



10630 Little Patuxent Parkway
Century Plaza Suite 315
Columbia MD 21044
w 410 - 740 - 0029
f 410 - 740 - 0362
MerriweatherPark.org

MERRIWEATHER PARK AT SYMPHONY WOODS



To: Residents of Howard County & Interested Parties
From: Michael McCall, President & CEO, Inner Arbor Trust
Date: September 15, 2016
Re: Chrysalis Construction

Inner Arbor Trust and its world class team of designers, engineers, contractors, fabricators and installers are moving aggressively forward in the development of the Chrysalis Stage, Pavilion and Sculpture in Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods; designed by award winning international architect/artist, Marc Fornes, of the New York City based THEVERYMANY. The details of the design are the responsibility of the Maryland-based Living Design Lab, and its Engineer, the Washington DC office of Arup. A. Zahner Company of Kansas City is the specialty engineer, fabricator and installer of the steel and aluminum shingled shell.



On top of the double curved, tubular, galvanized steel frame, Zahner has designed, engineered, fabricated, and is erecting and installing the Chrysalis' 12,000 square feet of aluminum skin. More than seventy five (75) ZEPPS (Zahner Engineered Profiled Panel Systems) define the structural geometry and surface of the skin, each about the size of a small car.



Within the ZEPPS, a total of 300 aluminum trusses, each one of which is totally unique in shape, form the geometry, on top of which will be placed an aluminum substrate and then 7,700 painted aluminum shingles. The shingles come in 11 sizes and shapes, and in four different shades of Spring Green. The special ZEPPS that will cover the seven (7) steel triangles and the nine (9) ZEPPS that define the leg segments from the Chrysalis floor to the grade level below, are being assembled onsite. For this purpose, as well as connecting the ZEPSS into one continuous surface, Zahner has created an open air machine shop on the Chrysalis floor.



Each ZEPPS is tilted and pre-positioned on the ground to the right angle, before it is “flown” by the crane to its precise position on the steel frame. While still being suspended by the crane, fine adjustments are made to the tilted positioning, using a system of chains and pulleys. When the correct angle of the ZEPPS to the steel frame is achieved, the Zahner-led Maryland workers guide each ZEPPS to the attachment points. Two layers of custom designed and fabricated brackets are used to affix the aluminum ZEPPS to the steel, using stainless self-tapping screws. The two layers of brackets, as well as the occasional aluminum shim, afford the necessary computer model precision, under real world construction conditions.



While the outside of the Chrysalis is designed to look smoothly asymmetric in form and “growing green” in color – like a real, living thing; the materiality and palette of the Chrysalis interior is authentically, texturally structural, and found in various shades of grey, from the slightly mottled galvanized steel, to the shiny raw aluminum ZEPPS trusses, to the matte finish of the clear anodized aluminum sheeting substrate. This contrast is completely consistent with nature. The internal biological structural systems that physically support plants and animals are distinct from the outer, more graceful lines and brilliant colors; yet, both systems are completely symbiotic in their respective roles and both requisite to the reality of life.



Schedule & Budget

Nationally renowned, Maryland-based Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, the General Contractor for everything but the steel and aluminum shell, will complete the one-of-a-kind building this year, and the opening of the Chrysalis will be celebrated next spring, to honor Columbia's 50th Birthday.

The project is on budget, thanks to \$6.4 Million in funding from the Howard County government, authorized by the bipartisan support of the former County Executive Ken Ulman and the ongoing support of the current County Executive Allan Kittleman; and, the funding was enacted into law by unanimous Howard County Council support, each year for three consecutive fiscal years.

The State of Maryland has provided \$2 Million to Merriweather Post Pavilion, which is funding paths, handicapped parking and restrooms (with 13 stalls for women) in Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods, which will be open to Park patrons. Lastly, \$1.6 Million of initial funding for the Inner Arbor Trust's approved plan for Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods was provided by Columbia Association, and additional funding comes from the Inner Arbor Trust's revenue.

The outer skin of green shingles is being fabricated and will be featured next month.

