

Missouri Credit Union

Columbia and Jefferson City, Missouri

Within sight of similar institutions, it was essential for the branch facilities of Missouri Credit Union to stand out from the neighboring developments. The Architects at PWA were asked to accomplish these goals with an energy-efficient building that would respond to the needs of building users and visitors well into the future.

Located on major thoroughfares, each facility is situated on the site to provide multiple entry points and convenient access for drive-thru banking. The impervious pavement of the circular drives and parking has been reduced, allowing storm water runoff to be channeled through a detention system in the form of two landscaped rain gardens. While providing the site with a pleasant, more natural environment, the landscaping and rain gardens help filter contaminants and pollutants before they enter the storm water system. Primarily native plants were used for landscape, with some non-native plants for late fall and winter color. Native plants have deeper root



Clerestory windows on the south side of the building bring indirect natural light to the interior spaces of the building.

systems than non-native plants, and therefore reduce the need for extensive irrigation or watering.

The light-colored paving and building materials reduce the heat island effect by reflecting the heat of the sun. Lowering the temperature differences between developed and undeveloped areas helps to minimize the impact on microclimate, human and wildlife habitats. In a similar manner, full cutoff site lighting was used to reduce night sky light pollution and the development's impact on nocturnal environments.

Many energy-efficient features were also incorporated into the design of the building. These include water conserving plumbing fixtures which help to reduce the burden on municipal water and wastewater systems. A geothermal

heating and cooling system, selected to maximize the energy performance of the building, was tested and balanced after construction to ensure maximum operating efficiency. No CFC (chlorofluorocarbon)-based refrigerants were used in this heating and cooling system.

To encourage the occupants to recycle, a convenient storage and collecting area for recyclable materials was incorporated into the design. Construction materials and finishes were selected to maximize the amount of post-consumer and post-industrial recycled content. Wherever possible, regionally available materials were used to reduce the impact on the environment resulting from transportation to the site.



Light-colored materials, banners and a light shelf help to illuminate the interior of the building.

