

Heifer International Headquarters

Location: Little Rock, AR Architect: Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects, Ltd.

Overview

An organization dedicated to alleviating world hunger, Heifer International begins its interaction with communities by delivering one animal to one family. Like a drop of water generates ripples flowing outward from the impact point, the animal creates concentric rings of influence through a village, allowing knowledge and opportunity to be passed to others as the animal's offspring are gifted.

Part of a four-phase master plan, the Headquarters building was conceived as a series of concentric rings expanding from a central commons. The architecture was designed to expand environmental stewardship into the public realm while serving as a beacon of hope.

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

- Percent of total building area that is daylight: **0**
- Percent of building that can be ventilated or cooled with operable windows: **0**
- Precipitation managed on site: **80**
- EPA Energy Reduction:
- Percent total energy savings: **54**
- Lighting Load after Controls (W/sf): **0.5**

Jury Comments:

"This deals with water in a very demonstrable way. It takes condensation, stores it, and uses that for cooling towers and wetlands during dry periods. Energy performance is about 54% below ASHRAE 99. The sustainable features are visible, but not 'in your face.'" – **Alisdair McGregor, Arup / San Francisco, CA**

"This is oriented very effectively. Private offices on south side; north side are open spaces ... conference rooms at the end. This was a brownfield. This would be a beautiful place to work. The stairs wrap around the water tower. This move could have been trite but it's quite beautiful." – **Anne Schopf, FAIA / Mahlum Architects / Seattle, WA**





Sustainable Design Intent & Innovation

Located next to the Clinton Presidential Library, the Heifer International Headquarters is in walking distance of busses, a new light-rail system, and a pedestrian entertainment district.

A restored wetland that wraps around three sides of the building collects stormwater for reuse as irrigation water. Rainwater collected from the roof is stored in a five-story water tower wrapped with a fire stair. Graywater collected from sinks and drinking fountains, condensate from outside air units, and rainwater from the water tower are reused in the toilets and cooling tower. Moisture removed from the building as condensate is reused to cool the building. Waterless urinals and low-flow toilets and lavatories further reduce potable water use.

The narrow, semicircular floor plan provides daylight and views for all employees. The majority of open offices in the building offer river views and northern light, and all major gathering spaces access the exterior: five balconies on each floor, designed as outdoor conference rooms, hang over the wetland and act as sunscreens.

The building was designed to use up to 55% less energy than a conventional office building and to last for at least 100 years. Materials were selected for their durability, maintainability, low toxicity, recycled content, and regional availability.

Primary Design Team Members

Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon
Porter Architects, Ltd.

Larson Burns Smith
McClelland Consulting
Engineers, Inc.

Cromwell Architects
Engineers, Inc.

Cromwell Architects
Engineers, Inc.

Elements, a division of BNIM
TME, Inc.

CDI Contractors, LLC
Heifer International
Ecologic, Inc.

Full project profile:

www.ariatopen.org/hpb/overview.cfm?ProjectID=781

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