



PROJECT Cutting Horse Ranch, Parker County
CLIENT withheld
ARCHITECT LakelFlato Architects
DESIGN TEAM Bill Aylor, AIA; Ted Flato, FAIA; Ryan Jones, AIA; Cameron Standish Smith, AIA; Raina Tilden; Lewis McNeel
CONTRACTOR Lincoln Builders of Texas
CONSULTANTS Datum Engineers (structural); Henderson Engineers (MEP); MESA (landscape); GH2 Gralla Equine Architects (equestrian)
PHOTOGRAPHER Frank Ooms

Cutting Horse Ranch

by BART SHAW, AIA





CUTTING HORSE RANCH, LOCATED ON 175 ACRES IN RURAL PARKER COUNTY NEAR FORT WORTH, IS DEDICATED to the breeding and training of competition cutting horses. As part of Lake/Plato's master plan for the ranch, the firm designed a cluster of buildings that include a 45,000-sf indoor arena, a 22,000-sf training barn with 22 stalls, a 8,400-sf mare barn with 12 stalls, and a 4,000-sf hydrotherapy barn with two isolation stalls. Another 22,000 square feet of facilities house ranch offices, a tack room, a farrier shop, a veterinarian clinic, wash areas, storage for bedding and feed, and a staff lunch room. Adjoining the complex of buildings are 75 acres of pasture and paddocks.

To protect the complex from winter winds, the architects chose a site next to a windbreak of trees lining a creek that runs along the length of the arena structure. To catch the southern breezes of summertime, the barns are angled slightly off the arena's east-west axis. This careful arrangement caught the attention of the Design Awards judges, with David Salmela, FAIA, expressing his admiration for "the order and the elegance and the understated simplicity of these vernacular forms."

The utility of the structural forms and the clarity of their assembly belie the sophistication of the design. Materials are layered with precision to juxtapose oxidized steel and corrugated metal, the toughness of galvanized sheet metal

RESOURCES UNIT PAVERS: D'hanis Brick & Tile; PRECAST ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE: Hanson Pipe and Pre-Cast; METAL MATERIALS: Fabral Metal Wall and Roof Systems; WATERPROOFING: Grace Construction Products; MEMBRANE ROOFING: Firestone Roofing; METAL DOORS: Curries; ACCESS DOORS: The Cookson Company (Johnson Equipment); ENTRANCES AND METAL WINDOWS: Manko Window Systems (BGR Specialties); HORSE STALL AND CUSTOM STEEL DOOR: Lucas Equine and Equipment; PAINT: Sherwin Williams; GRILLES AND SCREENS: Ruskin; LIGHTING: Luraline, Prudential, Gotham, Lithonia; EXHAUST FANS: Greenheck Exhaust Fans; ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: The Reynolds Company; FANS: Big Ass Fans; SOUND SYSTEM: Infinity Sound Systems; LIGHTING CONTROLS: Lutron; PAVING ACCESSORIES: Arlington Pavers; SOFTWARE: Revit by Autodesk



- SITE PLAN**
- 1 INDOOR ARENA
 - 2 OUTDOOR ARENA
 - 3 PAVILION
 - 4 HYDROTHERAPY BARN
 - 5 MARE BARN
 - 6 TRAINING BARN
 - 7 EQUIPMENT BARN
 - 8 HAY BARN
 - 9 CREEK



- TRAINING BARN**
- 1 ENTRY
 - 2 OFFICE
 - 3 TACK
 - 4 HORSE WALKER
 - 5 COVERED DRIVE-THRU
 - 6 STALLS
 - 7 PORCH
 - 8 SCREEN PORCH

and the warmth of wood. The detailing is exquisite, matched only by an artful composition that exalts each building's practical function. Describing that artistry, juror Steve Dumez, FAIA, said: "This project is just beautifully executed. There are quite wonderful moments that are unexpected."

Among those wonderful moments is the effect of perforated metal screens that lend a magical transparency while enhancing natural ventilation and allowing sunlight to stream through. From inside, the perception of enclosure seems to dissolve. The pervading sense of openness – with its manifest benefits of abundant fresh air and daylight – is important to the overall health of the equine residents, as well as to the well-being of their human caretakers.

While the forms are familiar, the architects have refined their essential components and thoughtfully placed the individual structures to work together as a cohesive campus. The result was summarized by juror James Russell, FAIA: "The way the buildings relate to each other is beautiful and they're very, very richly conceived and detailed to an extraordinarily proficient degree."

The writer is the principal of Bart Shaw Architect in Fort Worth.

