

UC San Diego, Sundt Construction, Safdie Rabines Architects and Volunteers Partner to Renovate La Jolla Shores Lifeguard Tower

University and partners will enhance public safety on one of San Diego's busiest beaches

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With peeling paint and deteriorating paneling, the lifeguard tower near La Jolla Shores is about to fall into a state of disrepair so the University of California, San Diego is working with the City of San Diego, and partnering with Sundt Construction, Inc. and Safdie Rabines Architects, to launch a volunteer project to revitalize the tower and enhance public safety.

The project to renovate the tower in front of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, located in one of the city's most popular beaches, is part of the UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary Volunteer50 initiative. The Volunteer50 is a call to service from Chancellor Marye Anne Fox challenging all students, faculty, staff, alumni and university friends to perform 50 hours of volunteer service during UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary celebration, from September 2010 through June 2011.

"This is an exciting Volunteer50 project for UC San Diego," Fox said. "UC San Diego, in partnership with the community, is restoring a critical community service. This project was made possible with the help of Safdie Rabines Architects and Sundt Construction, Inc. and we hope to involve more community partners in this endeavor."

"The new lifeguard tower will have more efficient space with increased visibility and better public announcement systems that will help lifeguards perform medical aids and rescues," said Rick Wurts, Lifeguard Chief for San Diego Fire-Rescue. "These improvements are especially important at this popular beach. In 2010, lifeguards performed 84 rescues and 95 medical aids in this area."

When the project is complete, this tower will look quite similar to the building behind it, drawing the natural aesthetics of the award-winning Robert Paine Scripps Forum for Science, Society and the Environment on the campus of UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, also designed by Safdie Rabines, right onto the beach.

Councilmember Sherri Lightner said, "The revitalized lifeguard tower exemplifies how partnerships between the City, UC San Diego, local businesses and the community can accomplish great things, even during tough economic times."

Partial demolition of the current lifeguard tower is tentatively scheduled for the second week of February. An aggressive timeline is in place in order to ensure that the tower is ready for use by lifeguards by the end of April.

For more information, visit www.50th.ucsd.edu and click on "Volunteer50."

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