

Performances mark opening of UCSD Dance Studio Facility

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Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, (619) 534-7404, or pjacoby@ucsd.edu

PERFORMANCES MARK OPENING OF UCSD DANCE STUDIO FACILITY

Completion of the new \$3 million Dance Studio Facility at the University of California, San Diego, was marked today with a program featuring dance demonstrations by undergraduate students and remarks by UCSD officials and the structure's internationally renowned architect, Antoine Predock.

The new facility for the Department of Theatre and Dance forms the third component in UCSD's "theatre district" on the Revelle College campus. Predock, internationally known for designing buildings which complement the climate, terrain and materials indigenous to a region, also designed the adjacent Mandell Weiss Forum which opened on the campus in 1991.

Sited in a eucalyptus grove, the facility contains three state-of-the-art dance studios for choreography, ballet, jazz, modern, tap and ethnic dance instruction. The studios are grouped around a courtyard and anchored by a curving wall which points the building to the main campus and flows into the Forum. Apertures in the arching wall allow natural ventilation and light into the studios; floor-to-ceiling windows provide views of the surrounding grove.

The "choreographic" intention of the building itself, Predock's team notes, is reinforced by the technical capabilities a sprung basketweave floor with a surface appropriate for a variety of dance styles, acoustical isolation of the studios, and the future ability to accommodate public performances in the largest studio. Spacious shower and locker rooms amply provide service to classes.

By weaving the facility into the existing eucalyptus grove, exterior spaces for casual gatherings and impromptu performances are created. "Its design echoes the color and ambiance of the grove, providing dynamic visual spaces to promote and nurture the creative dance activity inside," the team notes.

Predock describes the design as "a dance on the site...an impulse toward movement where the dynamic tension between the building and its site echoes the choreographic relationship between dancers."

UCSD's Department of Theatre and Dance offers a BA degree in dance, a dance minor and courses that satisfy the university's general education requirements. The dance faculty is comprised of three fulltime dance professionals, seven parttime dance specialists and regular rotating artists-in-residence of national recognition and acclaim.

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