

## **Dean of UCSD School of Architecture Adele Naude Santos wins design competition for Perris, CA.'s new Civic Center**

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### **ARCHITECT AND DEAN OF UCSD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE WINS DESIGN COMPETITION FOR PERRIS, CA., CIVIC CENTER**

A design team led by Adele Naude Santos, architect and dean of the University of California, San Diego, School of Architecture, has won the design competition for a new civic center in Perris, Ca. The Santos design, one of four competing for the project, won unanimous support from the jury which described it as "a great gift to the city."

Santos' team included San Diego landscape architects Wallace Roberts & Todd, and artist Mathieu Gregoire.

Purpose of the competition, coordinated by Donald Statsny of Stastny & Burke Associates for the City of Perris, was to generate a visionary design for the new public and administrative center for the fast-growing city. The competition was judged by a jury comprised of Frederick Fisher, architect; Martha Schwartz, landscape architect; Mary Louise Donovan, artist; Benjamin Stansbury, former Beverly Hills mayor; Marion Ashley, Perris resident, and Stasny.

Santos is founding dean of the UCSD School of Architecture and principal of Adele Naude Santos and Associates, an architecture and urban design practice with offices in San Diego, Ca., and Philadelphia, Pa. The firm's work is acclaimed internationally for its design innovation, spatial inventiveness and social and environmental responsibility.

Her team's winning design attempts to create a truly civic place for Perris, one which goes beyond meeting the city's functional requirements and invites the public to enjoy the complex. Experiential courtyards to capture the environmental and historical qualities of Perris were woven throughout the site. For instance, Santos designed what she describes as a "sky chamber," a large cone-like structure of mirrored glass under which people can walk and look up to see the sky reflected.

A "wind catcher," "earth chamber" and "rain catcher" were designed along similar principles, allowing people to experience the qualities of the elements. About the winning scheme, the jury reports, "It is a clear diagram, conceived as a series of artifacts and events around which governmental and civic functions are clustered. The layout of program spaces is logical and straightforward, yet has a sense of playfulness." Added the jury: "The basic concept of 'civic center' as an interpretive center of historic evolution and natural phenomena is a powerful idea that is unique and distinct from other cities and civic centers. This is an innovative and imaginative complex that the citizens of Perris will learn from as they use it."

Other teams in the limited competition included: (1) William Turnbull Associates, architect, with Andrew Spurlock Martin Poirier landscape architect; Anderson/Schwartz with Venturi Scott Brown & Associates, architects, and Quennell Rothschild Associates, landscape architects; and (3) Studio Works/Robert Mangurian and Mary Ann Ray, architect, with Burton & Spitz landscape architect, and Eric Orr, artist.

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