Austin College

Austin College is a leading national independent liberal arts college located north of Dallas in Sherman, Texas. Founded in 1849, making it the oldest institution of higher education in Texas operating under original charter and name, the College is related by covenant to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Recognized nationally for academic excellence in the areas of international education, pre-professional training, and leadership studies, Austin College is one of 40 schools profiled in Loren Pope's influential book *Colleges That Change Lives*.

Page

Page provides architecture, interiors, consulting and engineering services throughout the United States and around the world. As designers of the built environment, we have a sizeable impact on the ongoing consumption of resources both in initial project construction and throughout its lifespan. To this end, we've signed onto the Architecture 2030 Commitment to achieve net zero buildings by the year 2030. Learn more at pagethink.com.

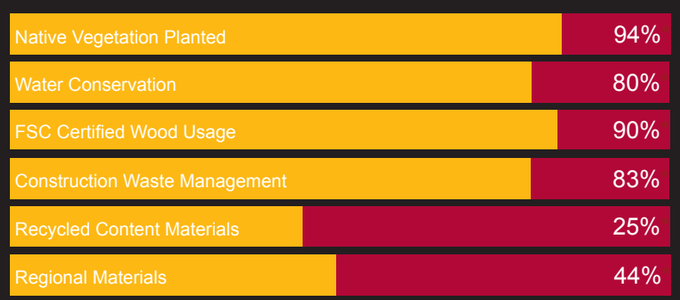
Shepley Bulfinch

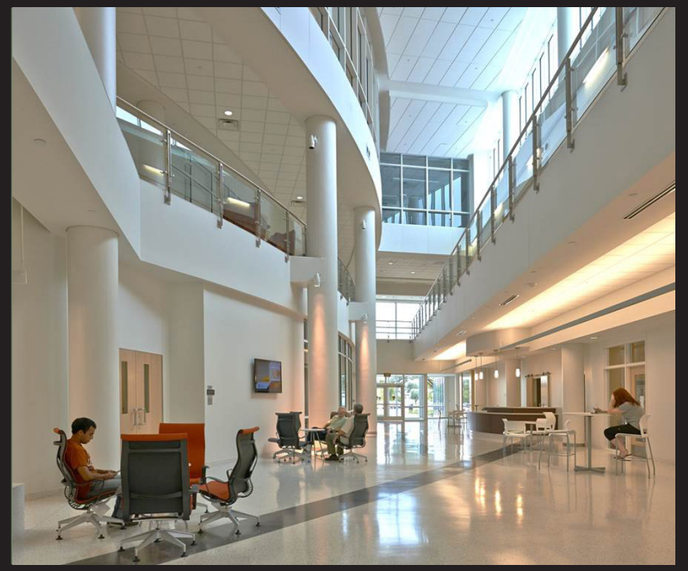
Shepley Bulfinch is a national leader in environmentally responsive design, ranked among the country's top 100 design firms by Architectural Record and the top 100 Green Design Firms by ENR magazine. A corporate member of the US Green Building Council since 2001, Shepley Bulfinch is a certified EnergyStar Partner and a signatory to the AIA 2030 Challenge.

LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings. Over 100,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED rating systems, comprising over 8 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 114 countries.

Performance By Numbers





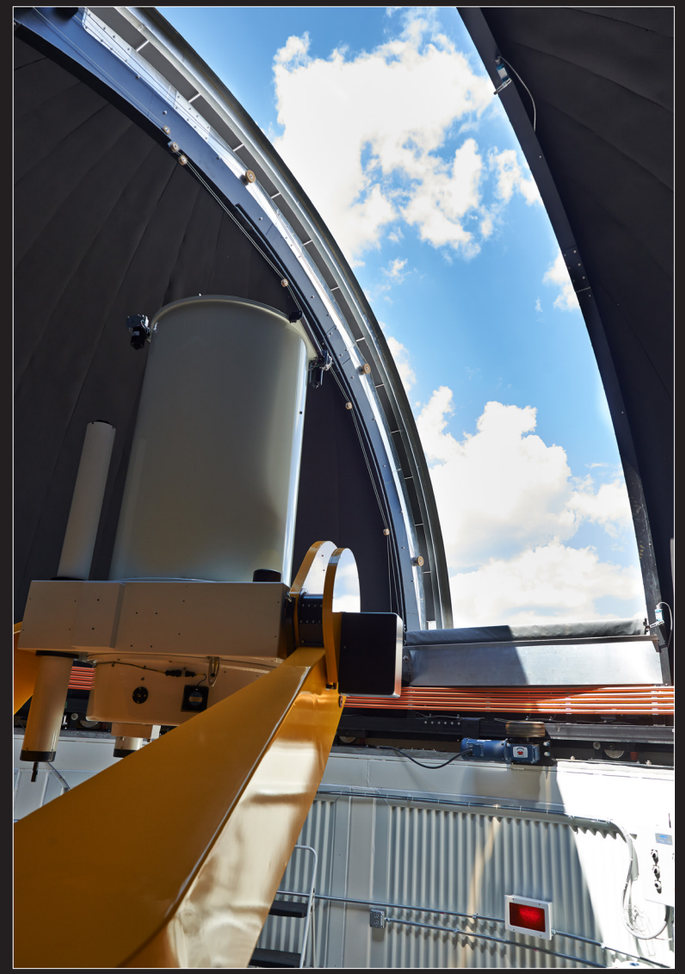
Project Information

Owner	Austin College
Location	Sherman, Texas
Building Type	Multidisciplinary science facility
Building Size	103,000 square feet
Features	32 laboratory classrooms, 40 offices, 16 lecture rooms, a 108-seat auditorium, Adams Observatory and 24-inch telescope with an astronomical high-resolution image camera.
LEED Certification	Gold

Project Team

Owner	Austin College
Architecture/MEP Engineering	Page
Design Architect	Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott
Civil Engineering	EIKON Consultant Group, LLC
Landscape Architecture	Linda Tycher & Associates and Michael Parkey
Telescope Design/Manufacture	DFM Engineering
Project Management	Pritchard Associates
General Contractor	Hunt Construction Group

AUSTIN COLLEGE



The IDEA Center Achieves LEED Gold

LEED Certification

The IDEA Center LEED Gold certification was based on meeting green building requirements in six categories: sustainable site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation in design. Page, the architect and engineers of record, and Shepley Bulfinch, the design architect, worked closely with Austin College to develop site-specific opportunities for sustainability such as solar shading, use of natural light and rooftop rainwater collection for irrigation of native landscaping.

Resource Conservation

Approximately 7.8 billion gallons of water is consumed daily for outdoor use in the United States. To reduce this at the IDEA Center, high-efficiency equipment and climate-based controllers were installed. HVAC condensation discharge also is captured and stored in cistern tanks. Drought-tolerant plants were carefully selected for their ability to flourish alone on rainwater once established. All these methods will eliminate the need for potable water use for landscaping and reduce total irrigation site needs by nearly 80%.

Indoor Air Quality

All of the carpets installed at the IDEA Center are certified Green Label Plus or meet that standard and do not emit a variety of chemicals, including volatile organic compounds (VOC) that could negatively impact the indoor air quality and the health of the occupants. All paints, coatings, adhesives and sealants used on the interior of the buildings have low or no VOC. To sustain occupant comfort, a ventilation monitoring system was installed to ensure the building supplies fresh outside air to occupants.

Materials Selection and Stewardship

A great deal of attention was paid to the selection of materials for the building. Of the wood used in construction, **90%** was Forestry Stewardship Certified. Additionally, **25%** of all materials in the building contain recycled content and **44%** of all materials were extracted, harvested and manufactured within 500 miles of the campus.

Of the vegtative species chosen for use in the endangered Texas Blackland Prairie soil landscape, **71%** are native to the Blacklands and **23%** are native to other regions of Texas. Each was carefully chosen to eliminate invasive potential, for their usefulness in water conservation or their ethnobotanical significance. The diversity of species gives added protection from disastrous pest outbreaks.

Construction activities also focused on materials stewardship. Knowing that the construction of buildings accounts for up to **65%** of all waste going into landfills in the United States, over **83%** of all construction waste generated from the building's construction was diverted from the landfill and sent to local recycling centers instead.

Page/ Shepley Bulfinch

Building Design

The three-story IDEA Center houses contemporary classrooms and multi-purpose labs that serve the Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Studies, Mathematics, and Physics departments. The 103,000 square foot facility features 32 laboratory classrooms, 40 offices, 16 lecture rooms, a 108-seat auditorium and a domed observatory housing a 24-inch telescope with an astronomical high-resolution image camera. The building itself also acts as a scientific instrument; a gnomon hole in the roof transforms the Center's atrium into a solar observatory, tracking the movement of the sun through the days and years. Today, it serves as a hub for social and intellectual interaction. This facility is the next significant step in Austin College's current strategy to integrate science and technology into the liberal arts curriculum and maintain a competitive program in these fields.