



Metro Atlanta
YMCA
Atlanta, GA

Architect:
Collins Cooper Carusi
Architects, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

LEED Consultant:
Southface Energy Institute
Atlanta, GA

LEED Silver
Rating: U.S.
Green Building
Council LEED – NC
v. 2.1.
Level: Silver
(33 points)

Builder:
Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Mason:
Zebra Construction
Suwanee, GA

Construction Managers:
CM Associates
Atlanta, GA



works



New YMCA Ties Community Together

When planning for the new Forsyth County Family YMCA began in 2001, owners envisioned the facility to be the anchor for Vickery Village, a new mixed-use development north of Atlanta. "It was important to the Metro Atlanta YMCA, as well as to the developer, Hedgewood Homes, that the design be sympathetic to the Vickery vernacular that had been established, which is an eclectic mix of historic styles," says Tracy S. Carusi, AIA, LEED AP-Principal in Charge for Collins Cooper Carusi Architects, Inc. "Brick is the common theme throughout the development, so it was a natural choice. Its aesthetically pleasing look transitions the building



"The unusual building geometry and layering of brick elements worked together to create interesting textures and shadows, creating a unique project."

*Tracy S. Carusi, AIA, LEED AP-Principal in Charge
Collins Cooper Carusi Architects, Inc.*





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into the architectural fabric of the community.”

Fitting the 53,000 square-foot facility on a small, triangle-shaped site presented the biggest challenge. The design team responded by creating two wings that converge at an acute angle and are connected by a three-story space that provides the vertical spine of the building. “The building has very large program spaces such as a natatorium and gymnasium, so we were also tasked with breaking the scale down to fit comfortably with neighboring buildings, which are more residential in scale,” says Carusi. Sloping roofs, mullioned windows and specific brick detailing also complement the surroundings.

Because there is no back to the building, each side was carefully considered and detailed using special brick coursings and other architectural details. Most of the masonry detailing utilizes standard size brick; however, special shapes were used on outside corners and water tables. The field consists of a cream-colored brick on the top portion of the building and a dark pink color on the lower portion. Dark gray brick

creates the base, and white brick creates accent banding in horizontal soldier coursing and vertical stack bond. Herringbone patterns appear under windows on the upper section of the building. To create depth, a corbelled design was used at the monumental arched window on the front of the facility.

Exposure to natural light was an integral part of the YMCA’s design, so it is introduced into as many places as possible while taking into account sun exposure and shading strategies. Mullions and glass lights of various sizes relate to the residential scale of the surrounding area.

Exposed steel in the high volumes of some of the building spaces add detail and texture. A standing-seam painted aluminum roof was chosen for its watertight performance and durability, along with a special high solar reflective index coating that saves energy.

In addition to being a perfect complement to Vickery Village, the Forsyth Family YMCA also embodies sustainable design principles, earning LEED Silver Certification by the U.S.

Green Building Council. Brick helped meet LEED criteria for building materials and products that are manufactured regionally. A “gray water system” saves an estimated 1,600,000 gallons of water each year by using treated pool backwash and shower water to flush toilets and irrigate drought-tolerant, native landscaping. High-performance mechanical systems and envelope assemblies help energy performance exceed code mandated by 23 percent. Materials used are low-emitting and contain high recycled content. Carbon dioxide monitoring and specially designed ventilation systems ensure high air quality. Over 833 tons of construction waste was diverted from the site and recycled.

Completed in January, 2006, the Forsyth County Family YMCA has quickly become the cornerstone of the Vickery Village community. “Response from YMCA leaders, staff, members, and the public has been overwhelmingly positive,” says Carusi. “The YMCA wanted a new facility that was sustainable, functional, durable and beautiful. We believe that the design delivered on that promise.”

Take a closer look at how the Architect detailed this section.

Of course, this depiction is not to be construed as an exact detailing recommendation by the Brick Industry.

The detail file

