

THE CENTER FOR URBAN WATERS

BUILDING TAKES SHAPE ON FOSS

The skyline on the east side of the Thea Foss Waterway has taken on a new look. Where there was once a bare piece of ground in between petroleum tank farms, the Center for Urban Waters building is now visible from downtown. The building started taking shape when steel erection started in mid-August. More than 510 pieces of steel were placed for the project in just eight days. Evergreen Erectors, the steel subcontractor, celebrated the placement of the last piece of steel on August 26 with a small topping out ceremony. The traditional tree was placed on the top of the building. Given the 'green' nature of this building, a live tree was used and then planted off-site.

The building continued to evolve with the installation of the vapor barrier and sheathing. These products provide the weatherproofing for the building. With the weatherproofing in place, the installation of windows commenced. The upcoming construction milestones are:

- Window Installation (now through December '09)
- Dock (now through December '09)
- Drywall (now through January '10)
- Elevator Installation (now through January '10)
- Exterior Cladding (December '09 – January '10)
- Green Roof Installation (December '09 – January '10)

To follow the building progress, go to the construction camera website at <http://oxblue.com/pro/login.php?>. The user name is urbanwaters@tcco.com and the password is *cuwcam*.



Courtesy of Turner Construction

Placement of the last piece of steel with tree on top



Courtesy of Falkan Associates, Inc.

View of the building from Fireman's Park in downtown Tacoma



Courtesy of Falkan Associates, Inc.

View from the roof looking east towards Mt. Rainier

PUGET SOUND INSTITUTE CREATED

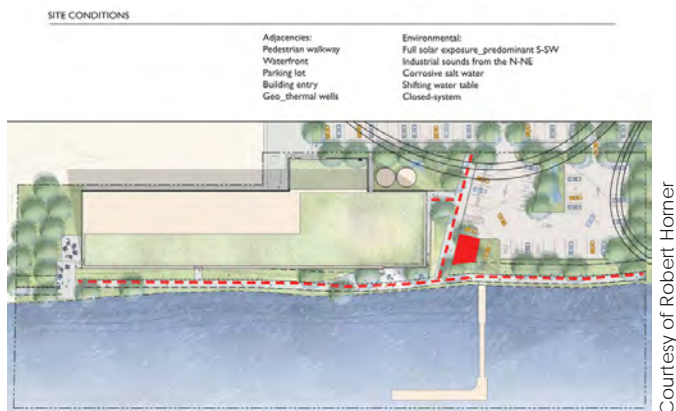
In November the Center for Urban Waters, in conjunction with the Puget Sound Partnership and the University of Washington (UW) College of the Environment, established the Puget Sound Institute. The goal of the institute is to connect scientists working on restoring and protecting Puget Sound with policymakers who write rules on the restoration and protection of it. Funding for the institute came from the US Environmental Protection Agency's \$50 million appropriation for the clean up of Puget Sound. Of that \$50 million, \$4 million was allocated to the creation of the institute. Dr. Joel Baker, UW Tacoma professor and Port of Tacoma Chair, said, "The independence of universities, combined with the unique academic culture of convening experts, puts us in a key position to provide elected leaders and policymakers responsible for the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound ecosystem with expert advice based on sound scientific information and principles."

ART PIECE PROMOTES CONNECTION TO PUGET SOUND

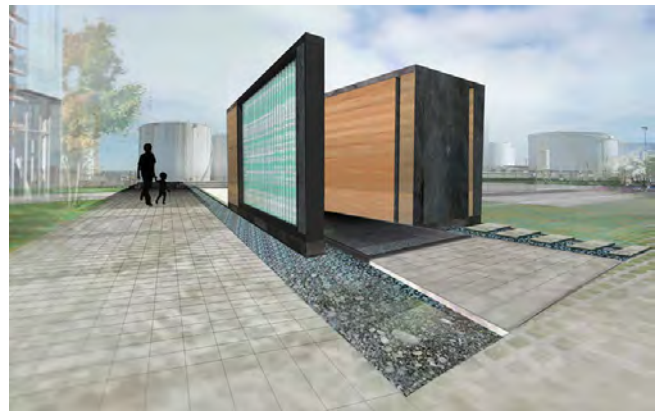
The final design for the Tidal Resonance Chamber, the project art piece, is complete. Robert Horner, the artist, met with the Artist Selection Committee several times this summer and fall as he developed and refined the design. The end result consists of a rammed earth experiential chamber measuring approximately 16 feet by 25 feet and standing approximately 8 feet 6 inches tall. The chamber will stand near the southwest corner of the building between the parking lot and the Foss Waterway. Individuals will enter the chamber and experience tidal activities in a small, intimate setting.

Horner's goal with the piece is multifold. He hopes to raise awareness of specific tidal conditions in Commencement Bay, encourage awareness of the research being conducted inside the Center for Urban Waters, provide a place of contemplation, relaxation and social exchange, and promote inquiry among others.

With the final design complete, Horner is now developing construction documents. Construction of the piece is expected to start this spring.



Site plan showing art location



View of art from waterside looking east



Sectional view of chamber showing looking west



Inside of chamber with bench and tidal pool

HUB AND LEAP PARTICIPATION STRONG ON PROJECT

Turner Construction Company continues to work with the HUB (Historically Under-Utilized Business Program) and LEAP (Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program) communities to utilize them on the project. Turner is on track to meet their HUB and LEAP goals of 6 and 15 percent respectively.

CENTER FOR URBAN WATERS ON TRACK FOR LEED® PLATINIUM

As work on the Center for Urban Waters construction continues, LEED® standards are being carefully monitored. Everything is on track to secure LEED Platinum designation for the facility.

Want To Know More?

Visit

www.cityoftacoma.org/urbanwaters

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