Rice University Brochstein Pavilion

Houston, TX

A study in restraint and the purity of form, the Brochstein Pavilion creates a powerful spatial framework that has transformed an unstructured, underutilized quadrangle into the center of student activity on campus.

Developed as a key element of the “Vision for the Second Century” strategic plan, the Brochstein Pavilion has transformed Rice University’s central quadrangle into the social center of the campus. The 6,000-SF pavilion offers light refreshments and features a 10,000-SF covered outdoor terrace. Set in a field of decomposed granite, a grove of 48 Allée lacebark elms responds to the grid of the building and organizes the space between the pavilion and the adjacent Fondren Library.

Matching fountains define the space under the canopy, and movable seating accommodates impromptu gatherings of students and faculty. Additional plantings of live oaks and improved pedestrian paths reinforce the existing framework of the quadrangle.

Client

Rice University

Size

5.14 acres

Cost

$7.2 M

Dates

2007 - 2008

Team

Architect: Thomas Phifer & Partners

Civil: Ulrich Engineers

Structural: Walter P. Moore

Lighting: Fisher Marantaz

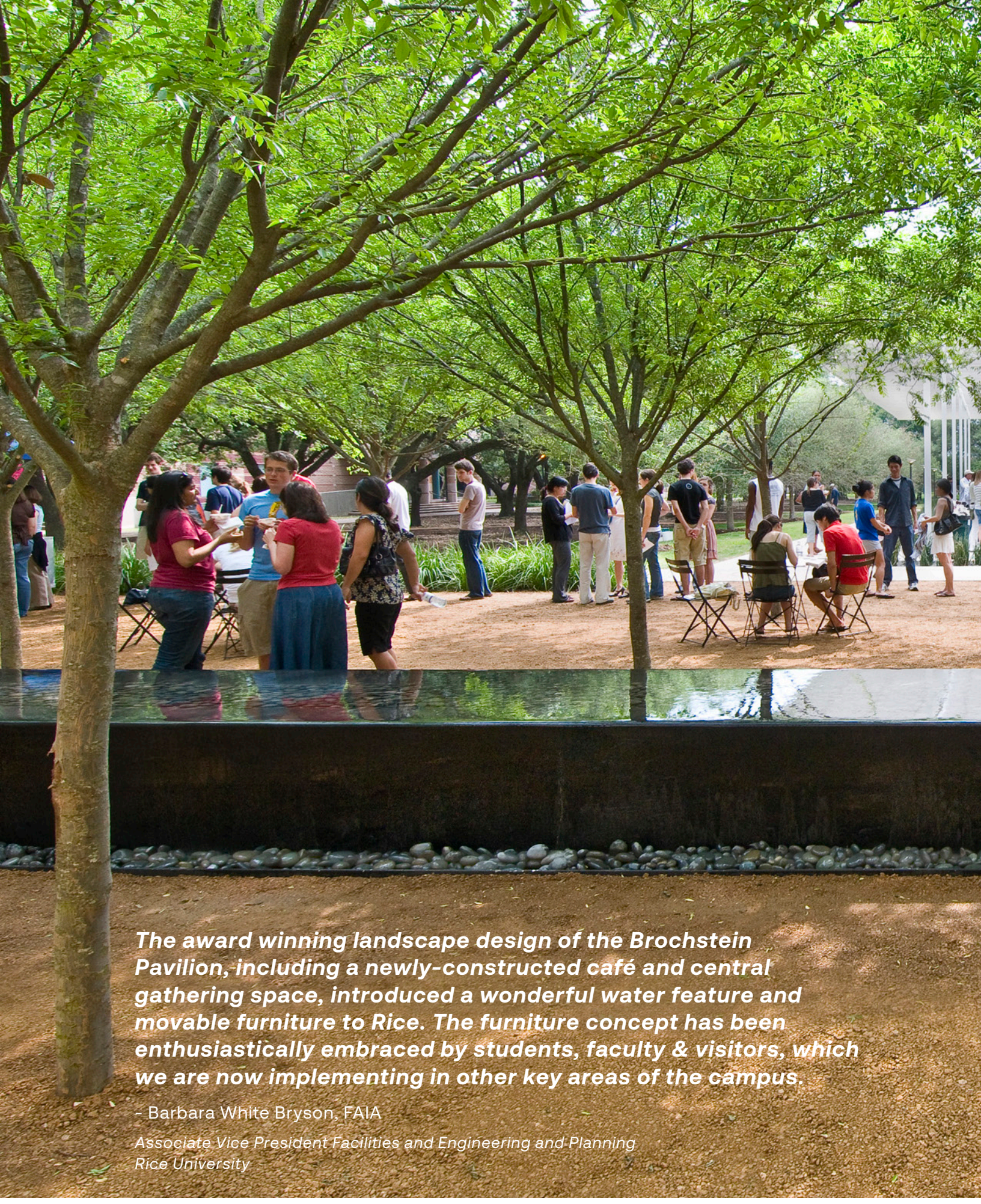
Awards

ASLA National Design Award

ASLA Texas Chapter Merit Award

AIA National Honor Award

AS&U Architectural Citation



The award winning landscape design of the Brochstein Pavilion, including a newly-constructed café and central gathering space, introduced a wonderful water feature and movable furniture to Rice. The furniture concept has been enthusiastically embraced by students, faculty & visitors, which we are now implementing in other key areas of the campus.

- Barbara White Bryson, FAIA

Associate Vice President Facilities and Engineering and Planning
Rice University

Susan and I have received many favorable comments regarding the landscaping at the Rice Pavilion and we have enjoyed seeing students and faculty using the outside at least as much as those inside. The building is certainly outstanding, but it is the landscape that really makes it successful.

- Raymond Brochstein

Sustainability

A bosque of Allee Lacebark Elms organizes the space between the Pavilion and the Fondren Library. This garden and pavilion has become the new "Heart of the Campus" at Rice.

LAND

The historic context of the site was considered, as the project is positioned in the middle of a prestigious uniformed campus. The landscape helps unite the architecture.

Healthy soils were conserved on-site.

PLANTING

Appropriate vegetation was conserved.

Annual planting was avoided.

91 trees were saved on-site.

69 trees were planted.

WATER

Trees have the potential for intercepting 80,000 gallons of water which is the equivalent to the water usage for 80 American residents for one day *

The trees on this site can intercept 56 inches of rain in a year. This exceeds the sites average annual rainfall of 49.6 inches of rainfall.

Fifty-six percent of surfaces are permeable.

CARBON, ENERGY & AIR

The project reduces light pollution with full cut off fixtures in support of the dark skies initiative.

A fountain is introduced to reduce the temperature in an outdoor study space.

The trees sequester 19,200 pounds of carbon annually, which offsets 2.3 cars per year.**

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is minimized with prohibited smoking on site.

SOCIAL

The project provides optimum site accessibility, safety and wayfinding.

The Brochstein Pavilion is an amenity for research, meetings and gathering for the entire community.

Outdoor fitness, academic classes and educational tours take place on the landscape surrounding the pavilion.

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*The tree average for water interception is 500 gallons. American's use an average of 100 gallons of water per day (EPA's water trivia facts).

**120 pounds of CO2 per tree annually (This number is based on an average from the National Tree Benefits Calculator) One car produces an average of 8,320 pounds of CO2 per year (The Code of Federal Regulations - 40 CFR 600.113).