



For Immediate Release

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New Case Study Explores Use of Cypress in Meeting the Living Building Challenge

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 14, 2015 – The Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association (SCMA) has published a new case study that explores the use of cypress at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s [Brock Environmental Center](#) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The 10,500-square-foot facility features stunning, reclaimed cypress, and raises the bar for sustainable buildings everywhere.

Project architect Greg Mella, FAIA, LEED AP, from SmithGroupJJR, said the design team gave preference to natural materials and ultimately specified cypress for many reasons.

“Aesthetically, we love the variation and richness the wood provides,” Mella explained. “Environmentally, we were able to reclaim and repurpose sinker logs which had been at the bottom of southern bayous and rivers for 100–1,000 years, because they were previously considered waste. The Center showcases a lot of salvaged materials—all with a story behind them, adding to the project’s theme of environmental stewardship.”

The Center is expected to earn U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum certification, and also is on pace to meet the requirements of the Living Building Challenge—a green building certification program developed by the International Living Future Institute that requires a building to have a net-zero impact on the environment—the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment today.

“The building is completely self-sufficient,” Mella said. “Through LEED, we envisioned a building that would do less harm to the environment. But through the Living Building Challenge, we designed the Brock Environmental Center to actually improve the environment.”

To download the case study and learn more about cypress’ role in sustainable design, please visit www.CypressInfo.org.

About the SCMA

The Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of cypress building products to trade professionals and consumers. For more information, visit www.CypressInfo.org.

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Editor’s Note: High-res photography is available upon request

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