

# Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Welcome Center

## WELCOME TO CONSERVATION

**T**HE DESIGN OF A SILVER LEED-CERTIFIED WELCOME CENTER FOR THE PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS reflects the vision of Henry Phipps, who founded Pittsburgh's conservatory in 1893 to teach and inspire visitors while bolstering their mental and physical health.

Featuring an 11,000-square-foot (1022-m<sup>2</sup>) reception area, including a café, gift shop and an art gallery, the center's crescent-shaped footprint embraces a courtyard where there is ample room for outdoor dining and garden events. Designed by IKM Inc., Pittsburgh, the building is nestled into the earth to bolster energy efficiency. Its fritted-glass dome provides daylighting to the lobby, gift shop and café and is vented to help cool the building. In addition, the vegetated roof surrounding the glass dome provides a heat sink that further enhances the building's climate-control systems. A wall of laminated, insulated windows runs the length of the concave courtyard and constrains glare and heat while allowing the maximum amount of daylight into the Welcome Center. Moreover, the center's electricity is generated entirely by wind power.

The building interior uses low- or no-VOC paints, adhesives, carpet and substrates along with locally mined limestone and waterless urinals. Its café features locally grown and organic foods; trash is composted on-site. The gift shop boasts items that promote sustainable harvesting and fair trade in Third World countries.

Designed with today's high-performance technologies but respectful of the classic Victorian conservatory it introduces, the Welcome Center is a model for public gardens and conservatories around the world.



### MATERIALS AND SOURCES

**Extensive vegetated roof** / American Hydrotech Inc., Chicago, [www.hydrotechusa.com](http://www.hydrotechusa.com)

**Insulated glazed curtainwall and sloped glazing systems** / LinEl Signature, Mooresville, Ind., [www.linelsignature.com](http://www.linelsignature.com), with glazing by Viracc Owatonna, Minn., [www.viracon.com](http://www.viracon.com)

**Low-VOC paint** / Benjamin Moore, Montvale, N.J., [www.benjaminmoore.com](http://www.benjaminmoore.com) and PPG Industries, Pittsburgh, [www.ppg.com](http://www.ppg.com)

**Low-VOC sealants** / Dow Corning, Midland, Mich., [www.dowcorning.com](http://www.dowcorning.com), and Tremco, Ashland, Ohio, [www.tremcosealants.com](http://www.tremcosealants.com)

**Waterless urinals** / Waterless Co., Vista, Calif., [www.waterless.com](http://www.waterless.com)

**Automatic Flush Valves** / Optima by Sloan Valve Co., Franklin Park, Ill., [www.sloanvalve.com](http://www.sloanvalve.com)

**Ceilings** / Armstrong Ceilings, Lancaster, Pa., [www.armstrong.com/ceilings](http://www.armstrong.com/ceilings)

**THE GIFT SHOP BOASTS ITEMS THAT PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING AND FAIR TRADE IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.**



### PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

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