

For Immediate Release

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**Cambridge Architectural Space Sculpting Mesh System Unifies Two New Projects
for the City of Austin**

CAMBRIDGE, MD...Cambridge Architectural, America's leading manufacturer of architectural mesh systems, recently constructed a Space Sculpting system that unifies a new parking garage and cooling plant at the Austin Convention Center in Texas.

The parking garage and Austin Energy District Cooling Plant now blend seamlessly with the existing convention center. Approximately 20,000 square feet of metal fabric in Cambridge's Plait pattern, supported by Frame attachment hardware, wraps a corner and adorns expansive brick walls to create movement and to humanize the scale of the integrated structure, which occupies an entire city block.

In May 2002, a major facelift and expansion of the Austin Convention Center nearly doubled its exhibit and meeting space, but created a major inconvenience for drivers looking to park in busy downtown Austin. The solution, proposed by Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects, was a five-story, 685-space city parking garage built in conjunction with a city-owned District Cooling Plant that would provide chilled water to downtown buildings.

The parking garage and cooling plant serve two entirely different purposes and are occupied by two different entities: the Austin Convention Center Department, and Austin Energy, the city-owned utility. To unify the structures, the architects used the same brick, concrete, and Space Sculpting system for both buildings.

"Our biggest challenge was designing two separate projects to meet the specifications of two separate owners," says Carl Gromatzky, a partner in Austin-based Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects. "The metal fabric brings the two buildings together, but still gives each its own identity."

The Cambridge Architectural metal fabric panels were curved and installed on structural tube, steel support framing to create sweeping vertical waves that sculpt an otherwise unadorned façade. At night, the structure glows a transparent blue green. During the day, the metal fabric allows sunlight to pass into the parking garage, and softly shades the sidewalks below.

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"Cambridge Architectural Space Sculpting systems provide solutions for aesthetic and functional design obstacles," says Kevin Mayer, director of business development and marketing for Cambridge Architectural. "These systems create transitions, rather than divisions for interiors and exteriors."

The new garage has not only helped to solve the parking problem in downtown Austin, but has also created a pedestrian-friendly area that includes 17,000 square feet of retail space at street level. What began as a nuisance for drivers now boasts an eye-catching, spacious garage and an eco-friendly cooling plant.

Construction of the two buildings began in December 2003. The \$10.5 million, 250,000-square-foot parking garage opened in February 2005. Completion of the \$19.25 million, 80,000-square-foot cooling plant is still pending.

The project won a Merit Award at the 2006 AIA Austin Design Awards Competition.

The Plait metal fabric features large-scaled, flexible open weaves that shade and screen structures including façades, parking garages and pavilions.

Cambridge's Frame attachment hardware was used to install the PLAIT product. Tube Steel supports frame expanses of metal fabric with a combination of welded and mechanical connections.

Cambridge Architectural is the leading American manufacturer of architectural mesh systems. The elements of a Cambridge system include the attachment hardware and the metal fabric. Systems include Façade, Space Sculpting, Corporate Branding, Security and Safety, Solar, Ventilation, and Landscape Interiors. For more information about Cambridge Architectural call 1-866-806-2385 or visit www.cambridgearchitectural.com.

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