

AEPlans CASE STUDY

Project Owner

Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, Louisiana
Jerry W. Jones, Director
Division of Administration
Facility Planning and Control
State of Louisiana

Design Professional

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The Project

Nethken Hall waterproofing project for Louisiana Tech University consisted of removal and replacement of the existing windows with new aluminum storefront, removal of the existing aggregate panels and replacement with new insulated panels and the removal and replacement of the existing fascia panels with new. The existing aggregate panels contained asbestos and had to be removed by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor.

Bid Statistics

This project was bid by General Contractors from Shreveport, West Monroe, Kenner and Ruston. Eighty-two (82) interested parties reviewed the project on AEPlans including twenty-seven (27) General Contractors and fifty-one (51) Sub-Contractors/Suppliers. Seven (7) Plan Rooms obtained the projects files for re-distribution and (4) Reprographers obtained plans and specs for printing on request. Bid due date was October 5, 2004.

Budget was \$450,000

Bid Award was \$410,000

Project came in \$40,000 under budget.

The Benefits Derived from Use of AEPlans

This is one of several projects Mr. Walpole has listed on AEPlans and he was quick to say “that the greatest benefit to our firm is the hassle free mechanics of distributing bid documents electronically on AEPlans”. It eliminates the time needed to get the project to the Reprographer, pick up printed sets and the time it takes to check plans in and out with contractors. Two addenda for this project were posted instantly, and within minutes, every interested party received notification by email.

The high level of interest in the project was attributed to the availability of plans and specification, free of charge, for review and download at any time directly from AEPlans.

MW Architects has a staff of seven, including five CAD Engineers and the Office Manager. Commercial and institutional properties are the focus of the firm, with projects such as the drive-through for 1st National Bank, Weston School renovation, new office and warehouse space for Irrigation-Mart and the relocation of Lincoln Parish Library, among those that were posted to AEPlans over the past year. “Over the next two years, ten additional school projects will go on AEPlans”, stated Mr. Walpole.

Mr. Walpole completed Architectural training in 1983 and started his own firm in 1988. Although he took his training pre-computers and refers to himself as one of the “older” architects, his firm is technologically current and he states that “AEPlans is part of the evolutionary process and a standard for the future”.

Suggested improvements to the software used by project originators were implemented based on input from Mr. Walpole and his staff. The recent AEPlans website re-design, which resulted in a site that is easier to navigate, preview plan pages and complete a download, also reflects direct input from the staff at MW Architects.