

Athletic Business

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ARCHITECTURAL SHOWCASE 2019



DAS REC

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

ARCHITECT OF RECORD:

Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects
Dallas, Texas

AQUATIC CONSULTANT:

Councilman-Hunsaker
St. Louis, Mo.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 74,028

COST: \$20 million

OCCUPANCY: July 2018

Established by a German prince in the mid-1840s, New Braunfels is named after the founder's native Solms-Braunfels. The city is also home to the Comal Springs, which are fed by the Edwards Aquifer – one of the most prolific artesian aquifers in the world. The 74,000-square-foot Das Rec – which translates simply to “The Rec” – embraces this burgeoning community's rich German heritage.

Das Rec boasts two indoor pools, two basketball courts, large fitness and group exercise spaces, an indoor track and a variety of multipurpose community rooms. The venue's overall design aesthetic begins with the large natatorium that offers a competition pool and an expansive recreation pool. The natatorium's perforated fenestration suggests the permeable rock of the Edwards Aquifer, and the water theme flows throughout the facility – most notably via strategic layering of blue hues. Interior wood screen walls, constructed from reclaimed gymnasium flooring, provide a layered semi-transparent effect – similar to that of limestone, the region's most reliable and plentiful natural material.

Locally sourced limestone and brick extend the geological theme to Das Rec's exterior, which loosely borrows from Germany's venerable 13th-century Braunfels Castle. The recreation center's epic scale, articulated with varying masses and materials, reflects that of the castle itself, which underwent numerous additions throughout the centuries.



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- 1 The facility's wet and dry areas boast their own exterior identities, with alternating blues and exterior windows identifying the natatorium.
- 2 Strategic layering of blue hues carries the water theme throughout the facility.
- 3 The facility features two indoor pools, including an eight-lane competition pool primarily used by a local high school.



[Photos by Charles Davis Smith]

- ④ ⑤ Interior wood screen walls are constructed from reclaimed gymnasium flooring.
- ⑥ An additional gift of \$5.8 million allowed for a second gymnasium, a larger track and party space.