



HEB Grocery: Large Scale Design With Sustainability in Mind



Photo by Karen Taylor, Seguin Fabricators

Executive Summary

"No Store Does More" is more than a slogan for Texas-based HEB Grocery stores. When the chain went to open a new store in the San Antonio area in 2012, designers wanted to create something eye-catching and environmentally sound. They looked to Rosboro's X-Beam glulam beams to fit the design requirements, which included integration of advanced building methods.

Challenges

Energy efficiency was a major concern at the outset of the project. With a space of 182,000 square feet in a subtropical climate, energy costs needed to be kept top of mind.

Boxed-in, low-ceiling dimensions in large-scale stores were also of concern because they tend to create a claustrophobic feeling for customers. Architects and HEB officials wanted a more open feel that could still provide energy cost savings.

How Rosboro Helped

Architects and store officials picked Rosboro's engineered trusses to create a more open space. Rosboro glulam is known for long-span applications with high-grade appearances, which made the beams a great fit for the massive HEB store interior.

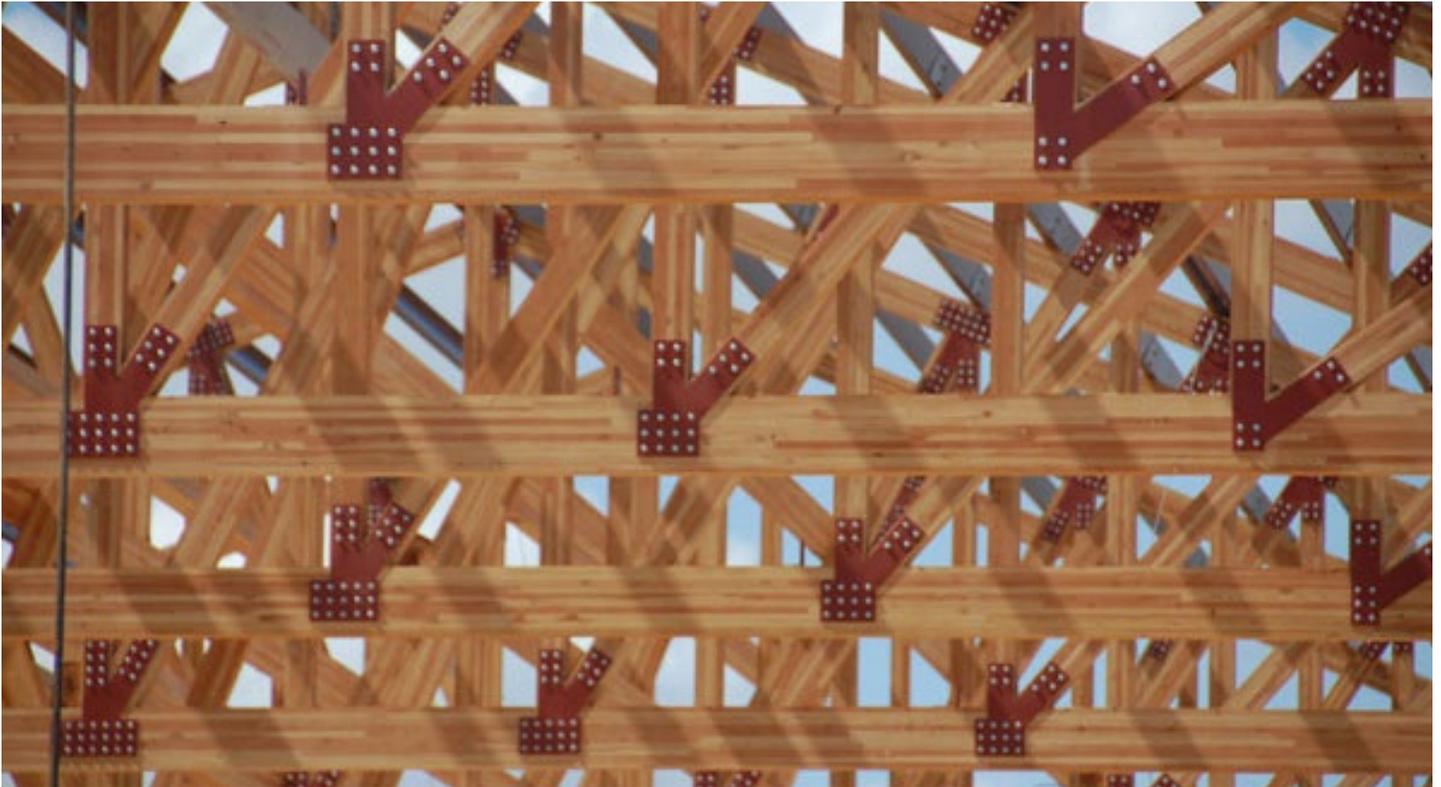


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Spanning the huge interior of the HEB store, the exposed Rosboro glulam beams made a powerful architectural statement and helped reduce the boxed-in, low-ceiling dimensions that exist in many other super-sized stores.

As a resource-efficient alternative to timber beams, Rosboro glulam trusses were part of an overall strategy to embrace energy-efficient design measures.

The trusses were a strong choice to create a resource-efficient commercial project. Manufacturing glulam from smaller second- and third-generation trees and using less fossil fuel in production, Rosboro's materials leave a smaller carbon footprint.

Other energy-smart features of the HEB store included:

- Aggressive day lighting
- LED lights that turn off when aisles are empty
- Night shades that pull over refrigerated cases and conserve electricity after hours
- A heating system that channels waste energy from freezer cases for water heating

Conclusion

The suburban San Antonio HEB store is a prime example of builders and developers creating a large-scale project that remains sensitive to resource efficiency. Combining steel and glulam helps address environmental concerns, including saving HEB energy costs once the store opened.

Grand even by Texas standards, designers were able to integrate advanced building methods to create a grocery store that feels more like an open air marketplace.

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