



Definitely Distinct

Los Angeles Downtown News Honors the Projects That Stand Out In Their Communities

by Jon Regardie

When the historians look back at the evolution of Downtown Los Angeles, they'll take special note of 2007. They'll recognize that not only did a healthy batch of projects arrive last year, but that many of these developments had been anticipated for a long, long time. As they opened, the fabric of Downtown changed, and so did the perception of the area.

If there is a connector between some of the standout developments, it is that the benefits extend far beyond neighborhood boundaries, although each is a major score for its distinct district.

Winner: Colburn School

The Downtown Los Angeles youth movement took a major step forward in June when the Colburn School flung open the doors of its \$120 million expansion. The project at 200 S. Grand Ave. provides dormitories for the Conservatory of Music and allows the school to add 1,000 students, who will surely fit in with and take advantage of the nearby cultural amenities. But the Colburn expansion means more than just a big-budget building - with a cafe and performance space, it provides opportunities for existing Downtowners. And with Miguel Angel Corzo taking charge as the school's first president, Colburn is now reaching out to the rest of Downtown, aiming to become a vibrant partner on Bunker Hill. Sure, the numbers are impressive: 326,000 square feet and 12 stories, but the bigger impact will be the beautiful music that the Colburn School and Downtown make together.

Downtowners of Distinction Award, Central City East