Merit Award—Less than $15M

GOVERNMENT CANYON STATE NATURAL AREA—SAN ANTONIO

Steel-framed structure is an integral part of the Government Canyon State Natural Area visitor center's architecture. The building lies in the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, which supplies water to nearby San Antonio. Recycled steel HSS provided a sustainable solution for the facility, as well as a flexible structural solution used to achieve interesting shapes in the center's clear spans and roof.

The building program includes classrooms, offices, an exhibit hall, outdoor exhibit pavilion, amphitheater, interpretive trails, and two ranger residences. The design of the center breaks the building down into wings: an administration wing to the east and an educational center in the western wing.

Throughout the project, salvaged and recycled materials display the conservation ethic behind the center's establishment. Recycled HSS were used to create structurally interesting features throughout the center's clear-span spaces.

An exhibit space opens up to a courtyard. Along with this space, classrooms form the heart of the educational center. The classrooms open up to the savanna and provide canyon views through a broad porch.

Adjacent to the classrooms and exhibit space, a gravity feed water tower forms the edge of the outdoor classroom. Water is collected from three separate steel-framed roofs and is stored in interconnected underground cisterns.

Lake|Flato Architects

Owner
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin

Architect
Lake|Flato Architects, San Antonio

Structural Engineer
Architectural Engineers Collaborative, Austin

Engineering Software
RISA 3D

Fabricator
Ironhorse Iron Works, Inc., Lorena, Texas, AISC member

Erector
Moore Erection Company, Inc., Garden Ridge, Texas, AISC member, SEAA member

General Contractor
Tom Page & Company, Inc., San Antonio

National Winner—$15M or greater, but less than $75M

WILLIAMS COLLEGE '62 CENTER FOR THEATRE AND DANCE—WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

The '62 Center for Theatre and Dance at Williams College emphasizes the importance of a connection between theater and dance with other disciplines on a liberal arts campus. The center provides a direct path that connects to nearby dormitories, enabling students who are not involved in the theater or dance programs to be exposed to these two departments.

Structural steel was the ideal choice for framing the project's complex geometry and variety of uses while conforming to the overall and detailed aesthetic goals.

The center features four main venues for the performing arts: a 550-seat main stage theater; a 200-seat center stage theater that features movable balconies, a flexible lift, and a 20'-high steel sliding door that opens directly onto the lobby; a dance studio; and an existing theater that was converted to an intimate 210-seat "thrust" theater.

Paired HSS columns with intermediate HSS horizontals at the building's entry and dance studio, coated with intumescent paint, create transparent glass enclosures while forming a rigid moment frame to support gravity and lateral loads.

Lightweight steel "gondolas" hang from the center stage theater's roof on monorail tracks, allowing repositioning as dictated by the performance requirements.

Owner
Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

Architect
William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston

Structural Engineer
LeMessurier Consultants, Cambridge, Mass.

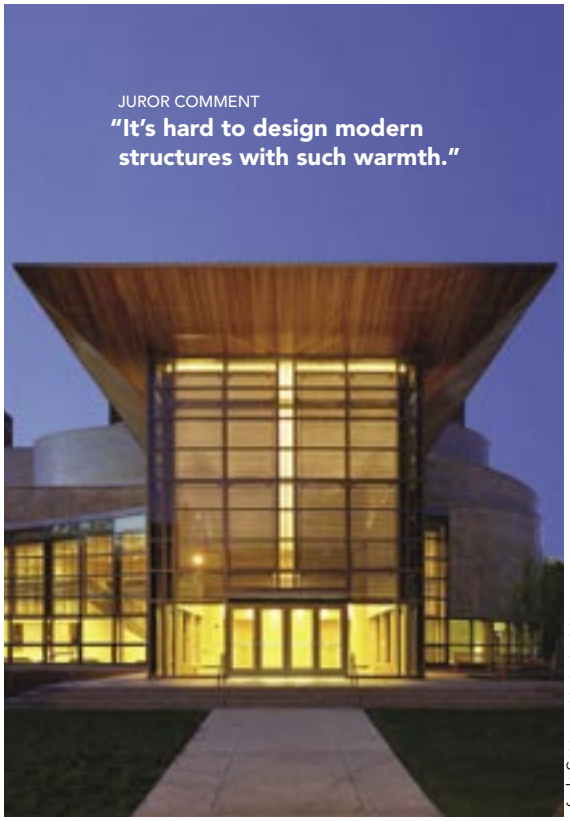
Engineering Software
STAAD Pro

Detailer
Base Line Drafting Services, Inc., Concord, Ontario, NISD member

Detailing Software
SDS/2
SteelCAD
AutoCAD

Steel Fabricator and Erector
Cives Steel Company, Augusta, Maine, AISC member

General Contractor
Barr and Barr, Inc. Framingham, Mass.



Robert Benson Photography