

TOM MUEHLENBECK CENTER

PLANO, TEXAS

BRINKLEY SARGENT ARCHITECTS

THE LEISURE AQUATIC ELEMENTS OF THE \$24 MILLION TOM MUEHLENBECK CENTER reinforce the sense of this being a community-focused center. The feeling begins with the experience of the park site, which is enhanced by the architecture and the flowing interior. The integration of all these elements — the program, building, landscaping, pools, materials and space — gives the impression that there was no separation in design thought from inside to outside.

The site, located in the center of a community park surrounded by three schools, held a particular challenge because a vegetated wetland creek split it diagonally. But that water-feature served as the shaping force behind the entire programming and design of the center.



NUTS & BOLTS

INDOOR COMPETITION POOL:

- 1 8-lane, 25-yard pool
- 2 2, 1-meter diving boards
- 3 Drop slide

INDOOR LEISURE POOL:

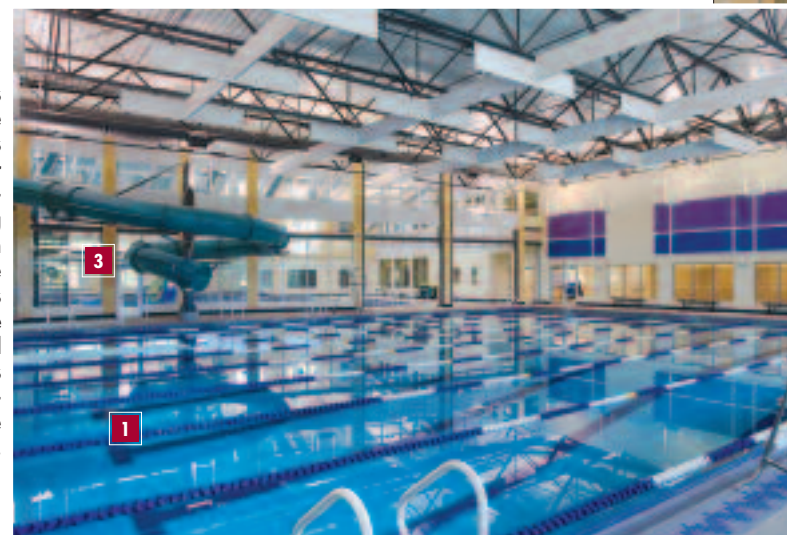
- 4 6,305 square feet
- 5 Water slide
- 6 2-lane lap area
- 7 Current channel, vortex, playdish, underwater seating, open play

OUTDOOR LEISURE POOL:

- 8 7,778 square feet
- 9 Large open water-play area
- 10 3 water slides
- 11 Underwater benches
- 12 Shallow children's area, spraypad, waterfall
- 13 Leisure natatorium, with adjacent wet classroom/birthday room
- 14 2,829-square-foot bathhouse/concession/pavilion



The aquatic elements flow between the two indoor elements as well as indoor and outdoor components. A strong visual connection between the inside and outside, plus views to the adjacent wetland creek, maximizes the flowing, free-form nature of the leisure pool space.



The sustainable notion of preserving the creek and building on the "creek side curve" swept through the community involvement process so that every patron had to experience the park site upon arrival. Parking is located on one side of the wetland creek and guests must cross through a series of strategically placed bridges that direct them to various key building entry elements, one for the center and one for the outdoor leisure

aquatics area. The bridges also link to various park bike path and jogging trails. Daily crossing of these bridges keeps people connected with the natural site vegetation, water-flow dynamics and ecology.

The aquatic elements were designed to not only flow seamlessly between the two indoor elements, but also between indoor and outdoor elements.

ASSOCIATED FIRMS & SUPPLIERS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD: Brinkley Sargent Architects

DESIGN ARCHITECT: Moody Nolan Inc.

AQUATICS: Counsilman-Hunsaker

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Core Construction

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Mesa Design Associates

POOL CONTRACTOR: Sunbelt Pools

CIVIL ENGINEERING: Teague, Nail & Perkins

OWNER: Plano Parks Department

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING: Stenstrom Schneider

MEP ENGINEERING: M-E Engineers Inc.

BRIDGES: Steadfast

WATER-PLAY FEATURES & SPRAYPARK: Whitewater West Industries

SPRAYPARK: Water Odyssey

WATER SLIDES: Splashtacular

POOL PUMPS: Marlow

FILTRATION: US Filter/Nemato

WATER CHEMISTRY CONTROLS: BECS

POOL FINISHES: Diamond Brite, Dal-Tile, Marcite Plaster

NATATORIUM ROOF DECK: Epic Metals

GLUE-LAMINATED BEAMS AND WOOD DECKING: Unit Structures

CAST STONE VENEER: Arriscraft, Advanced Cast Stone

STONE: Lueders (Texas) limestone

BRICK: Ochs

METAL ROOFING: AEP Span

MEMBRANE TPO ROOFING: Johns Manville

AIR CONDITIONING: Trane

MECHANICAL CONTROLS: Johnson Controls

DEHUMIDIFICATION: PoolPak

LIGHTING CONTROLS: Lutron

TILE: American Olean, Marazzi

PHENOLIC WOOD-GRAIN PANELING: Trespa

LOCKERS & PARTITIONS: Bradley Corp.

OPERABLE PARTITIONS: Modernfold

STOREFRONTS: US Aluminum

TRACK FLOORING: Mondo

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS: Fitco, Cybex, Fitlinxx

FABRIC SHADES: Sun Ports



Creative use of a drop slide from a leisure slide platform allows the 25-yard lap pool to be used as a leisure amenity. Movement between the indoor pools is facilitated by vertical sliding doors, which provide sound isolation or direct connection, depending upon the desired pool use. A strong visual connection between the inside and outside bodies of water, as well as views to the adjacent wetland creek, maximizes the flowing, free-form nature of the leisure pool space.

GUESTS MUST CROSS THROUGH A SERIES OF BRIDGES THAT DIRECT THEM TO VARIOUS KEY BUILDING ENTRY ELEMENTS, ONE FOR THE CENTER AND ONE FOR THE OUTDOOR LEISURE AQUATICS AREA. THE BRIDGES ALSO LINK TO PARK BIKE PATH AND JOGGING TRAILS. DAILY CROSSING OF THESE BRIDGES KEEPS PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE NATURAL SITE VEGETATION, WATER-FLOW DYNAMICS AND ECOLOGY.

The various recreation and aquatic spaces, social lounges, arts/crafts, pre-school area, and game rooms, were the direct result of community and local school input. All these activities are centered around a main lobby/control desk.

Public artwork orients patrons the moment they enter the building — and then they get a glimpse into all the active spaces that create the dynamic, flowing atmosphere. The creative use of moving doors and windows, and a mixture of amenities for all ages of the community, meet the need for diverse aquatics programs and experiences. ■