CHAPTER PROJECT PROFILE

NMHU STUDENT HOUSING
LAS VEGAS, NM

25% energy savings

50% savings in water

This project saved **93%** of its construction waste from the landfill.

LEED® Facts
NMHU Student Housing
Las Vegas, NM

LEED for New Construction
Certification awarded October 5, 2010

Silver **34 pts awarded***

Sustainable Sites	8/14
Water Efficiency	3/5
Energy & Atmosphere	6/17
Materials & Resources	3/13
Indoor Environmental Quality	10/15
Innovation & Design	4/5

**Out of a possible 69 points*

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY STUDENT HOUSING

Green Campus Precedent Set with New Dormitory

NMHU Promotes Sustainable Living to Students and Staff

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This new student housing facility provides much needed on-campus housing for 276 students at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) in Las Vegas, New Mexico. The 98,000sf building contains 89 modern, apartment style units in the heart of the university's student housing core on a patchwork of sites comprised by the area of a previously demolished 9-story dormitory, a vacated city right-of-way, and residential lots acquired by NMHU. Design began in early 2008, with an aggressive schedule for both design and construction to ensure that the new housing would be available for students in August 2009. This is the first LEED-certified building at NMHU.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

The project earned Development Density and Community Connectivity credit based on its location within walking distance of ten community services. To support alternative transportation, bike racks were provided and the project resulted in a net loss of parking spaces due to existing parking areas being converted into building areas. Over 58% of the site was restored with native or adapted landscape, which helps manage stormwater runoff. Over 60% of site paving is light-colored concrete, and the roof consists of concrete roof tile and white TPO membrane, to reduce heat island effect. Landscaping was designed to reduce water consumption by 77%, through low water use plants and two below-grade cisterns that collect 20,000 gallons of water from roof drains for irrigation. Inside the building, low-flow plumbing fixtures reduce water use by 50%.

The student housing was designed to use 25% less energy than typical, and has already achieved the Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR designation. Energy efficient features include R-21 wall insulation, R-38 roof insulation, wood framing, low-e windows with thermally broken frames, fluorescent lighting, ceiling fans, timer-controlled restroom exhaust, and an advanced energy management system.

Over 93% of construction waste materials were reused or recycled, saving over 1,797 tons from landfill. Mock-up units were constructed to allow for advance coordination of assemblies, finishes, and construction quality. These mock-ups allowed the contractor to accurately quantify the amount of materials that would be needed to reduce construction waste. A variety of recycled, regionally produced, and low-emitting materials were used throughout the building.

The housing units provide students with a high level of thermal and lighting comfort through controls and operable windows. Windows were carefully located, sized, and protected from glare to provide over 82% of the regularly occupied spaces with LEED-compliant levels of daylighting, and over 97% of spaces have direct line of sight views to the exterior. NMHU has implemented a green cleaning plan and recycling rooms were located within the building to facilitate ongoing sustainable practices.

ABOUT THE PROJECT TEAM

For more than a century, New Mexico Highlands University has served as a leading academic, cultural and economic institution for the communities of Northern New Mexico. www.nmhu.edu

With offices located in New Mexico, Nevada and Texas, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini provides architecture, interior design, landscape, planning and engineering services to public and private clients. www.dpsdesign.org

"It was important that the first new residence hall at Highlands since the 1960's reflect the university's commitment to creating a green campus and to helping students experience the importance of conservation measures in their daily lives."

Dr. James Fries, NMHU President

Architect: Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
Civil Engineer: Isaacson & Arfman
Commissioning Agent: Beaudin Ganze
Contractor: Franken Construction
Landscape Architect: Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
LEED Consultant: Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
MEP Engineer: Bridgers & Paxton
Structural Engineer: Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
Owner: New Mexico Highlands University
Project Size: 98,000 square feet

Photographs Courtesy of: Chas McGrath

ABOUT CHAPTER

The USGBC - NM Chapter is a local non-profit with a mission: to transform our built environment through education, collaboration and outreach, to promote environmentally responsible practices that are economically and socially beneficial to the community.

www.usgbcnm.org
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