Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits.
**Water features**
Water, and harnessing its power, is central to the story of our founder, James B. Duke, who was also the founder of Duke Energy.
- Rear courtyard reflecting pool is lined with North Carolina river stone of a certain size; boulders make it look like a streambed. Water slips in sheets over the side.
- Oval, cascading fountain at building entrance honors our founder’s connection to hydroelectric power. Seating invites passersby to pause and reflect.

**Vegetative roof**
Long before construction began, Trustees and staff knew they wanted the building to be LEED certified.
- 6,140-square-foot vegetative “green” roof over the conference wing retains rainfall to minimize runoff and mitigate the “urban heat island effect.”
- Plugs of drought-tolerant sedum and Northern reedgrass are installed in 24-by-24 inch grids.
- Reedgrass provides a gentle swaying movement.

**Plant palette**
Native or adaptive plants – including flowering dogwood, Christmas fern, Carolina phlox and black-eyed Susan — require less water than turf and shrubs.
- Plant palette includes Southern favorites that provide seasonal interest and texture.
- Two species — a witch hazel plant and a serviceberry tree — were brought in from Duke Farms, Mr. Duke’s estate in New Jersey.
- Taller arborvitae create a backdrop for the 8-foot-tall bronze statue of Mr. Duke that stands as an exterior focal point.
- Front greenery offsets hardscape and a wide drive area.

**Special touches**
Simple and elegant landscaping reflects the ideals of our founder.
- Curving “organic” pathway wraps across the back rear courtyard.
- Courtyard walls are formed with stone that’s similar to the stone used at Duke University.
- Metal “green screens” cover one side of the building, where Carolina Jessamine will brighten the limestone façade.
- 20,000-gallon cistern will capture and store most, if not all, of the water needed for irrigation.