

HH Architects press release

For immediate publication

Brentwood Baptist Church Opens New Connection Center Building

HH Architects' 12-year relationship with Brentwood plays key role in leading church through master plan implementation

Connection. When you boil it down, the Church is all about connection. Connecting non-believers with Christ; connecting believers with each other; connecting the Church with the community.

And so, when Brentwood Baptist Church outside of Nashville, Tennessee brought on Dallas' HH Architects to master plan their church campus, it was only natural that a building focusing on facilitating these connections would be a part of the plan.

“We were in desperate need of a place where people could just hang out and have spiritual conversations, either one-on-one, or in small groups,” states Brentwood’s Executive Pastor Jim Baker. And with a growing student and children’s ministry, space was needed to facilitate connection within these groups as well.

Brentwood’s relationship with HH Architects started in 1999, when they competed with six other firms for the production of the master plan. The church intended on using the chosen firm for the detailed design of each phase, so long as they were happy with the work being done. Twelve years and five phases later, the team of HH Architects and Brentwood Baptist Church has completed the vision of that initial master plan.

Opening in the Spring of 2009, the Connection Center phase has features that benefit all members of the congregation.

“The Connection Center was designed to not only be a great facility for the youth, but also provide a place for the church body to connect,” describes Jerry Halcomb, founder & CEO of HH Architects, and principal-in-charge of the Brentwood project. “It includes an auditorium that is very flexible in design that can be used by the youth for their worship service; but also, with its flat floor and movable risers, can be used for indoor play for the children or large events with tables and chairs.”

Halcomb continues, “The facility also includes classrooms and break-out rooms for the youth, offices for the deaf ministry, stacked basketball cages, a café and hang-out space, as well as a bookstore that is run by LifeWay. It truly provides space for the entire church to come and connect.”

Even though the overall church design is traditional, the Connection Center blends with the existing material pallet but is more contemporary in color and materials to support the youth focus of the auditorium space — making it a fun place to be.

One of the strengths of HH Architects is their focus on partnership with the church throughout the process. “Our master planning team and HH Architects sat down and gathered input from all

the stakeholders in our church as to our needs, functionality, and ministries,” describes Joe A. Hudson, master-planning team chairman and project manager for Brentwood Baptist Church. “We first asked HH Architects to come back with ideas and concepts. We also inquired what others in similar circumstances have done. Ideas were refined until we agreed on the final design. Frequent feedback was accomplished through face-to-face meetings on site with additional emails and phone calls.”

“We do what we call ‘Strategic Positioning’,” adds Halcomb, “which addresses *people* (looking at past growth and projecting attendance by age group and worship session into the future), *spaces* (what size facilities are needed to meet the need of the attendance growth), *time* (when the spaces are needed), and *money* (projecting cash income and expenses, looking at various scenarios to determine an affordable solution). Our system is very interactive throughout the project.”

And over the past 10 years, the church hasn’t merely received a new campus — they’ve also seen significant growth since the start of the project in 1999. In the past 10 years, the church’s membership has increased 240%, and the church’s budget has increased 317%.

Brentwood Baptist Church is thrilled with the results of this 10-year ministry partnership. “We enthusiastically recommend HH Architects to other churches,” exclaims Hudson. “HH Architects knows how to be an excellent team player with both our church and our general contractor, American Constructors. They truly work to achieve success in both the physical and spiritual needs of their church clients.”

###

About Brentwood Baptist Church

Brentwood Baptist, located in Brentwood, TN, is a community of believers whose mission is to connect others to Jesus Christ through Worship, Discipleship, and Service. For the past 10 years, Brentwood has been continuously expanding their campus to facilitate that ministry goal.

Phase 1, the Worship Center and Educational Facilities, opened in 2002. Phase 2, the Multipurpose Dining and Administrative Offices, opened in 2003. Phase 3, the Worship Center for the Deaf Ministry, opened in 2004. Phase 4, the Connection Center, opened in the Spring of 2009. And completing the 10 year project, the Chapel opened in the Fall of 2009.

About HH Architects

HH Architects is located in Dallas, Texas, next to Mockingbird Station. With a staff of over 26 employees, they serve the architectural, interior design, and master planning needs of their clients through the design of religious, educational, and corporate facilities.

###

Press Contact: Jerry Halcomb, CEO
HH Architects
5910 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75206
jhalcomb@hharchitects.com
(972) 404-1034