

Project Showcase

austin's colony church of christ burch group architects

Austin's Colony Church of Christ is located on a small, irregular-shaped site in one of Bryan's residential neighbourhoods. Wildlife, particularly deer, frequented the site before its development and continues to do so since the building's completion, thanks in part to the efforts of the design team at Burch Group Architects. Limiting parking to near the existing street preserved established trees and natural wildlife habitats and the planting of native grasses after construction helped to re-establish the vegetation where it was damaged.

The church's 30-50 person congregation needed space for both worship and fellowship in their new building. They also wanted the interior space to have few divisions and a strong connection to the outdoors. While taking this into account, the architects concentrated on keeping the scale and materials appropriate to the neighbourhood. By using materials common to both the area and the building industry (hardboard, natural stone, shingles) they were able to keep the project economical as well as allowing it to blend in with the character of its surrounds.

Added to the challenge of designing a structure which conformed to the neighbourhood, however, was that of designing a structure which would not be mistaken for just another house. Choosing to include the prominent covered entry with its stark white steeple clearly designated the building as a place of worship while the persistent use of common materials and maintenance of an appropriate scale prevented it from overpowering or infringing upon the neighbourhood's character.

The designers' use of natural materials continued to the interior with natural stone and pine contrasting largely unadorned spaces



Austin's Colony Church of Christ
Image Provided By Burch Group Architects

Site Plan

Image Provided By Burch Group Architects



and highlighting points of importance such as the baptistery; over which they also located a specially commissioned stained glass window. Giving the lobby a high ceiling and generous windows opened the space to the outdoors, creating an airy gathering

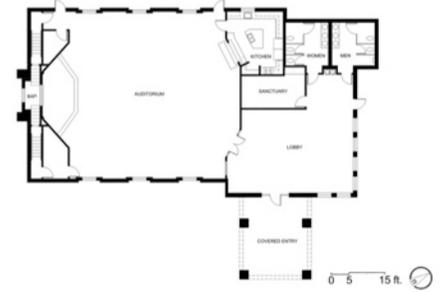
space which granted the client's wish for connectivity between interior and exterior and celebrated the site's natural beauty.

Within the main space, flexibility between worship and fellowship functions was a main concern. The

▼ **Lobby**
Image Provided By
Burch Group Architects



Floor Plan ►
Image Provided By
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► use of movable furniture and locating the kitchen so it could be opened directly into the space helped to achieve this goal. By successfully creating a dual-purpose main space, the team from Burch Group Architects were able to meet the congregation's needs in a smaller building than might have otherwise been needed; a building which minimised site disturbance and did not disrupt the character of its neighbourhood. ■

Director's Report
board of directors retreat

By Darren Heine, AIA

The retreat was held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency, Lost Pines Resort outside Bastrop, Texas. The setting provided for a remote, relaxed, and informal introduction to the Texas Architects Board. A reception was held on Thursday night to allow time for new Board members to get acquainted before the meetings began on Friday. After welcomes and introductions the next morning, TA President, Craig Reynolds, announced his 2012 theme of "Influence". Guest speaker, Peter DeLisle, PhD then gave an inspirational talk on "The Role and Responsibilities of a Board and Board Member." The remainder of Friday's full day of activities and Saturday morning's schedule were as follows:

Friday

- A. Strategic Plan Review
- B. Strategic Plan Dialogue
- C. Recharging the Goals
- D. Tactics-Divide and Address
- E. Tactic Prioritizing
- F. Summary and Next Steps

Saturday

- A. Financials 101 and the Board
- B. Committees Overview/Engagement
- C. 2012 Board Meeting Dates

Highlights and action items related to AIA Brazos were:

- 1.** President-elect Chapter Visits: Larry Speck would like to set up talks with students at TAMU when visiting our chapter. In addition, if TAC checks are to be presented to local legislators, it is recommended that the legislators be invited to attend the chapter dinner to allow President-elect Speck to present the check.
- 2.** The new website and branding are complete. New branding places emphasis on "Texas Architects" rather than "Texas Society of Architects". Members are encouraged to become familiar with the new interface, and login and update their profile information. Username and

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Image By Darren Heine, AIA



passwords are the same as the AIA website. Chapter events may also be added to the website calendar.

- 3.** TA Committee Appointments: This year, committee members will be appointed, similar to the way GASCOM has worked in the past. Chapter nominees and individuals interested in State Committee appointments were due to Craig Reynolds by December 15th. Those not selected may be able to volunteer for subcommittees or ►