

Windmill Market



Lively graphics, a deep-awning and bright details turned a forlorn metal building into Windmill Market. The modern windmill generates power.

By Philip Morris



An abandoned car dealership on the edge of downtown Fairhope has become at once a lab for exploring green building technology and a popular new weekend destination called Windmill Market.

“We bought the back half thinking we might locate our offices there,” says Mac Walcott of Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects. “But that didn’t work out, so my wife and I decided to convert it into a market that opened last October with both arts and crafts and food.”

The firm’s green-building component, Watershed, is using the project as a lab: waterless urinal, photovoltaic panels and rain runoff stored in four cisterns for both irrigation and toilets. Overflow goes into sand trenches to percolate back into the ground. And the windmill? It’s a period one in the 3-D sign over the entrance but a tall, sleek one generates energy. Projections are that 20 percent of the market’s needs will come from these on-site sources.

A deep, wrap-around awning, bright colors and a garden are light touches that transformed the mundane structure. New ceiling insulation was clad, like other components, in galvanized corrugated steel. For hours and other information visit: windmillmarket.org.

Photography Courtesy Walcott Adams Verneuille



The floor plan shows fresh and dry market areas, stalls and dining spaces all wrapped by gardens at the front and a stage to one side.



Galvanized metal panels and bright colors enliven interior spaces. Concrete floors are original.



Produce stands on casters can be rearranged as desired; coolers become little buildings.