

Rice University Brockman Hall for Physics

HOUSTON, TEXAS

YEAR 2009–2011

SIZE 110,000 SF

USE Academic and office spaces, gathering areas, courtyard, water features, terraces, plazas, outdoor seating

MAJOR AWARDS

2012 SCUP / AIA-CAE Honor Award, Excellence in Architecture for a New Building

2012 AIA Houston Design Award



- + Driven by Rice University’s belief that some of the most important moments on campus are instances of informal discussion and debate outside of the classroom, the design of the building and landscape seeks to provide a multitude of spaces for lively and inspiring conversation.
- + Sheltered from the sun by the building overhead, a ground-floor courtyard features a reflecting pool, raised ipe terrace, and an enhanced plaza with movable furniture.
- + OJB was also asked to redesign the “Courtyard of Science,” an interstitial space between the wings of Brown Hall to the south.
- + A grove of honey mesquites organizes the space. Intimate decomposed granite courtyards with movable furniture create a number of social spaces.

The Brockman Hall for Physics is an 111,000 SF facility that hosts laboratory space, lecture halls, and administrative offices used by the Physics Department at Rice University as well as physicists from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

