

APEX CENTRE

MCKINNEY, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD:

Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects
Dallas, Texas

DESIGN ARCHITECT - RECREATION:

Moody Nolan
Columbus, Ohio

AQUATIC CONSULTANT/ENGINEER:

Councilman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 81,416

COST: \$31.7 million

OCCUPANCY: January 2017

Beginning in the late 2000s, the city of McKinney, Texas, recognized a need to build its first recreation center. Facility tours, program options and feasibility studies began in earnest in the early 2010s. The final project was conceived primarily as an aquatic and fitness center in order to sustain itself operationally.

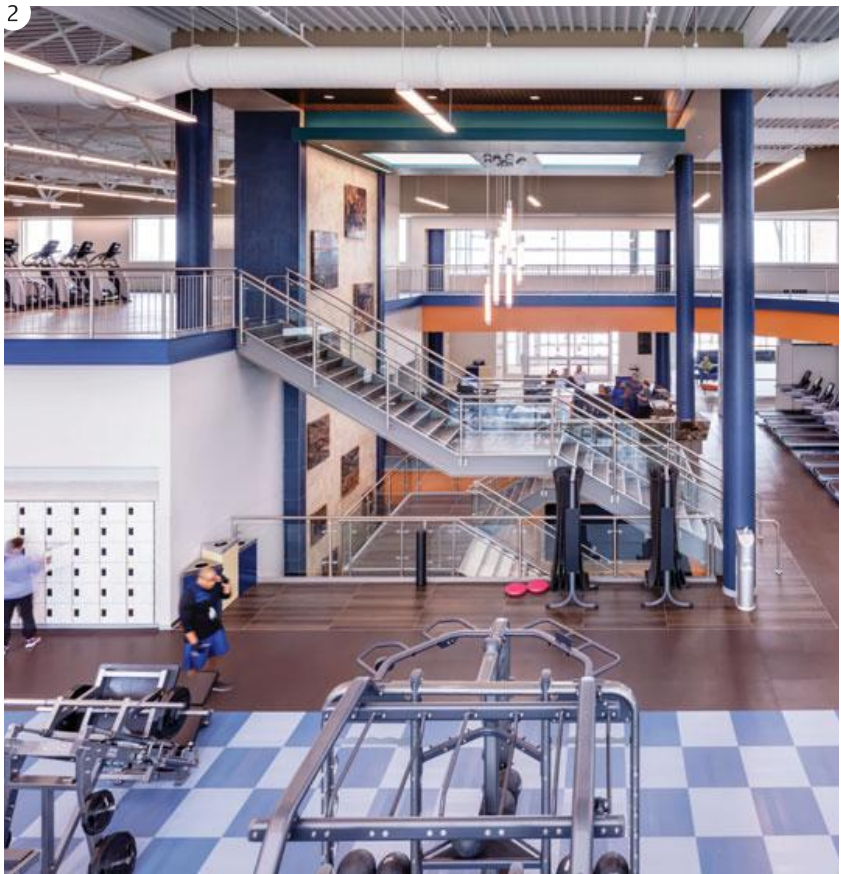
The design team met the challenge of a deceptively sloping site with a split-level design. Patrons enter the building on the second of three levels. From this control point, they can see almost all that the building has to offer, with views overlooking the aquatic areas, directly into fitness areas to the track above, and into the gymnasium and exercise wing. Abundant views across spaces make the building intuitive, inviting, and easy to observe and control.

Design cues were borrowed from disparate site elements and fused into a final design that stands on its own without looking like a collage. Strict city masonry design requirements informed the material palette selection, combined with the openness of the program. A park-like parking lot eschews the typical sea of pavement, knitting the building into the fabric of Gabe Nesbitt Park.

The project has been a smashing success, with more than 5,400 memberships representing more than 18,000 individuals.



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- 1 The Apex Centre serves as a new anchor facility for Gabe Nesbitt Park.
- 2 The facility provides community members with a variety of fitness options, including cardio and weight equipment.
- 3 Embracing its multipurpose function, the Apex Centre also features basketball courts and a 1/8-mile elevated track.



[Photos by Charles Smith]

- 4 Visibility was prioritized to enhance connectivity between program areas while also making the facility easy to control.
- 5 Floor-to-ceiling windows flood the natatorium with natural light.
- 6 A split-level design takes advantage of the facility's sloping site.