



University of Texas at Austin Bureau of Economic Geology Building and Courtyard

The Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) is the oldest and second-largest research unit at The University of Texas at Austin. Located at UT-Austin's J.J. Pickle Research Campus, the Bureau conducts groundbreaking research focused on the intersection of energy, the environment and the economy. To anticipate increasing demand, the BEG began an ambitious core facilities renovation program in 2017.

Our role in the program included designing a 40,000 square-foot renovation to BEG Building 131, as well as a new, 13,000 square-foot research building adjacent to and connected to Buildings 131 and 132. The renovation and expansion will complement the BEG's research, modernize the complex and emphasize their presence at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus.

In addition to updating its geology labs and facilities, the BEG wanted a new courtyard to provide an educational experience for all ages and visitors. The courtyard not only creates a connection to Buildings 131 and 132, it expands the research functions by creating a visual roadmap of the geological regions within Texas. The courtyard's design uses existing trees, while plant and other materials were individually selected and locally sourced to provide a connection to the site and an environment that requires minimal maintenance. Water features were introduced to provide evaporative cooling and noise mitigation, as well as emphasize the importance of water to geology. A dry creek bed provides water infiltration for the roof drainage, allowing rain water to re-enter the water table, rather than the stormwater system. Educational plaques are located throughout the courtyard, explaining the various geological elements statewide.

This project was awarded the Associated Builders and Contractors Excellence in Construction Eagle Award, Central Texas Chapter in September 2019.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



// ARCHITECTURE // DESIGN & ENGINEERING
// BIM

Location

Austin, Texas, USA

Client

**Bureau of Economic Geology,
University of Texas at Austin**

Completion date

2019