

Architect:

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Owner:

City of Charlottesville

Project Cost:

\$5,500,000

Square Footage:

12,000 sf

Cost per Square Foot:

\$458.33/sf

Completion Date:

February 01, 2007



Project Description:

Charlottesville's downtown transit center is more than its name suggests. Though it will serve as the city's principal intermodal transfer point—facilitating bus, trolley, tour bus, and bicycle trail connections—its program also calls for a central hall that contains an art gallery, supporting retail, and even a visitor center for tourists. The center's design and its strategic location in front of City Hall and at the terminus of the downtown pedestrian mall provide the added value of spurring adjacent development, namely two mixed-use buildings and an amphitheater park intended to serve as a regional attraction. A high degree of interaction among the public, city, and design team ensured a responsive and integrated approach to the many issues that bear on this very visible project.

Green Features:

The project will also be the city's first LEED certified project featuring an energy-efficient geothermal HVAC system, water-conserving plumbing, and locally produced materials. The siting of the building posed a challenge to the energy conservation goals. Required access and views to the downtown mall led to a large west-facing glass façade. Through an integrated design process the architects were able to develop a system of sunshades and high-performance glazing to minimize the energy impact of this difficult solar orientation and still achieve the appropriate urban design orientation. The City of Charlottesville was actively involved in the development of the ecological design strategies through their Environmental Administrator.

