

UCSD School of Architecture approved by UC Regents

September 16, 1988

UC REGENTS APPROVE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE FOR UCSD

The University of California Board of Regents today (September 16) approved the establishment of a School of Architecture at the University of California, San Diego. The decision came at the conclusion of the Board's two-day meeting in San Francisco.

UCSD becomes the third UC campus, after UC Berkeley and UCLA, to have a school of architecture.

"The Regents' approval of the School of Architecture is a major event for the campus," said Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "The search for a dean will begin promptly, and we expect to recruit a faculty that will make this one of the top architectural schools in the world.

"The school will provide an exciting and stimulating environment for undergraduate and graduate students alike," continued Atkinson. "It will also provide innovative advances in design and engineering that will contribute to architecture in San Diego and the Pacific Basin."

According to a 14-member steering committee report to UCSD Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Harold Ticho, who spearheaded the effort to create the school, it will have a strong research component, in addition to educating future architects.

"Promising lines of research include planning in coastal communities, design issues related to new building materials and the integrity of structures subject to seismic stress, computer-aided design, providing for the homeless, and the design of developing urban communities, including those that cross international boundaries such as San Diego-Tijuana," the report said.

The steering committee was chaired by Richard Attiyeh, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and consisted of UCSD faculty and administrators, representatives of the UC Berkeley and UCLA schools of architecture, along with architects and builders from the San Diego community.

Ticho said the school will help strengthen ties between the campus and its neighbors.

"We are delighted. There has been a great deal of interest by the San Diego architectural community. It will be a school which will substantially broaden the campus' educational enterprise," Ticho said.

"We continue to be interested in educational possibilities that will strengthen ties to the San Diego community. By developing a first rate school of architecture, we can make a contribution to the quality of life in San Diego."

There will be four components in the planned curriculum:

- 1) undergraduate course work that will provide liberal arts education leading to a bachelor's degree;
- 2) a professional master's degree program;
- 3) a small doctoral program, and
- 4) a continuing education program for practicing professionals.

Current plans call for the new school to begin accepting bachelor's and professional master's degree students in fall 1991, and doctoral candidates in fall, 1992. The school plans for 100 students in the master's degree program, 10 doctoral students, and about 200 undergraduate majors in the Bachelor of Arts program.

The school was first proposed in the fall of 1987, and has received support from other architecture programs in California, as well as the local architectural community.

The steering committee cited several reasons why a school of architecture was needed at UCSD.

Among them were the rapid growth and development of the San Diego region, and the need for more research on building and environmental design problems as the area continues to grow.

"The school of architecture at UCSD is an extremely important addition to the University, but more than that, it will have an exciting impact on the local architecture community, and eventually on the quality of our area's built environment," said Frank Hope, Jr., a San Diego architect and former member of the UC Board of Regents.

"The fact that some of the most thoughtful and talented architects in the world will have an opportunity to teach, lecture and work in and through the school will definitely have a positive effect on the quality level of San Diego architecture," Hope said.

COMMENTS ABOUT THE UCSD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

BARRY MC COMIC, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, R.B. MC COMIC, INC.

Builder and developer

"I believe that there is a very strong need for a school of architecture in San Diego, and I'm particularly enthused that the steering committee has recommended a course of study that will satisfy the demand for the education of architects who can deal both with developers and their desire to achieve bottom—line economics, and at the same time, adhere to aesthetic and moral standards with respect to creating livable places.

The thrust of what the steering committee is recommending is not only a school which will produce technically competent architects, as well as architects who have practical knowledge of the economic need of almost any project, but also will have a scope of education that will allow them to make a contribution to the public at large and a contribution to the general cause of civilization.

What we have seen in many schools of architecture is the polarization of the practical and technical on the one side, and the aesthetic and idealistic on the other side. What we visualize this school to be is a coming together of both of those poles.

I think the lack of a top quality architecture school manifests itself in the lack of good planning in the city, and the general lack of aesthetic appeal of the structures and edifices that are being built in the city. I think a good school of architecture in our midst can have a very positive influence in terms of planning and in terms of creating aesthetically appealing structures.

I also think a good school of architecture can assist in solving some of the social problems which a large city like ours faces. By this I mean creating low and moderate income housing, dealing with problems of traffic flow, and the creation of amenities in a functional way that our individual communities want to have included in the community's development process."

ROBERT MOSHER

PRINCIPAL, MOSHER, DREW, WATSON & FERGUSON

Architect

"I have worked on this for 25 years. A group of us have been anxious to have a school of architecture in San Diego.

San Diego has suffered a great deal in the past, and even now is struggling with the notion of what its real vision is, of our image of what kind of city we should be. It is a city that is looking for itself. One of the things about great cities is that they all have schools of architecture. I think there is a relationship there in that the schools of architecture develop a point of view. Schools develop an attitude toward the region. Many of the graduates go out and practice in the city.

The school at UCSD will ultimately have a very profound effect on San Diego in the search for its identity. That's one big thing.

You don't have to have a big school to have an impact. It will have an impact right away. This school, by virtue of its existence, will bring together a lot of stimulating people, and those people will be accessible to local practitioners.

There will be an interchange of activity that is beneficial to the community. Graduates will come into local practices and influence them. The local architectural community will have a source of superior people."

ROB WELLINGTON QUIGLEY

PRINCIPAL, QUIGLEY ARCHITECTS

Architect

"It's one of the things San Diego is in need of the most. What is exciting about it is that it is going to provide an intellectual focus for San Diego's emerging architectural personality.

It is going to be a resource and a forum for dealing with the complex problems associated with San Diego's unprecedented growth.

It will have the long term impact of raising the standards of the profession. We will be more connected with new and different thoughts in architecture. A high level of student will be attracted by the school and those students will have an impact on local architects.

What it is going to do is to facilitate communication among the architects of San Diego."

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