

November 27, 2008

## MANASC ISAAC WINS DESIGN EXCHANGE AWARD FOR THE WATER CENTRE

The Calgary Water Centre received a Design Exchange Award of Merit at a ceremony held Tuesday night in Toronto. The Design Exchange awards recognize the best in Canadian design of all forms, including architecture, engineering, visual communications, fashion and more. Winners are published, featured in a major exhibition at the Design Exchange and celebrated by their peers.



*"We're excited to have worked with of an outstanding team of clients – the City of Calgary has been visionary, in their enthusiasm for integrated, sustainable design and extraordinary Architecture. Today we all celebrate the delightful workplace in the recognition that sustainable buildings contribute significantly to reducing our environmental footprint – and beautiful buildings inspire us to excellence in the creation of our urban lives,"* says Vivian Manasc, Principal, Manasc Isaac.

### **A Model of Sustainable Design**

Designed by **Manasc Isaac** in collaboration with **Sturgess Architecture**, The Water Centre is the largest LEED rated office building in Alberta and one of the first to be built under the City's Sustainable Buildings Policy, requiring all new facilities to meet a minimum LEED silver certification.

Among the many innovative sustainable measures implemented, water conservation is a recurring theme. Features include a green roof, rainwater harvesting and zero irrigation landscaping. Water that would normally be wasted in the metering shop is cycled into the building's operation with the grey water system for toilet flushing, site irrigation, and truck washing in order to substantially reduce the use of potable water. This iconic building exemplifies how a client-centred, sustainable design process can exceed environmental goals, maximize energy efficiency and create a great work environment.

Manasc Isaac is at the forefront of environmental design, producing architecturally stunning and technically outstanding buildings. The firm was one of the first in Canada to adopt the 2030 Challenge and has been recognized with a number of awards, including the first-ever Brilliant Building Award, the Governor General's Award in Architecture and a Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Innovation Award.

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# THE WATER CENTRE

## SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

### Location

Calgary, Alberta

### Client

The City of Calgary

### Size

15,421 m<sup>2</sup>

A new state-of-the-art sustainable workplace for the Waterworks and Wastewater department of the City of Calgary. Prominently located across from the Stampede Grounds, the unique urban design of this building transforms a former industrial site into a vibrant part of the City.

### Awards and recognitions

- Design Exchange Award of Merit, 2008
- Emerald Award, Government Institution, 2008
- Prairie Design Award of Excellence, 2008
- Mayor's Urban Design Award, Civic Design Projects, 2007
- Consulting Engineers of Alberta Award of Excellence, 2006

### Site

- 95% of construction waste diverted from landfill
- green space has been fully restored and planted with native prairie grass, flowers and shrubs that require minimal moisture and maintenance
- served by 4 bus lines and located near an LRT station and the local river pathway system
- carpooling and bicycling are encouraged with dedicated carpool stalls, bike storage and shower facilities
- underground parking availability has been reduced significantly to one stall for every three staff

### Energy Savings

- high-performance building envelope and façade glazing is durable, minimizes heating/cooling load and reduces annual energy costs (over 50% energy reduction relative to an identically-sized building designed and constructed using current best practices)
- long, narrow floor plate maximizes exposure to sunlight - 90% of the building is day-lit
- access floor system carries all electrical cabling and power and data distribution systems, allowing for easy reconfiguration and takes advantage of the natural tendency of hot air to rise
- complemented by natural ventilation, daylighting strategies and a narrow East-West orientation, the Water Centre operates with less than 1/3 of the cooling capacity of a typical building the same size

### Water Savings

- designed to achieve a 59% reduction in water usage and a 72% reduction in the production of wastewater.
- low-flow plumbing fixtures include dual-flush toilets, waterless urinals, low-flow faucets and showers, and infrared sensors for faucets
- rainwater from the green roof is treated in two bioswale wetlands and stored in an underground cistern, providing more than enough water needed for irrigation in a typical season.
- water previously drained away from the Water Meter Calibration Shop is re-used for flushing toilets and outdoor irrigation

### Materials & Indoor Environmental Quality

- high fly-ash concrete (incorporating a waste product from coal combustion) replaces regular concrete in the building, further reducing embodied energy of structure
- non-toxic interior materials
- operable windows and fully operable floor diffusers allow for personal control over the flow of air

This project was designed by Manasc Isaac in collaboration with Sturgess Architecture in Calgary.

