

Audi dealership design rolls along

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Courtesy of LRS Architects

LRS Architects' Portland office is driving forward with a new design for an Audi dealership for Ron Tonkin Dealerships, in Wilsonville. The firm has designed several dealerships in the Wilsonville area, including Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville, Ron Tonkin Nissan and Ron Tonkin Gran Turismo.

Planned for 13 acres next to Tonkin's existing Nissan dealership along Interstate 5, the new Audi dealership will be two stories high with 25,400 square feet of sales and service space, as well as 12 service bays and a wash bay. Working with Rebco Properties LLC and the city of Wilsonville's community development department, LRS was able to get site development approval for the dealership, which will require onsite wetland mitigation.

"We have done the mitigation already," said LRS principal Steve Mileham. "There were some challenges with having to relocate the wetlands on the site and accommodating them in the master plan, but it has been completed."

For the Audi project, the LRS team had to adhere to Audi's design guidelines for dealerships, which require the use of transparent and opaque façade sections.

"The company gave us certain guidelines to follow," Mileham said. "Dealership projects require a lot of coordination. You have to balance the needs of the operation with giving it an attractive appearance to draw in the public."

The project team selected perforated, corrugated aluminum sheet metal for the showroom's exterior, along with two-story curtain wall glazing that wraps around the corner of the building. A landscaped staging area at the front of the showroom will allow customers to see vehicles.

The dealership is scheduled to open in the middle of 2010. A general contractor has not yet been selected. Other project consultants working on the project include CR Studio Architects, Nishkian Dean, Interface Engineering, Cardno WRG and landscape architect Christopher Freshley.