

# Brentwood Baptist Church

## The Connection Center



Photo by Henry Ambrose

Connection. When you boil it down, the Church is all about connection. Connecting non-believers with Christ; connecting believers with each other; connecting the Church with the community.

And so, when Brentwood Baptist Church outside of Nashville, Tennessee brought on Dallas' HH Architects to master plan their church campus, it was only natural that a building focusing on facilitating these connections would be a part of the plan.

"We were in desperate need of a place where people could just hang out and have spiritual conversations, either one-on-one, or in small groups," states Brentwood's Executive Pastor Jim Baker. And with a growing student and children's ministry, space was needed

to facilitate connection within these groups as well.

Brentwood's relationship with HH Architects started in 1999, when they competed with six other firms for the production of the master plan. The church intended on using the chosen firm for the detailed design of each phase, so long as they were happy with the work being done. Twelve years and five phases later, the team of HH Architects and Brentwood Baptist Church has completed the vision of that initial master plan.

Opening in the Spring of 2009, the Connection Center phase has features that benefit all members of the congregation.

"The Connection Center was designed to not only be a great facility for the youth, but also provide a place for the church body to connect," describes Jerry Halcomb, founder & CEO of HH Architects, and principal-in-charge of the Brentwood project. "It includes an auditorium that is very flexible in design that can be used by the youth for their worship service; but also, with its flat floor and movable risers, can be used for indoor play for the children or large events with tables and chairs."

Halcomb continues, "The facility also includes classrooms and break-out rooms for the youth, offices for the deaf ministry, stacked basketball cages, a café and hang-out space, as well as a bookstore that is run by LifeWay. It truly provides space for the entire church to come and connect."

Even though the overall church design is traditional, the Connection Center blends with the existing material pallet but is more contemporary in color and materials to support the youth focus of the auditorium space — making it a fun place to be.

One of the strengths of HH Architects is their focus on partnership with the church throughout the process. "Our master planning team and HH Architects sat down and gathered input from all the stakeholders in our church as to our

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