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Architectural designs for Satellite Medical Facility approved

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Architectural designs for a satellite medical facility to be built on the University of California, San Diego campus were approved today (July 15) by the Board of Regents during a meeting on the UCLA campus.

The \$74.1 million project will be comprised of a 120-bed hospital component and an adjacent ambulatory care center. It will be operated as a satellite of the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest.

The facility will be located on UCSD's 40-acre medical campus east of Interstate 5.

The building designs approved by the Regents were the work of Stone, Marraccini & Patterson (SMP) of San Francisco and St. Louis, an architectural and planning firm noted for its design of health care and research facilities, and Delawie-Bretton/Wilkes & Associates of San Diego.

David Martino, SMP vice president, described the satellite medical facility design as "contemporary but timeless; a highly sophisticated building system which will adapt to change over time. Its 'sandstone-like' exterior is sympathetic to the San Diego environment and the area on which it is sited.

"As the first building element on the 'east campus,'" he noted, "it presents an opportunity to set the architectural tone for the rest of the east campus development."

The basic building design interweaves three building "blocks" which will house nursing units, a diagnostic/treatment center and the ambulatory care center. The three blocks are arranged so that the nursing units are directly adjacent to the diagnostic/treatment center, with the ambulatory care center attached to the main entrance by a major connecting link.

Massing of the two- and three-story ambulatory care center with a three- and four-level nursing unit and diagnostic/treatment center enhances the natural rolling topography of the canyon site, the architects said.

One of the most prominent and exciting features of the hospital's interior, according to the Regents presentation, is an atrium which will serve as the connecting element between the nursing unit and the diagnostic/treatment center. Alive with plants and art work, this "main street" atrium will be approximately three stories in height and enclosed by large quantities of glass with a skylight that runs the length of the spine.

The exterior of the building will be made of glass fiber reinforced concrete panels of a sand-tone color articulated in an undulating fashion around the windows and openings of the facility. This sculpting of the facade ultimately results in a very elegant look to the design of the building, according to the architects.

Gerard N. Burrow, M.D., vice chancellor for health sciences at UCSD, noted that the new facility "will not mean two hospitals in a single system, but that the existing Medical Center will be located on two sites. The proposed campus hospital is absolutely vital to the academic future of the medical school," he said, "providing basic researchers opportunities to work closely with clinicians."

Noted Michael R. Stringer, director of Hospitals and Clinics, "acceptance of the building design by the Regents represents the culmination of many years of planning efforts. We now look forward to completion of the facility."

The hospital component (diagnostic, treatment and nursing units) contains 110,225 assignable square feet and the ambulatory care center has 37,800 assignable square feet. The total project contains 148,025 assignable square feet and 257,120 overall gross square feet.

The basic programmatic components of the project include 120 beds and a range of diagnostic/treatment services including radiology, laboratory, cardiac services, neurology, emergency, pharmacy, physical/occupational therapy, cafeteria, admitting, administrative services, surgery, endoscopy, bronchoscopy and hospital support services. The Ambulatory Care Center will incorporate a broad spectrum of clinical specialties to accommodate the School of Medicine faculty group practice.

The project will be debt-financed. A completion date of 1991 is estimated.

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