Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Admissions Kiosk

Austin, Texas, March 2013

Category: Build, Public
Designer: Sanders Architecture, PLLC

Photo by John Foxworth

Sanders Architecture, founded in 2009 by Christopher Sanders, is a design studio specializing in planning, design and architectural services for residential, commercial and institutional projects. With projects located primarily in central Texas, Sanders Architecture's designs are responsive to climatic and social issues important to the region.

Photo by John Foxworth

Collaborators/Project Team:

Christopher L. Sanders, AIA	Principal Architect
Justin Campbell	Intern Architect
Miars Construction	General Contractor
MJ Structures	Structural Engineer
ACR Engineering	MEP Engineering
Steel House MFG	Steel Fabricator
Ecosystem Design Group	Green Roof Consultant

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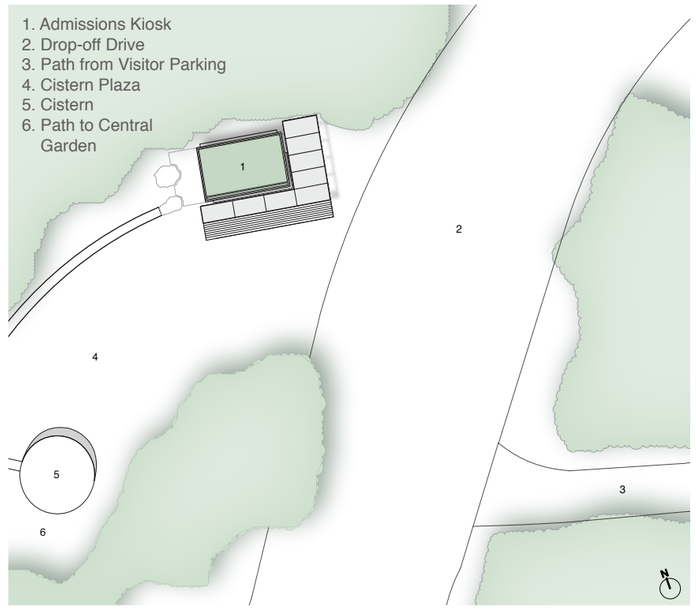
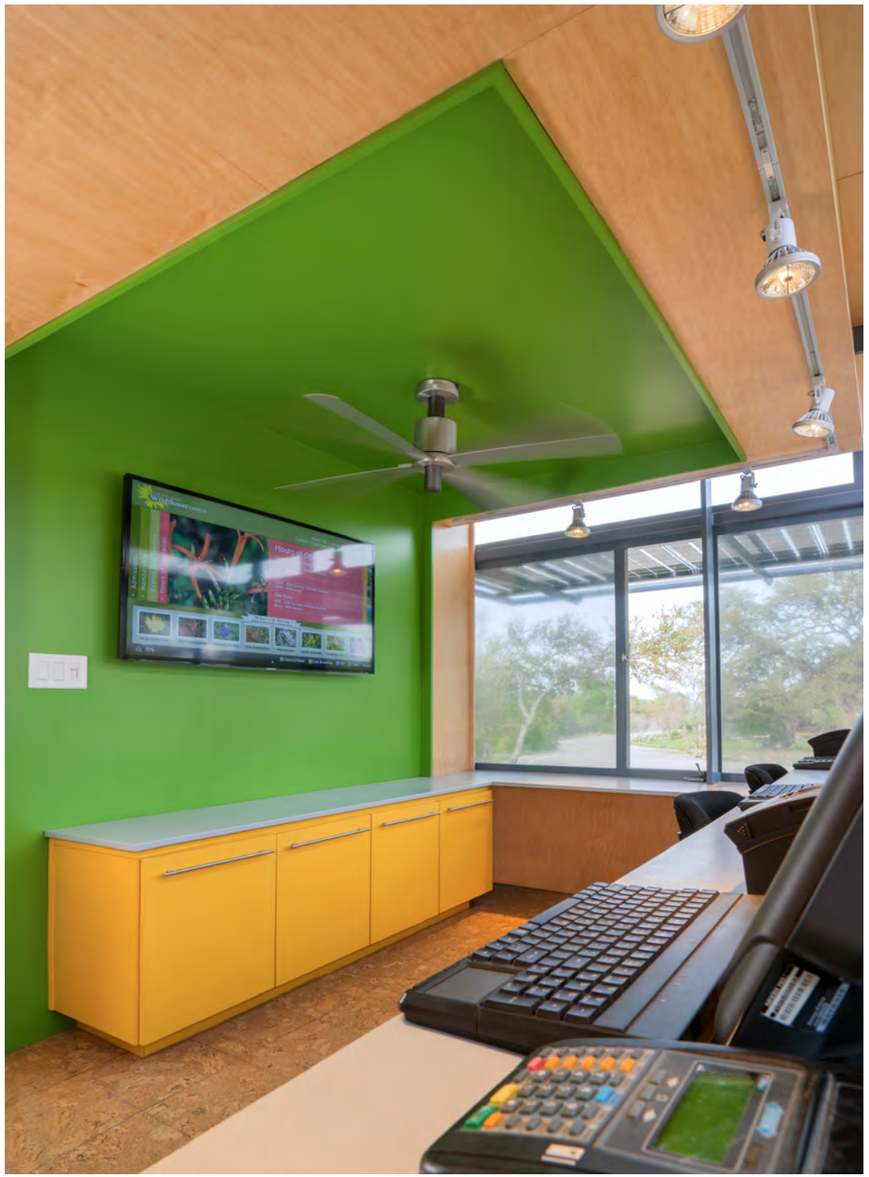
Project Description:

Inspired by greenhouses in the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's central gardens, the new admissions kiosk serves as a "lighthouse" to mark the entrance for visitors who predominantly arrive by automobile. Built mostly off-site, the building was constructed with minimal disturbance to the existing "cistern plaza". Resting lightly on the ground, the building wears sustainability on its sleeve - a deliberate decision intended to introduce the public to the research that occurs behind the scenes at the Wildflower Center. During the hot, humid months, condensate water collected from the building's mini-split air conditioning system is used to irrigate the green roof and green wall. Designed with the assistance of the Wildflower Center's Ecosystem Design Group, the green roof exhibits a mix of prairie grasses and flowering plants native to the central Texas region. The planting medium used on the green roof, a proprietary mix developed specifically for hot climates, is made of 100% recycled ingredients. The green wall, once fully established, will shade the west elevation from the harsh afternoon sun.



Site Plan

The building's finishes - locally sourced cypress, renewable cork flooring, low-VOC paints and adhesives and recycled denim insulation - compliment the Wildflower Center's sustainable mission. The building's steel frame, designed to allow the kiosk to be transported to the site, will permit it to be moved to a new location if the Wildflower Center's long term master plan is implemented. The structural steel components and the aluminum shingles on the building's south and east elevations can be easily disassembled and recycled when the building is eventually retired.



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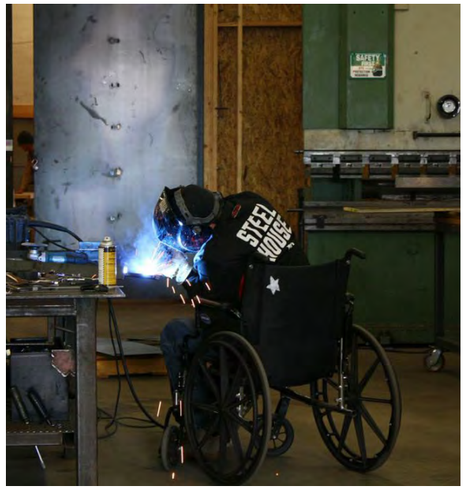

Photos by Jonathan Duke

Photo by Bruce Leander

Because substantial daylighting and natural ventilation keep energy use low, 67% of the building's annual energy needs are provided by the solar photovoltaic array that doubles as a shade awning at the visitor transaction windows. Designed to accommodate four admissions employees at peak visitation periods, the 100 square foot building is too small to qualify for LEED Certification. However, the kiosk demonstrates to visitors how sustainable building technologies are integrated and employed. The Wildflower Center provides messaging on the LED display and informational pamphlets to further educate the public about environmentally responsible buildings.

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Photo by Bruce Leander