

Berkeley City College, Berkeley

Higher Education

Winner



Project architect Mike Matson of Ratcliff says expansive, high performance glass curtain walls were used to convey transparency and openness to the community while admitting northern light and views of the nearby hills.

This new \$46 million, six-story college building houses 20 lecture rooms, 15 labs and a 250-seat auditorium.

A challenge for a single building on a

Judges' Comments

"It's unusual that in a tight site a totally vertical building can provide so much natural daylighting."

landlocked, tight site was replicating such desirable campus amenities as courtyards and plazas that offer sunlight, air and common gathering ground. The oval six-story atrium is the campus quad and social gath-

ering spot, a circulation hub and central entryway with elevators and open stairs arriving and departing at all six floors. The atrium is crowned by a monumental 80-ft by 50-ft skylight, which floods the building with natural light. And an exhaust grille ringing the skylight turns the atrium into a very efficient ductless air return system for the entire building.

The U.S. Green Building Council recently awarded the building a LEED Silver designation, earning the honor by its promotion of urban redevelopment and incorporation of various energy-efficient design elements.

In addition to the life-cycle savings of its energy-efficient design, the new building has already earned the district \$129,000 in cash incentives from Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s Savings by Design program.

Other green elements include:

- Energy Efficiency -- The building is over 40% more energy efficient than the baseline. The keys to this accomplishment are intelligent building controls, and energy-efficient mechanical systems, lighting, and building "envelope" design, such as white roofing to reduce the "urban heat island effect."

- Water Efficiency -- Berkeley City College is 34% more water efficient than a comparable building, due to low-flow sensor-controlled plumbing fixtures.

- Indoor Air Quality -- Indoor air con-

Project Team

Owner

Peralta Community College District, Oakland

General Contractor

SJ Amoroso Construction, Redwood City

Architect

Ratcliff, Emeryville

Project Management

Swinerton Management & Consulting, San Francisco

Key subcontractors:

Forell/Elsesser (structural and civil engineers), San Francisco; Taylor Engineering (mechanical engineer), Alameda; The Engineering Enterprise (electrical engineer), Alameda; SJ Engineers (plumbing engineer), Oakland

taminants were reduced through a rigorous selection process of interior finishes, adhesives, and sealants that limit the emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and the design of mechanical systems that respond to heightened carbon dioxide levels.

- Construction Waste Diversion -- This project diverted 998 tons (77%) of construction waste from landfill.

- Recycled Content and Local/Regional Materials -- Ratcliff says it selected building materials and finishes with high recycled content and 30% of those materials were manufactured from raw materials within the region. <<