

Facts

Description:

Visitor Center

Location:

Las Vegas, NV

Project Owner:

Las Vegas Valley Water District

Architect:

Lucchesi, Galati Architects,
The Portico Group (master plan)

Objective:

Demonstrate low-impact sustainable landscaping and construction strategies for the Las Vegas climate

Completion Date:

2005

Results

While the team targeted LEED Gold during the design phase, the project received a LEED Platinum rating.

Awards

Visitor Center: Citation Award, Nevada AIA – 2007
Honor Award, Nevada AIA Design Awards – 2003
National Architecture and Engineering Merit Award, American Institute of Steel Construction – 2007

LAS VEGAS SPRINGS PRESERVE VISITOR CENTER



Image courtesy of Lucchesi, Galati Architects

The Las Vegas Springs Preserve is a 180-acre project initiated by the Las Vegas Valley Water District to restore the springs that once provided water to the Las Vegas Valley. The project consists of five buildings which include a historical museum and desert-living center, low-water gardens, a desert wetland and walking trails. The theme of all of the projects on the site is demonstration of sustainable and low-impact landscaping and construction strategies to encourage water and energy conservation in the Las Vegas Valley. The Desert Living Center and The Visitor's Center achieved LEED Platinum ratings and LEED guidelines have been implemented for the site as a whole.

Paladino Approach

Paladino participated in the project from early master planning to assist the design team in the development of a sustainable master plan concept that would exemplify best practice in resource efficiency as an example of how to live sustainably in the desert. Working with the design team and Las Vegas Valley Water District to revise the early design - which was a single building, fully conditioned, on a large site - Paladino investigated how the site itself could be part of the educational mission of the project, teaching consumers in Las Vegas how to live more harmoniously with the desert. This technical exploration resulted in a recommendation to establish a campus of five smaller buildings with varying degrees of conditioning based on program indoor-outdoor spaces, and site design. This move created transition spaces between buildings that provided opportunities for exhibits, and allowed visitor thermal comfort to adjust in response to climate space.