

George Mason University, Mason Inn Conference Center and Hotel

Fairfax, Virginia

Owner

George Mason University

Master Developer

Concord Eastridge

Architect

Gensler

Contractor

Balfour Beatty Construction

Completion Date

2010

Construction Cost

\$50 million

Total Area

179,000 sf

Conference Facilities

11 meeting rooms
2 ballrooms

Guest Rooms

149

LEED

Gold

Awards

Project of the Year, Multi-Family
Residential/Hospitality category, Mid-
Atlantic Construction magazine, Best of
2010 Awards

2011 National Design-Build Award,
Commercial, Design-Build Institute of
America



Thornton Tomasetti performed structural design services for this hotel and conference center. The 179,000-square-foot facility was delivered through a developer-led design-build contract awarded under the Virginia Public Private Education Act (PPEA). The center hosts academic meetings for the university, external business and government conferences, and social events. The inn also serves as a hands-on learning tool for the university's School of Recreation, Health and Tourism and its MBA program.

The LEED Gold-certified complex provides 149 guest rooms, a restaurant and a bar/lounge area. The 20,000-square-foot conference center has 11 meeting rooms, two ballrooms and one security suite – a windowless office to accommodate meetings involving sensitive or classified information. The facility also includes 35,000 square feet of below-grade parking and a separate wing housing a kitchen and other support operations.

Each component of the project was designed with the structural system that optimized performance and economy for its function. With a post-tensioned podium supporting a seven-story hotel tower constructed of a proprietary light-gage bearing wall system, a long-span steel-framed conference center built atop a conventionally-reinforced concrete parking garage, and a single-story concrete wing housing the kitchen, the project ran the gamut of structural systems. The various components required special attention to detailing where construction types interfaced. During construction, our team took the initiative to resolve on-site issues directly with the contractor to keep the project on schedule.