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US aquatic facility built around a tree

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The LEED Silver certified complex is 78,000 sq ft and includes an aerobics/dance studio, group exercise room and five community/multipurpose rooms



Hughes Group Architects designed the compact building layout to frame the inside views of the surrounding forest, specifically the Willow Oak.

The community atrium acts as a circulation spine with access to the community zone on the east side and the high-volume recreation spaces on the west side.

The "branch" steel columns marching from the entry and into the atrium echo the forest through the building. Strategic glazing locations allow the users to connect with the forest in the different areas of the building. The gentle curvilinear roof forms over the recreation areas, while the slanted walls and curved wall along community zone are reflections of the community's desire to preserve the forested site.

Artworks by three local artists were incorporated in the project. The art pieces were specifically created to reflect the forest, health/well-being, and community. The integration of art in this project enhanced the facility's purpose and added cultural meaning.

In order to achieve LEED Silver certification, a comprehensive sustainability strategy was undertaken, which includes:

- Energy efficient building skin with natural zinc cladding
- Clerestory windows for natural daylighting
- Solar shading devices for reducing solar heat gain
- Access to natural light and views
- Low VOC interior finishes
- Low water consumption toilet fixtures
- Energy efficient lighting system and LED light fixtures
- Variable refrigerant flow HVAC/heat recovery for the atatorium,



- Bioswales at parking areas
- directional LED parking light fixtures and preferred parking for efficient & low emitting vehicles and electric car parking stalls.