green housekeeping and maintenance policies and to program recycling and carpooling operations into the design.

ABOUT EMERSON

Requirements for the local and regional materials credit were exceeded by 78%. ■ A green housekeeping program was implemented, with the use of green seal-approved cleaning fluids, recycled content, disposable paper products and trash liners.

EMERSON WANTED THE FACILITY TO REFLECT A STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC, REINFORCING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S PRINCIPLE OF PROMOTING "RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE ALL A PART."



Owner: Emerson Unitarian Church
Architect: Bailey Architects, Inc.
Engineers: Ingrenium Inc., Dabney Engineering, Kuo and Associates, Inc.
Contractor: Fretz Construction Co.
Project Size: 22,265 sf
Total Project Cost: \$3,091,823
Photography courtesy of Gerald Moorhead, FAIA

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 web site at www.usgbc.org to learn more about how you can make LEED work for you.

©2007 U.S. Green Building Council:
Greater Houston Area Chapter

For more information about
U.S. Green Building Council
Greater Houston Chapter Contact:

Executive Director
Lora-Marie Bernard
at loramarie@usgbc-houston.org

P.O. Box 6720
Houston, Texas 77265-6720
Cell: 409.770.4116
Direct: 281.506.3867



**GREATER HOUSTON
AREA CHAPTER**

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.