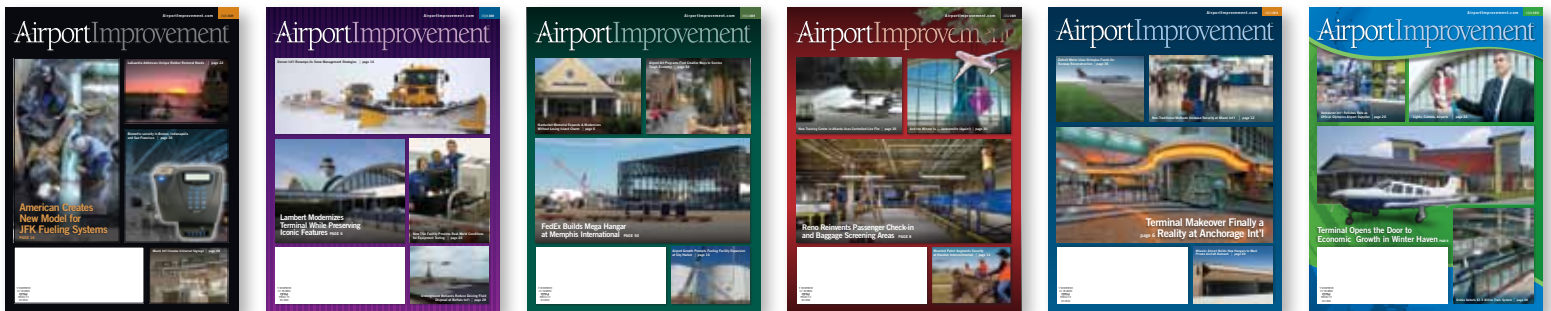


Airport Improvement

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How does an airport project become a story?

TERMINALS

New Terminal Opens the Door to Economic Growth in Winter Haven

Facts & Figures
Project: New Terminal
Other Components: New Busse Road, Vehicle Park, Airfield Gates & Taxiway System
Location: Winter Haven (FL) Municipal Airport
Owner/Operator: City of Winter Haven
Cost: \$1.4 billion
Funding: Florida Department of Transportation, City of Winter Haven
Phase Manager/Contractor: BA
Consultant: PBS&J
Architect/Designer: PBS&J
Contractor: SDRCO Construction Inc.
Key Benefits: Increased space, accessibility & functionality

The \$8.6 million improvements, which include a new aircraft apron and taxiway system, are a deliberate effort by the city to provide aviation services to local residents and invite economic growth. In 2000, Winter Haven completed its vision plan not only for its airport, but for its library, downtown, Chain of Lakes trail and other projects as well.

Dale Smith, a 31-year city employee and new city manager, describes the goal for the city's airport: "When people fly into Winter Haven and get off their plane, we want them to be awed by the sight of the terminal. We want people's jaws to drop. First impression is so important."

The terminal, designed by PBS&J, is a modern interpretation of Florida Cracker architecture. The style, says PBS&J associate vice president Frances Bloeticher, dates back to the late 19th century, when citrus growers used basic materials and skills to create farmhouses for Florida's subtropical setting. The airport's new terminal building incorporates many elements of the Dug Tote, a representative Florida Cracker houseform that organizes rooms around a breezeway and includes passive energy features such as large porches, vertical openings, roof overhangs and vented metal roofs.

The most striking feature is the one-and-a-half-story tower that rises to one side. "I think the building creates a landmark for the community," Bloeticher says. "The central tower acts as a way-finding element (by land or air) and an organizing element, connecting the interior functions and the community to commercial aviation."

The terminal design also demonstrates the city's slogan, "The Chain of Lakes City," by incorporating natural materials inside and out. Wood trim, stone flooring and exposed wood trusses are used inside, while a metal roof, stone-faced columns and lap siding accent the exterior. Color finishes were drawn from a natural, environmental palette.

"We wanted something that would catch people's eyes, and this really does," says Smith, crediting PBS&J.

Airport Division director Cheryl Connor receives many compliments on the new facility. "Reasonable" and "beautiful" are words frequently used, she reports. Connor herself can't say enough good things: "It shows well; it looks professional; it looks like a place people would want to come to."

Winter Haven (FL) Municipal Airport Supplier | page 20

Lights, Camera, Airport | page 24

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Dufresne Debuts \$1.5 Billion Train System | page 40

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- Great photography is available

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