

CITY OF SEGUIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

SEGUIN, TEXAS



YEAR COMPLETED:

2016

OWNER:

City of Seguin

LEAD DESIGN FIRM:

PGAL

ARCHITECT:

720 Design

CONTRACTOR:

Byrne Construction Services

RLG SERVICES:

Structural Engineering

PROJECT DESCRIPTION /SCOPE:

The City of Seguin enlisted the help of RLG Consulting Engineers to provide structural engineering services for a new public library. The two-story, 43,000-square-foot library is located along the west bank of the Guadalupe River's Walnut Branch and is three times the size of the original building. The additional space allows the library to expand its collection from 60,000 items to about 75,000 items. Designed with an open floor plan, the new library features meeting rooms; areas for quiet reading; spaces for children, youth and adults; a local-history section; and a large community room for after-hours use.

The \$11.5-million structure invites the outdoors in with many sustainable features. The structure was designed to evoke the feeling of being in the canopies of the large pecan trees that populate the 3.9-acre site beside the creek. Glass covers 40 percent of the building's exterior, to provide patrons with views of the natural surroundings and flood the interior with natural light. Additionally, cantilevered decks overlook the creek and a popular walking and biking trail. The library's facade incorporates local limestone, brick, wood decking, and architectural exposed structural steel (AESS) from the first floor to the third-floor clerestory roof.

The architect's design called for a light, airy, exposed structure. To achieve this, RLG chose a composite steel frame for the primary floor system with tapered steel beams and wood decking for the roof overhangs. The cantilevered steel beams forming the overhangs were designed to appear elegant and proportional. Likewise, the steel columns supporting the roof and curtain-wall were sized to be as unobtrusive as possible. This was in keeping with the architect's vision of flooding the interior with natural light. Working side by side with the architect, RLG's structural design complimented and enhanced the library's architecture, and met the city's requirements for a modern, efficient building that blends in well with its surroundings.

The **award-winning** building celebrated its grand opening in September 2016. In November 2017, the project earned LEED® Gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. Additional awards include the TEXO Distinguished Building Award-\$10 to \$30 Million, the Best of Texas presented by Engineering News-Record and the Project of the Year Between \$10-\$25 Million by the American Subcontractors Association, San Antonio Chapter.