Hoffman®

planners ▪ architects ▪ construction managers

800.236.2370 | www.hoffman.net

Holy Wisdom Monastery

Benedictine Women of Madison

Madison, Wisconsin

Scope/Area
New/Deconstruction
30,000 sq. ft.

Completed
August 2009

tpmg® TOTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Vision taken to the power of green

Inspired by their mission of "weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care of the earth into a shared way of life", the Benedictine Women of Madison determined that their existing facilities no longer usefully served their community. Placing their faith in a planning, architectural, and construction management firm from Appleton, the Sisters selected Hoffman to lead them to a sustainable solution that would complement their respect for simplicity and evolved vision of stewardship.

Eliminating excess space and offering an ecumenical gathering environment, the project called for the deconstruction and renovation of a former school and the design and construction of Holy Wisdom Monastery, a new, two-story building that complemented its surroundings and exemplified the rule of Benedict. **Incorporating highly sustainable products and practices was a requirement of the Sisters, leading to the goals of achieving LEED® Platinum certification and ultimately 'Zero Net Energy,' meaning the amount of energy consumed by the new facilities will be produced on site through additions to the photovoltaic system.** The organic structure exterior blends with the natural landscape of the 135-acre campus, the Monastery's location provides exquisite views of the Madison area lakes and countryside. The interior features the main chapel (a multi-purpose "assembly space" that can also be used for concerts and lectures), offices and conference rooms, library, main and daily dining areas, and a four-car garage with a vegetated roof. Clerestory windows located above the chapel and stairs provide ample daylighting deep into the interior, a geothermal heat pump system both heats and cools the building, and rain water harvesting is used to irrigate plants.

The former five-story school was deconstructed, save for the sub-basement, which was renovated into a maintenance facility area housing utilities, maintenance and grounds offices, and garage space. Building materials were reused by Habitat for Humanity while others were crushed and recycled for landscaping and road use. Removed prior to the deconstruction were the chapel organ and tower bells, both of which were relocated to the new monastery. The original monastery, the third campus building, now functions as the Retreat & Guest House, complete with guest rooms, private baths, and related office and meeting spaces.

100% recycled paper, processed chlorine free, made in the USA. Copyright © 2009 by Hoffman. All rights reserved.