Purple and gold goes green

The LSU Hilltop Arboretum’s $1.8 million expansion will be built to be environmentally friendly, which seems only fitting. “We want to be a leader in terms of sustainability in design, in architecture, in landscape design,” says Peggy Davis, Hilltop’s executive director. “We want to lead the way.”

The new facility is the first LSU building and one of the first in Baton Rouge to be registered with the U.S. Green Building Council for possible Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED] certification. It will play host to educational and fundraising events, and Hilltop’s annual symposium and will be the final piece of a 1999 building plan that includes the existing administrative building, library and open-air pavilion. The Friends of the LSU Hilltop Arboretum have raised about $1 million of the expansion’s expected price tag; Hilltop does not get money from LSU, Davis says. She hopes construction can begin in six months. —David Jacobs