

YEARLY REPORT 2005

Things went back to normal in 2005... Agritechnove's team was given the chance to work on the design of several new Controlled Environment facilities in the U.S. and Canada. How fascinating to witness the increasing number of high-level facilities available or soon-to-be for plant and insect research. We feel privileged to be involved in such a dynamic community. And we are pleased to report on our contribution for last year.

One very exciting project that kept us quite busy: a new world class Biotron for the University of Western Ontario, a very challenging facility from a design standpoint. It consists of a multi-story laboratory building topped on the roof by a series of 6 air conditioned glass Biomes, all identical in function and technical features. The Biomes are completed by two more greenhouses (a plant conditioning room and a nursery room) and a preparation room, all under insulated glass units. The Biomes are containment level BSL-2+, tighter than standard, kept under constant negative pressure and each has its own airlock/prep room. Each Biome is very precisely controlled between 15 C and 30 C and has all the bells and whistles necessary to maintain a wide variety of climates : RH and CO2 control, rain simulation, fog capable, several dedicated sensors and computer controlled outlets, etc... Construction began in January 2006 and the facility will be completed in the fall.



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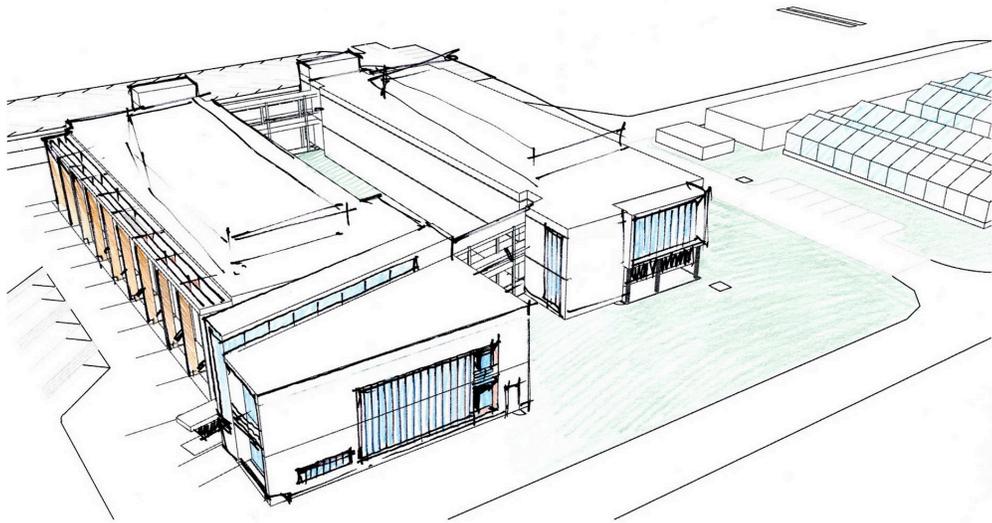
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Construction of final Phase III of the USDA/ARS Fort Collins Station is now completed and in operation. Very functional greenhouses, including 2 air conditioned compartments. The BARC replacement greenhouses are still under construction in Beltsville and will be completed in 2006. Users over there will get greatly enhanced research conditions compared to the old glasshouses that wind-crashed a few years ago.

Design of the Agriculture Research Technology Center in Salinas, CA is under way, about 35% done. Two laboratory buildings and a large greenhouse/headhouse complex (36000 SF, 28 independent zones) will be built. A series of 60 small isolation cubicles (4 wings) kept under positive pressure are added . 2006 will see the end of design and start of construction (in several phases) will follow.



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SCHEME 1

The design of the sugarcane research facility in Houma was put on hold following Katrina but is supposed to come back on line in 2006.

Agritechnove also just started working on the new greenhouses of two research stations in New-York : the Grape Genetics Research Center (Geneva) and the Center for Health-Based Plant Genomics (Ithaca). Also new, the greenhouse design work for the New Jersey Public Health Environmental & Agriculture Laboratory Facility, a rather large and exhaustive public protection center.

This type of work is so exciting. We enjoy it a lot !

See you next year !

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Denis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard Denis, P.E.
President