

TRINITY AVENUE FARM WELCOME CENTER

Atlanta, Georgia



TSW and supporting team member developed a vision for the Trinity Avenue Farm as a learning center and park for the public. The primary purpose of the farm is to produce sustainable organic agriculture in traditional and non-traditional ways. TSW incorporated a Welcome Center to draw the public to the farm that inspires community education and engagement, while an edible garden with an outdoor demonstration kitchen enhances the educational opportunities. The design includes sustainable practices, such as a rain water collection area, runnels, bioswale planters, rain gardens, and solar photovoltaic. The outcome is a visually stunning landscape, incorporating the use of environmentally safe, green building materials that create a natural aesthetic and community friendly open space.

The Welcome Center is a two level building that anchors the corner of Trinity and Central Avenues, and forms the entry to the farm's lower sections. The building's lower level has a small exhibit and vending flexible-use space, and a staff office. An open stair takes visitors to the upper level which contains a meeting room (sized for 40 school children), an urban-farming resource room, and a covered outdoor 'workshop' terrace that has views of the farm's plots.

The building's look is intentionally urban, abstract, and contemporary. As a 'modern farm shelter,' the four elevations are organically different according to their street or garden views, and their solar orientations. The southeast and southwest elevation have deep sunscreens shading their large operable windows; the north facing elevation has minimal solar screening, but offers wood-like privacy panels made from post-consumer recycled wood fiber and bamboo. These panels, inspired by the random width boards found in Georgia barns, contribute to the structure's contemporary farm aesthetic. The building's regionally quarried stone base ties it to the stone retaining walls found often on the site, and provides an appropriate rural counterpoint to the jewel-like upper level.

The Welcome Center features a number of sustainable design components. Some of these include: a gray water collection system; low-flow toilet fixtures; natural day lighting and operable windows throughout; and solar water heating. The building is fully ADA accessible. The facility has some 1,470 square feet of heated and cooled space, and the covered upper terrace is some 375 square feet.

