

Arizona Best of 2008

# ASU Polytechnic Academic Complex

Green Building



**The largest new construction project** ever on the east Mesa campus, the 245,000-sq-ft, three-building project unites three Arizona State University academic schools and includes laboratories, classrooms, faculty offices, a lecture hall and a fine arts performance space.

The LEED gold project celebrates the desert sun while protecting its users. On the east and west, for example, a weathered, perforated corrugated metal screen at the upper levels blocks and filters the intense low-angled sun. The south elevations incorporate horizontal sunshades and light shelves to bounce sunlight into the buildings while the heavily glazed north elevations rely on vertical sunshades.

Primary materials express the functionality of the curriculum and the desert context with masonry, glass and weathered, corrugated steel siding. The structural system is an exposed steel frame.

The new buildings incorporate three smaller existing campus structures. Together, the new and existing buildings embrace four unique courtyards landscaped with indigenous flora such as palo verdes and cactus. Connecting these courtyards are north-south and east-west spines. Each of the new buildings is

anchored by three-story open-air atriums, which, through portals and arcades, link with these spines.

The judges felt the green strategies were very well integrated into the building's complex design.

**Submitted by:** RSP Architects Ltd. and DPR Construction, Inc.

**Owner:** Arizona State University

**Architects:** RSP Architects Ltd.; Lake|Flato

**Construction Managers at Risk:** DPR Construction Inc.

**Engineers:** Paragon Structural Design; Wood/Patel; Energy Systems Design

**Landscape Architecture:** Ten Eyck Landscape Architects

**LEED Consultant:** Green Ideas

**Subcontractors:** Bel-Aire Mechanical; Desierto Verde; Grindel Fire Protection; Hardrock Concrete Placement; S. Diamond Steel; Schuff Steel; Walters & Wolf; Kovach Inc. Wilson Electrical Svcs.