



Polkinghorn Group Architects, Inc.

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Dell Children's Medical Center First in the World to Earn LEED for Health Care Platinum Designation

Designation, Other Accolades Show Commitment to Sustainability

AUSTIN, Texas – (July 10, 2013) – Designed by Polkinghorn Group Architects (PGa), the new Bed Tower at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas has earned the first-ever Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design for Healthcare (LEED-HC) Platinum designation from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This is the second record-breaking LEED designation for Dell Children's, which became the world's first LEED Platinum Certified hospital in 2008.

To achieve this LEED-HC certification, this state-of-the-art project exceeded environmental standards in five key areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. The LEED-HC rating system combines these requirements with the unique attributes and specifications of health care facilities.

The new Bed Tower, which opened this past May, was awarded for its environmentally sensitive design, which not only conserves water and electricity, but also positively impacts the hospital's clinical environment by improving air quality, making natural sunlight more readily available and reducing a wide range of pollutants. The project also included a 36 KW PV (photovoltaic) array and solar hot water system installed on the roof.

In addition to the LEED-HC Platinum Certification, the new Bed Tower at Dell Children's has received multiple honors for sustainable design in the last six months, including the following.

- **Austin Energy's 5-Star Green Building Rating.** The highest rating available, Dell Children's new bed tower is only the fifth project in Austin to achieve five stars under Austin Energy's commercial rating system.

- **Practice Greenhealth Partner Recognition Award.** The Partner Recognition Award is part of the 2013 Environmental Excellence Awards by Practice Greenhealth, a national association devoted to environmentally responsible health care.
- Inclusion in “**The World’s Greenest Buildings: Promise vs. Performance in Sustainable Design,**” a book by green building experts Jerry Yudelson and Ulf Meyer published in 2013. Dell Children’s was one of only 56 buildings around the world to be included in the book’s analysis of the best global, sustainable design practices for high-performance non-residential buildings.
- Featured in "**Sustainable Healthcare Architecture,**" 2nd edition, by Robin Guenther and Gail Vittori. This new edition includes an updated case study on Dell Children’s as one of 55 noteworthy sustainable healthcare projects from around the world.

The new \$28M Bed Tower increases Dell Children’s capacity to treat Central Texas children by 40 percent. Featuring 72 new beds (24 Universal Care + 48 General Acute Care), a state-of-the-art Epilepsy Monitoring Unit and many family-centric features, the 3-story, 86,000 sq.ft. expansion enables more Central Texas children to receive the care they need in Austin, Texas.

Project Development Team:

- Architect – **Polkinghorn Group Architects, Inc.** – Austin, Texas
- Structural Engineer – **Datum Engineers, Inc.** – Austin, Texas
- Mechanical, Plumbing & Electrical Engineers – **CCRD, Inc.** – Phoenix, Arizona
- Civil Engineer – **Bury+Partners, Inc.** – Austin, Texas
- Landscape Architect – **TBG Partners, Inc.** – Austin, Texas
- Interior Design – **Obrentz Design Group** – Austin, Texas
- Acoustical Consultant – **JEAcoustics** – Austin, Texas
- Sustainability / LEED Consultant – **Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems** – Austin, Texas
- General Contractor – **H.C. Beck, Ltd.** – Austin, Texas

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