PROJECT PROFILE
SCHLITZ AUDUBON NATURE CENTER
1111 East Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

OWNER
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

SIZE
30,000 sf building on 190 acres along the shores of Lake Michigan

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED
April 2003

DESIGN BUILD
The Kubala Washatko Architects, Inc.

CONTRACTOR
Jansen Group

PROJECT DETAILS

USE OF AVAILABLE ENERGY SOURCES
- Building orientation uses daylighting for work spaces reducing energy needed for lighting
- Building mass stores and releases energy, mitigating temperature swings
- Operable windows facilitate natural ventilation
- Geoexchange heat pumps use constant earth temperature to provide both heating and cooling, minimizing dependence on fossil fuels

CHOICE OF BUILDING SITE
- Building location uses a somewhat deteriorated portion of the site, yet provides open space for solar "window"
- Building site connects to existing trails and provides for creation of adjacent "trail heads"

CONSTRUCTION
- Thicker wall construction allows greater insulation values
- Exposed concrete floor is the finished floor eliminating the use of additional material
- Overhangs help to control sunlight and reduce summer heat gain
- Site grading at south side of building allows use of windows at basement level for ventilation and light

BUILDING MECHANICAL SYSTEMS EMPLOYED
- Geoexchange heat pumps for heating and cooling
- Natural and heat recovery ventilation
- Low-flow, low water usage plumbing fixtures
- Waterless urinals
- Photovoltaic generation of electricity
- "Cool daylighting" to reduce electric lighting and associated heat loads

CONSTRUCTION PHASE
- Completed most environmentally destructive parts of construction during winter
- Minimized impact of equipment and deliveries on site
- Contained dust and runoff to minimize effect on site
- Employed construction waste recycling program with help from Wastecap Wisconsin
- Encouraged contractors to take home material cutoffs

MATERIALS & INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- Use of locally available materials to reduce impact of transportation
- Site harvested lumber for timber frame
- Site harvested lumber for exterior decking
- Logs donated from Aldo Leopold family use as porch columns
- Use of recycled content materials to reduce dependence on virgin resources
- Use of durable materials
- Low VOC finishes
- Two week building 'flushout' before occupancy