

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT

Allie Horne
Marketing & Public Relations
Kirksey
713 426 7452
allieh@kirksey.com

Kirksey
ARCHITECTURE

6909 Portwest Drive
Houston Texas 77024
713 850 9600
kirksey.com

TEXAS STATE GOES FOR THE GOLD

Houston, TX – Sustainability is a trendy topic, but Texas State University has proven they are committed to more than just an ideal. The recently completed Residence Life North Housing Dormitory achieved LEED Gold certification, a first for the Texas State System. The project, designed by Kirksey, was awarded 43 points, surpassing the 39 needed to achieve Gold in the LEED for New Construction V2.2 rating system.

In accordance with the campus master plan guidelines, the Spanish Colonial style building houses 612 beds in two identical wings. Of the construction materials used, more than 30 percent contain recycled content and more than 27 percent are from regional sources. In addition, 80 percent of construction waste was recycled.

Inside the building, green technology is utilized to ensure that little is wasted or produced in excess. Occupancy sensors are used in study rooms and lounges to control lighting output, low-flow showerheads reduce water use to only 1.5 gallons per minute, and all toilets are low-flush, using just 1.3 gallons per flush. Outside, rainwater and air conditioning condensation are collected in an underground cistern, reducing potable water usage for irrigation by 100 percent. Additionally, native plants were chosen for landscaping purposes, further reducing the demand for potable water.

Complementing the building's ongoing energy efficiency and water conservation, low emitting materials were specified for use during construction, thereby reducing the volatile off-gassing chemicals found in newer projects. Air quality improvement is achieved through the use of walk-off mats at the front and rear entrances which reduces the amount of dirt tracked inside the building.

Today's students are more environmentally aware than ever before and this housing complex provides them an interactive opportunity to contribute to a more sustainable future.



Additional high resolutions images available upon request.

####

Kirksey is a Houston-based, sustainable architecture and interior design firm with more than 27 million sf of LEED projects in their portfolio. Team-based in structure, Kirksey serves Commercial, Collegiate, Community/Religious, pK-12, Government, Healthcare, Hospitality, Science & Technology, and Multi-Family Residential markets. To learn more about the firm, visit www.kirksey.com.