



Case Study

Tom Muehlenbeck Center – Plano, Texas

Challenge

In November of 2007, the Tom Muehlenbeck Center opened its doors as the City of Plano's newest community recreation center. The 83,000 square foot, \$23 million center is bursting with amenities that include an indoor and outdoor pool, lap pool, fitness center, indoor track, gymnasium, game room, classrooms and community lobby with internet access.

Amy Fortenberry, recreational services manager, was sensitive to maintenance issues in designing the facility. "My questions are always how hard will this be to maintain and will it stand the test of time in a humid environment?," she said.

Finding the right lockers was of particular concern - ease of maintenance could not be at the expense of functionality. "We need the lockers to be as secure and vandal proof as they can be," explained Fortenberry. Vandal-resistant fixtures durable enough to handle abuse in the restrooms was also a priority.



Solution

Stephen Springs, AIA, of Brinkley Sargent Architects, Dallas, recommended several lockers for the Muehlenbeck project. Fortenberry's team appreciated the construction of Bradley's Lenox® Lockers, and felt the attractive lockers would complement the center's design. They also liked the sloped top that would keep things from getting stacked on top. Yet, they were skeptical from past experiences.

To allay any concerns, Springs partnered with Bradley representative Dennis Lally or Braswell & Assoc. in Farmer's Branch, Texas, to provide samples for the facility's staff to try out and abuse. Lenox Lockers passed the test and were selected, ultimately opening the door for other Bradley solutions.

Solid Plastic Flexible for Many Applications

Lenox Lockers were installed throughout the Center's locker rooms, staff break room, pool hallways and outdoor pool areas. Most provide locked storage, but the facility also has cubby lockers near the gym for easily accessible storage.

Solid plastic lockers are a better alternative to metal lockers in recreation and aquatic facilities because they are unaffected by moisture, humidity,

or chlorine. Made of solid high-density polyethylene (HDPE), they are completely corrosion-proof and can be easily cleaned with soap and water.

"We were confident that the Lenox Lockers would perform well in securing items, they look good and they're easy to clean," noted Fortenberry. "The only challenge our maintenance staff has is water inside the lockers when they're cleaned with a pressure washer...we can handle that."

Coordinating solid plastic toilet partitions were also selected. Although Springs' firm typically specifies phenolic partitions, the Muehlenbeck team felt scratches would be a problem. The Bradmar® solid plastic restroom partitions that were chosen can be repaired if scratched, and graffiti can be easily removed.

Multi-Height Lavatories Universally Accessible

Another product that met the Muehlenbeck team's easy-to-clean mandate was the Frequency® Lavatory System. Several of the unique multi-height, solid-surface lavatory units have been installed in the bath house restrooms near the outdoor pool. The bath house is a separate facility adjacent to the pool.

"The wave design of the Frequency Lavatory System is unique and lends itself to an aquatic facility... the multiple counter heights also work well for the younger people that will use these sinks"

Stephen Springs, AIA
Principle, Brinkley-Sargent Architects

"The wave design of the Frequency Lavatory System is unique and lends itself to an aquatic facility," said Springs. "We saw this outdoor area as being more playful, and the multiple counter heights also work well for the younger people that will use these sinks."

The Frequency, a first-of-its-kind lavatory system, simplifies the task of meeting ADA height requirements by combining a lower ADA-compliant sink with a standard height sink. The lower sink is also perfect for younger children. The one-, two- and three-station models are flexible, and can be combined to create a wall of waves.

"We call them our 'groovy sinks'," Fortenberry said with a smile. "We thought the design was very cool and modern, and the seamless design will be easier to keep clean."

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