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MAINPLACE Houston, Texas



Ingenium, Inc. structural engineers

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Developer: Hines

Design Architect: Pickard Chilton

Architect of Record: Kendall/Heaton Associates

Structural Engineer: Ingenium, Inc.

Contractor: D.E. Harvey Builders

Hines' new 46-story, 1 million-square-foot office building, slated for 2011 completion, continues the revitalization of Houston's Main Street. Designed for LEED Silver certification, MainPlace features vertical glass fins on the east and west elevations and horizontal sunshades of glass and aluminum on the bow-shaped north and south facades. A 5-story recess at the 39th floor creates a sky garden. The 9-level garage has a grass-topped roof and is clad in the same curtain wall system as the office tower.

Ingenium's design of a lightweight concrete structure — Houston's tallest all-concrete frame high-rise in 40 years — decreases the required basement depth, reducing construction costs and time. Outrigger beams linking the core to the exterior columns frame the bow-shaped profile. Column-free notched corners create eight corner offices per floor with completely unobstructed views of the city. The 3-story lobby level with long clear spans to the perimeter columns creates a voluminous, light-filled entry.

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