



*Innovative Design and
Excellence in Architecture with Steel*

National Winner



Charleston Maritime Center

The Charleston Maritime Center is located on five acres of harborfront land in Charleston, SC. The 7,400-sq. ft. two-story center serves both the local fishing industry and the County Parks and Recreation Department. The construction cost of the building was approximately \$1.3 million.

The building's position on the site allows for both public use of the open recreational space and the waterfront, and private use by the fishing industry. The lawn to the north of the building is intended for occasional public events such as the 1998-99 Global BT Challenge Yacht Race—an around the world amateur sailboat



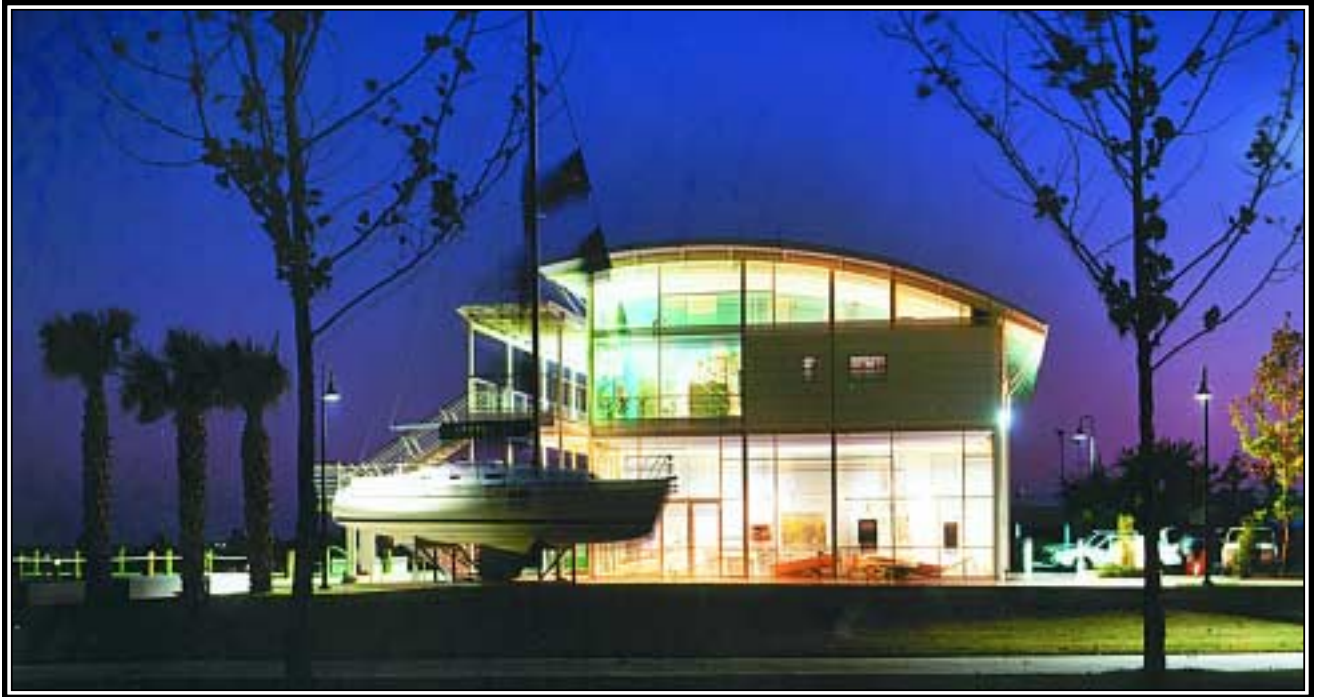
race—and for the landside activities of sport fishing tournaments. It also provides public access to the waterfront.

The building is positioned broadside to the waterfront. The ground floor is devoted to fishing related uses and the main space is a large workroom for fish sorting and packing.

Overhead, industrial doors open the entire space to allow full access to fishermen from the waterside and to refrigerated trucks from the landside. A retail space for selling fish is located at the north end of the building.

The second floor has a large multi-purpose community room with a kitchen, gift shop and offices for management of the marina.





The structure is constructed from both steel and glass. The structural frame is made of steel shapes and bar joists. The building is clad in factory finished metal panels and the roof is standing seam metal. In addition, the balcony, canopy and stairs are all made of steel components.

The basic design intention was to create a contemporary building while at the same time respecting the rich architectural heritage of Charleston's lower peninsula. The use of a steel frame and metal cladding was inspired by the project's location in an old industrial waterfront area where there are many steel framed warehouses with corrugated metal siding. The site also borders older neighborhoods of residential and small-scale commercial buildings. Accordingly, a second inspiration for the building's design

was the traditional West Indian and Barbadian "single house" design, which appeared in Charleston as early as the 1730s and can still be seen in the neighborhoods. Like the typical "single house", the center is a narrow, one-room wide building with windows on both sides, high ceilings and a broad covered porch—all features that promote natural ventilation. The center also has a piazza, a covered porch, which provides a view of the water.

Project Team

Project: Charleston Maritime Center

Architect: Sasaki Associates, Watertown, MA

Owner: City of Charleston

Structural Engineer: Shoolbred Engineers, Charleston, SC

Steel Fabricator: Campbell Steel Company, Cayce, SC

General Contractor: Republic Contracting Co., Charleston, SC