

PROJECT PROFILE

School of Nursing and Student Community Center, The University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHealth) Houston, Texas

LEED® New Construction

- 33% reduction in energy use
- 93% reduction of “potable” water use
- 48% “fly-ash” in the concrete
- 77% of building materials were recycled or reused

LEED® Facts

UT School of Nursing & Student
Community Center, Houston TX

LEED for New Construction
Certification awarded February 2009

Certified 39*

Sustainable Sites 8/14

Water Efficiency 5/5

Energy & Atmosphere 6/17

Materials & Resources 7/13

Indoor Environmental
Quality 8/15

Innovation & Design 5/5

*Out of a possible 69 points



School of Nursing and Student Community Center:

An environment that is at once healing, pedagogical and inspirational ...

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the summer of 2004, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing moved from space in the Houston Main Building at 1100 Holcombe to the new School of Nursing and Student Community Center building at 6901 Bertner Avenue. At that time, the school was ranked in the top 10 percent of graduate nursing programs in the U.S. The UTHealth School of Nursing is now ranked in the top five percent by U.S. News & World Report.

SITE CALLS FOR A 'VERTICAL CAMPUS'

Because of the limited space at the site in the heart of the Texas Medical Center, the building was designed in several tiers, as a 'vertical campus.' A two-story, east-to-west breezeway orients lower levels of the building toward the green space of Grant Fay Park. The lowest two interior levels contain the most public spaces – a 200-seat auditorium, a café and dining room, a bookstore, a student lounge, student government center and various offices. The third and fourth floors hold teaching spaces, computer /distance-learning labs and the Simulation & Clinical Performance Laboratory. The next three levels house faculty and staff offices, as well as the Center for Nursing Research, with the dean's suite and administration offices residing on the eighth floor. The challenges of the building site and the strong Houston sun are reflected in the building's four unique façades and roof. Each side was designed with its own fenestration and sun-screening strategies and strives to accept desired daylight while rejecting unwanted heat. An adjacent labyrinth offers the community a 'purposeful path' for quiet reflection and meditation.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

With the latest in computer technology, state-of-the-art equipment and an expanded distance education program, the School has been able to teach a greater number of students and employ accelerated programs to address the critical nationwide shortage of nurses. Dean Starck says: "The facilities have helped us to recruit more senior research scholars. Now we also have some very promising young nursing researchers who will be able to help create the best hope for a healthier future." The new building provides 23 classrooms, totaling 18,700 sf, capable of seating 880 students at one time. An entire floor is devoted to research, with labs and work spaces built and equipped to 21st-century specifications. "I hope that's the greatest success here – that the building's occupants are healthier and more productive, and, therefore, that the teaching and learning are happening at higher levels of success than before, as a result of the environment we've all created together," says BNIM principal Bob Berkebile.

RECOGNITION AND DESIGN AWARDS

Recognized as one of the top 'green' buildings in the U.S., the School of Nursing and Student Community Center has received 11 prestigious local, state and national architectural design awards since opening in 2004.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF NURSING ...

The School of Nursing is part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), the most comprehensive academic health center in Texas – comprising six schools, two major institutes and a psychiatric hospital. Within a diverse interdisciplinary environment, this pacesetter school graduates an average of 166 new nurses and 130 nurses with graduate degrees each year. More than 7,835 nurses have graduated from the UTHealth School of Nursing since 1972. For information, visit: <http://son.uth.tmc.edu/>

"The building showcases a philosophy that if we're teaching about health, we're also operating in a healthy way. It feels like a nurturing environment ..."

– Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., R.N.
Dean, UTHealth School of Nursing



Owner: The University of Texas System, Austin TX

Architect: Berkebile Nelson Immenschuh McDowell Architects (BNIM) with Lake/Flato Architects

Engineer: Jaster-Quintanilla & Associates

Contractor: Jacobs/Vaughn, Inc.

Project Size: 94,000 sf, 8 stories

Total Project Cost: \$57 million

Photography courtesy of Hester + Hardaway Photographers.

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. Support the local chapter of USGBC by visiting www.usgbc-houston.org