

Project Data

Construction: \$5,675,000
MEPT Const: \$1,600,000
Start: 2014
Complete: 2016

Owner

Indian Creek Nature Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
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User

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Team

Principal in Charge
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Marc Foster, PE, LC
Mechanical Engineer
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Electrical Engineer
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Architect

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Project History

The Amazing Space is an interactive educational facility designed with goal of a Living Building certification by the International Living Future Institute, one of only a handful in the world. The 11,000 square foot facility uses a 100 kW photovoltaic array as a component in their net-zero energy and water use strategy. The Nature Center includes offices, classrooms, workrooms, a gift shop, a bird watching porch and a large gathering space.

Mechanical Engineering

The HVAC for the facility consists of distributed terminal heat pumps connected to a closed loop geothermal system. Outside air is provided to the heat pumps by an energy recovery unit with an enthalpy wheel. The building control system monitors outdoor conditions and notifies occupants when natural cooling is best.

Electrical Engineering

The electrical work includes LED lighting, power and fire alarm systems. The building features a roof-top photovoltaic array designed in collaboration with Alliant Energy.

Telecommunications and AV systems support the center's educational mission. All building systems including the HVAC, lighting, and plumbing have extensive sub-metering providing the opportunity to integrate environmental education into the building itself.

An interactive digital display board reports real time and trended energy and water usage throughout the building.

