

Adele Naude Santos named first dean of UCSD School of Architecture

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Adele Naude Santos, professor of architecture and urban design at the University of Pennsylvania and a practicing Philadelphia architect, was named founding dean of the University of California, San Diego School of Architecture during a June 14-15 meeting of the UC Board of Regents in San Diego.

Santos served as chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania from 1981 to 1987. The University granted her a leave of absence following this administrative service, permitting her to re-establish her private practice in architecture and urban design. The Santos firm has produced several prize-winning designs during the past two years.

Santos was recommended to head the new School of Architecture after an international search by an 18-member committee comprised of UC faculty from three UC campuses, staff, and off-campus professionals broadly representative of the San Diego architecture community.

UCSD's new School of Architecture was approved by the UC Board of Regents in September, 1988, making it the third in the UC system, after UC Berkeley and UCLA.

In accepting the appointment Santos noted: "I believe it is essential to create a new model for architectural education at this time; one which is more responsive to the changing social, environmental and technical issues facing our profession. UCSD, as a major research university set in a growing dynamic city, can be the perfect place to challenge the architectural status quo.

"A new school," she added, "must aim not only to advance thinking about architecture, as it can be defined most broadly, but also to focus its research on how architecture can contribute to solving problems affecting the future of our social and physical environment. The curriculum, while conveying essential technical and historical knowledge, also should nurture creativity and challenge the students intellectually to use their technical and analytic skills to solve problems in the wider public context."

William J. McGill, president emeritus of Columbia University and a former UCSD chancellor, headed the search committee. He commented: "Adele Naude Santos is a gifted, prize-winning architect chosen by a diversely-experienced search committee as the ideal founding dean of UCSD's new School of Architecture. She is internationally acclaimed for the brilliance of her design work. It is difficult to imagine someone better qualified by talent and experience to take on this challenge."

UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson noted that "Adele Santos is a brilliant, internationally recognized architect who will provide extraordinary leadership for UCSD's new School of Architecture. In beginning new intellectual endeavors such as a school, UCSD has always depended upon the talents of the individual recruited to head the new unit to create the conditions for success. I have the utmost confidence that Adele Santos will exemplify this tradition."

And, said UCSD Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Harold Ticho, who led the effort to create the new school, "I am delighted with the final outcome of our very thorough search for the first dean. We did not want just another School of Architecture at UCSD. Under the leadership of Adele Santos, we shall develop a very distinctive school with the intellectual sparkle which she herself communicates."

It is anticipated that UCSD's new School of Architecture will begin accepting bachelor's and professional master's degree students in the fall of 1992. Original plans being reviewed by Santos called for 100 students in the master's degree program, 10 doctoral students and about 200 undergraduate majors in the Bachelor of Arts program when the school reaches steady state enrollment in the late 1990s.

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Santos received masters of architecture and city planning degrees, both at the University of Pennsylvania, and a master's of architecture in urban design from Harvard University. She also holds a diploma from the Architectural Association in London.

Before joining the University of Pennsylvania, Santos served as a professor of architecture in the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, from 1979 to 1981. Prior to that she was professor of architecture at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Additionally, she has taught at Columbia University, the University of Cincinnati and Miami University in Ohio.

Her research has focused on a wide range of topics. She has investigated the implications of solar energy for community design and the use of plant material for passive cooling for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She has studied the evolution of the American single family house in response to changing social, cultural and economic factors as well as the changing form of housing in tribal villages of the Tswana in Botswana. Recently she designed new prototypes for two-family houses to be man-produced by Misawa Homes Co., Ltd. for small urban lots in Tokyo.

Among her numerous awards, Santos last year won a competition to design a 24-unit residential development for an infill site adjacent to a historic district in Camden, N.Y. The project uses prefabricated modules to construct paired townhouse units for low and moderate income families. She had a winning entry in an international collaborative competition for an amphitheater, restaurant and natural history museum at Arts Park, Los Angeles, 1989, and a winning proposal in an architectural competition for affordable multi-family housing for Franklin/La Brea, Hollywood, sponsored by the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Community Redevelopment Agency, 1988. This project was exhibited at the Temporary Contemporary Museum of Modern Art in Los Angeles as part of the "Blueprints for Modern Living" show last year.

Her international reputation is apparent in a sampling of her 1989 designs. They include new facilities for the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania; an office/showroom building in Harajuku, Tokyo; the infill site project in Camden, N.J. and facilities for ARTSPARK LA. Current projects include a hotel and condominium complex in Guam and an apartment complex with athletic facilities in Fukuoka, Japan.

Recently, the City of San Diego named Santos as one of seven jurors to select the architect/builder team that will design the new civic center.

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