

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
HILLTOP ARBORETUM



The Hilltop Arboretum, affiliated with Louisiana State University, is located at the convergence of three ecosystems indigenous to the Baton Rouge area of Louisiana: boggy wetlands, scrubby highlands, and open meadows. The site connects the three systems through a series of small but dramatic ravines. Historically seasonal heavy rains have flooded the site, washed out the ravines and destroyed the vegetation and habitat within the ravines. The building has been sited and designed to frame the narrow natural site, and preserve and highlight the existing ecosystems.



The program components: administration offices and gift shop, exhibit areas, storage and meeting space, are all housed in discreet architectural volumes and are captured under one long roof protecting the open walkways which connect the enclosed spaces.

The long simple building takes cues from both the local agricultural pole barns as well as the formal historical raised plantation homes. The building isolates the parking and cars from the natural areas and creates a sense of arrival or entry to the natural grounds. The structure is raised off the ground to allow the natural drainage patterns of the site and surrounding areas to be maintained. The retention pond mitigates the destructive effects of the seasonal rains by capturing the site run off before entering the ravines and slowly releasing the water to nourish the fragile habitat.

The open-air assembly pavilion extends out over the pond on piers and is used for Arboretum programs as well as cooking classes, weddings and community meetings. An enclosed pavilion has also been designed for future construction to house more formal events. In combination with the open-air assembly pavilion, the future enclosed pavilion has been sited to enclose an Activities Lawn to compliment both pavilions.



HILLTOP ARBORETUM

Offices and Pavilion

Architects:

Lake/Flato Architects
311 Third Street, Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78205
210-227-3335

Structural Engineer:

Stephens Engineering
Thomas A. Stephens
9457 Brookline Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA

Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing:

AST Engineering
David Assaf
8417 Kelwood Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
926-5600

Landscape Architects:

Reich Associates
333 East Boyd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-7665610

Construction Administration Architects:

Noland & Wong
Butch Noland
8316 Kelwood Avenue
Baton Rouge, 70806
225-923-3181

General Contractor:

MBD
8305 Tom Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
225-928-5569

Basic Construction Materials:

Foundations: Concrete drilled shafts

Primary Floor Framing: Glue laminated wood beams and girders attached with galvanized steel brackets.

Roof Support Columns: Pressure treated wood piles, galvanized "X" bracing with turnbuckles.

Roof Structure: Pre-assembled roof trusses fabricated from dimensional lumber.

Roofing: Corrugated aluminized steel and translucent polycarbonate panels.

Gutters and Downspouts: Galvanized iron.

Exterior Siding and Trim: Tidewater Cypress with galvanized iron sheets at special locations.

Exterior Decking: Pressure treated wood over pressure treated wood joists.

Plastic Wall Panels: 3/8" thick polycarbonate honeycomb sheets.

Guard Rails: Stainless steel marine cables between galvanized steel posts.

Built-ins: Custom built cabinets made from MDF (medium density fiberboard).

Aluminum Windows: A combination of projecting and sliding aluminum windows, glazing nominally 1" thick, clear insulating glass.