

ARCHITECTURAL ENERGY
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Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Welcome Center

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



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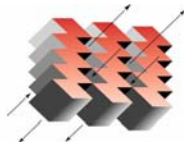
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As part of a major renovation and expansion of the historic Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a new Welcome Center has been designed and built as the new entry to the site. The Welcome Center contains a café, gift shop, coat check, ticket purchasing, restrooms and vertical circulation to the Conservatory, all organized around a central glazed atrium. The architectural design is in keeping with the historical conservatory, while employing state-of-the-art energy efficiency and sustainable design features. The Welcome Center obtained a Silver LEED® rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Project Information: Phipps Welcome Center

Project Type	Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Client / Design Team	<i>Architect:</i> IKM, Incorporated Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania <i>Energy/Daylighting/Sustainable Design Consultant, and Commissioning Authority:</i> Architectural Energy Corporation Boulder, Colorado
Size	11,500 ft ²
Location	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Cost	Confidential
Year Constructed / Occupied	2005
Sustainable Design Features	<p>An aggressive integrated sustainable design approach was used involving the following energy, daylighting and sustainable design strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partial earth-sheltered structure with gentle sloping walkways.• 34-foot high glass atrium provides daylighting to the visitor lobby and ticketing areas and a dramatic setting for the stairway up to the Conservatory.• High performance glazings, tuned by orientation, with varying frit density to control solar heat gain and daylighting.• State-of-the-art control system which automatically opens and closes operable windows at two level in the atrium to release stratified heated air and to induce natural ventilation.• Low or no VOC paints, adhesives and other interior finishing materials.• High efficiency HVAC and lighting systems with advanced energy management and control system.



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