

Evo A. DeConcini Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse

Tucson, AZ

Owner US General Services Administration
Size 414,000 SF
Scope Architect of Record, MEP Engineering, Interior Design
Award Honor Award for Excellence, US General Services Administration, 1996

The GSA team overseeing this project chose to make it a pilot-project for the GSA's Energy Saving Project Contract Program and part of the GSA's Design Excellence Program in order to differentiate itself to obtain federal courthouse funds. LEO A DALY/Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates teamed to develop the building's design, orientation and materials to meet requirements of both programs.

As executive architect and engineer, LEO A DALY developed a central plant system, which serves as the focus for energy savings. It provides maximum operating efficiency, particularly when used in conjunction with the building's indirect cooling system. This program was instrumental in getting the project funded and built and allowed GSA to receive a Federal Energy and Water Management Award from the U.S. Department of Energy for outstanding work in the areas of energy and water management.

The interior of the building was clad with insulated metal panels to shield it from direct sunlight and block direct views from the adjacent freeway. The exterior, which houses the majority of the private secured areas, is clad in glass curtain walls and concrete block. Shared space, including a grand jury suite, jury assembly area, pre-trial and probation offices, cafeteria, and daycare center, were highlighted through exterior design elements, as were major public circulation areas. Along with the use of a high-shading -coefficient and low-E glass, additional savings are realized with underground parking. This provides a layer of airflow under the building to cool it naturally.

LEO A DALY remained instrumental in coordination between the contractor and the agency at the project closeout. This resulting landmark project is an example of successful teamwork between GSA, the courts and the consultant team.

