



GREEN BUILDING TOURS

September 23, 2010



Walter P Moore
Houston, Texas

LEED CI Silver

91% of spaces have daylight and views

61% of furniture and furnishings reused

49% regional materials

12% recycled materials throughout

LEED® Facts

Walter P Moore Headquarters
Houston, TX

LEED for Commercial Interiors
Certification awarded June, 2008

Silver 27*

Sustainable Sites 5/7

Water Efficiency 0/2

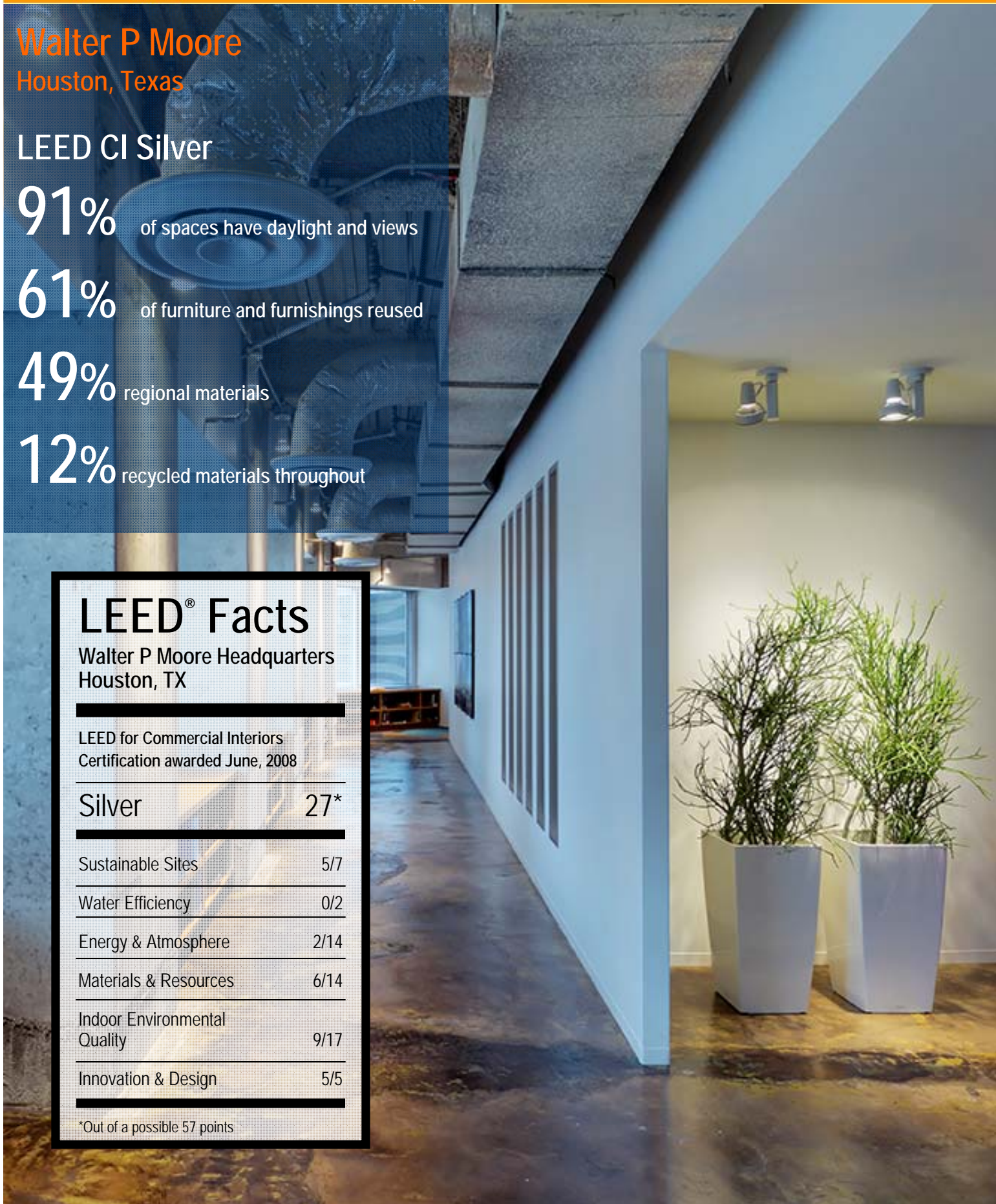
Energy & Atmosphere 2/14

Materials & Resources 6/14

Indoor Environmental
Quality 9/17

Innovation & Design 5/5

*Out of a possible 57 points



Walter P Moore Headquarters

Commitment to Sustainability on Display in Home Office

PROJECT BACKGROUND

When Walter P Moore, a national engineering giant consistently regarded as one of the “Best Places to Work,” decided to relocate its Houston headquarters, Gensler’s direction was clear. The new office was to incorporate sustainable design strategies and aim for LEED certification. Walter P Moore’s LEED certification efforts were motivated by a desire to show leadership in their industry, respect for their clients, and support for the health and welfare of their employees. Certification efforts were supported from the top and everyone at the firm wanted to know what they could do to help the project achieve this honored recognition.

A SOUND INVESTMENT

Since Walter P Moore is an engineering firm, there was a lot of interest in exposing the built environment in their new space. So, once some of the old finishes were removed, a simple cleaning of the concrete floors and columns was all that was needed to complete their space. In locations where carpet was needed, only sustainable products were specified. As a model of sustainability, a contagious new energy fills Walter P Moore’s new office, and is proving to be an inspiration to employees and visitors alike.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

Walter P Moore’s new office is a dynamic, creative environment that is flooded with natural light. The primarily open plan with glass-fronted offices against the core allows everyone access to daylight. The design team went further, though, and incorporated a number of creative design strategies to make the most of reflected light. The open ceiling plenum is painted a light tan color, which served two purposes. First, it disguised the sprayed-on fire-proofing material, and second, it offers a light colored surface to help reflect light back down to the main open plan areas. For acoustical reasons, “clouds” of ceiling tiles were positioned above each of the open plan workstation areas. All lighting was bounced up onto these clouds for an even distribution of lighting across the office. In the spaces between the clouds, strip fluorescent lighting was placed on top of the ductwork to bounce light up to the painted ceiling plenum and down to the work area. The combination of these two methods of providing indirect lighting proved to be very successful, both aesthetically and from an energy efficiency standpoint. Even with all the indirect lighting, the team went one step further and offered each employee a task light for optimal control.

Walter P Moore worked very closely with the design team when evaluating the various products being considered as part of the space. If there was a more sustainable solution, that was the answer. This included new furniture being specified for the space as well as the architectural elements. One of the more interesting finishes Gensler specified was sustainable bamboo. Bamboo was specified for the main conference room tabletop, library shelving, and file tops.

Every furniture choice was made to showcase Walter P Moore’s ability to practice sustainability while still maintaining great design. When evaluating their existing premises to determine what could be reused for the new project, the team determined that the vast majority of the existing furniture could easily be reused with minimal effort. Some of the upholstered pieces were reupholstered and other furniture was “reenergized” solely by its new function and location. The existing desk system was easily modified to fit into the new space and all metal files were reused, although some needed to be repainted.

ABOUT WALTER P MOORE

A national engineering and consulting firm, Walter P Moore creates solutions that help clients turn their ideas into structures and infrastructures that work. Walter P Moore is consistently recognized for extraordinary client service, engineering excellence and as a “best place to work.” In 2006, the firm celebrated its 75th anniversary.

“The new office space totally supports our commitment to sustainability as well as a collaborative and creative work process.”

Raymond F. Messer, P.E.
President and Chairman of the Board



Owner: Walter P Moore
Architect: Gensler
Contractor: D.E. Harvey Builders
Structural Engineer: Walter P Moore
MEP Engineer: Wylie Consulting Engineers
Commissioning: ApolloBBC
Lighting Consultant: CharterSills
Acoustical Consultant: HFP Acoustical
Security Consultant: SST
Project Size: 70,000 square feet
Total Project Cost: Confidential

Photography courtesy of Chas McGrath

ABOUT LEED

The LEED Green Building Rating System is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S.Green Building Council’s Web site at www.usgbc.org or www.usgbc-houston.com to learn more about how you can make LEED work for you.

