

UCSD's Third College Residence Halls win design awards

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UCSD RESIDENCE HALLS WIN DESIGN AWARDS

A new dormitory complex on the Third College campus at the University of California, San Diego, has won two awards for excellence in design.

The facility, built into a hillside overlooking the ocean and Torrey Pines State Park, received a citation for design from the American Institute of Architects and a PANDA Award Honorable Mention for planning and design from the Planning Commission of the City of San Diego.

The dormitory's architect was Delawie/Bretton/Wilkes Associates (DBW), the design firm responsible for the Penguin Encounter at Sea World, the new Police Headquarters in downtown San Diego and the Metropolitan Transit Development Board building now under construction.

Running contrary to trend, the architects consulted with a student committee prior to drawing the plans. "They gave us excellent input, particularly concerning the use of space and the inclusion of common lounge areas," DBW senior partner Homer Delawie said.

Known as the Third College Residence Halls, the unique, modular complex is home to 400 freshmen, grouped in "families" of eight. They live in pods, or suites, which contain two double rooms and four singles, a common living area, bathroom facilities and a balcony. Elevators and ramps provide easy access for the handicapped.

The 50 pods are stacked in eight striking gray modules of varying heights, enhanced with blue trim. A bridge flows from the enclave to the upper campus, where classrooms are located.

The architects' primary challenge was to create a somewhat dense, urban environment on UCSD's Western slopes. "The terrain helped dictate the solution. We wanted something that would step down the hillside and that's why we settled on a cluster concept," Delawie said.

In contrast to the modular living quarters, the complex also contains a rounded building at the top of the slope, housing the popular Oceanview Terrace dining hall, administrative offices and several conference rooms. The residential cubes cluster at the bottom of the hill around an informal, grass amphitheater, designed for concerts and other programs. Recreational facilities include a dirt volleyball court and a regulation size basketball court.

"The students like the environment," Third College Residential Dean Yolanda Trevino said. "I've heard very positive responses. It's a nice comfortable size. They like the decor. And they love Oceanview Terrace. It's the best thing that's ever happened here on campus. It contains a variety of specialty food bars, including Mexican, a wok shop and a pastry bar."

"It was a difficult site that incorporates the design elements in a very nice and functional way," M. Boone Hellmann, UCSD assistant vice chancellor for Facilities, Design and Construction, said. "I'm certain the facility will be a model for dormitories at other campuses."

On the design team with Delawie were DBW partners Mike Wilkes and Jim Barker. Mark Nelson of FD&C was the UCSD project manager.

The dormitory was built by the Dillingham Construction Company, based in Pleasanton, CA. Landscape architect was Wimmer/Yamada and Associates.

Dorm captions:

Photo A

The new award-winning Third College Residence Halls at UCSD were built on a slope overlooking the ocean. The grassy area in the center is an amphitheater.

Photo B

The building on the hill houses the popular Oceanview Terrace dining facilities in the new Third College Residence Halls at UCSD. The modular buildings to the left are the students' residential quarters. The facility recently received two awards for excellence in design.

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