

Presentation Center, Los Gatos

Green Building
Winner



A living roof, vegetated swales, solar panels and strawbale walls were just a few of the sustainable elements of the Presentation Center, a welcome center and dining room for an interfaith retreat and conference center sponsored by the Sisters of Presentation, a Catholic religious community.

Swinerton Builders used a host of

tal education area and a kitchen and dining room that can serve 200 people.

Energy saving design features include a southern orientation, which allows for the building to use sun for heating and light; plastered 24-in. strawbale walls, which provide high mass for thermal stability; an earth-sheltered basement, which is used as intake for the evaporative cooler for the

Judges' Comments

“Outstanding use of the latest and best green building design and techniques.”

green building materials and equipment on the project, which received a LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The 10,000-sq.-ft. center features a bookstore, reception area, environmen-

dining areas; and the living roof and Energy Star roofing used throughout for lighter color roofing, which prevents heat island effect and lowers cooling demands in the summer.

Swinerton also used low-emitting

(low VOC) paints and interior sealants, used recycled content in building materials (countertops, ceramic tile, signage), utilized a construction waste diversion plan, and used FSC-certified lumber and furnishings. <<

Project Team

Owner

Sisters of the Presentation, Los Gatos

General Contractor

Swinerton Builders, San Francisco

Architect

Dan Smith and Associates, Berkeley

Construction Manager

Cole Project Management, San Francisco

Key subcontractors

Rosendin Electric, San Jose

J.J. Albanese (cast-in-place concrete), Santa Clara

Santa Cruz Concrete (concrete finishes), Santa Cruz

AGC Inc. (mechanical and plumbing), Campbell

Urfer Engineering (photovoltaic system, solar water heating), San Jose

Alliance Roofing, San Jose


Glazier Iron Works, Hayward

Hollis Glass, San Jose

Douglas Landscape, San Jose

[HOME](#)[AWARDS PROGRAM](#)[Design Awards](#)[GALLERY](#)[PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS](#)[ARE Review](#)[Annual Business Meeting](#)[Continuing Education \(CES\)](#)[Integrated Practice Salon Series](#)[LEED AP Exam Prep Classes](#)[Small Firms, Great Projects](#)[PUBLIC PROGRAMS](#)[AIA SF/SFMOMA Lecture Series](#)[ArchCasts \(Podcasts\)](#)[Architects on Celluloid Film Series](#)[Architecture and the City](#)[San Francisco Living: Home Tours](#)

2007 DESIGN HONOR AWARD

NEXT 

Energy + Sustainability

Presentation Welcoming Center and Dining Hall



Mariko Reed

The beautifully crafted Dining Hall revitalizes this existing retreat/conference center. Deeply rooted in passive solar design, the LEED Gold facility's features include strawbale construction, renewable energy generation, living roofs and advanced stormwater management. This project reflects a modest regionalism, stemming from mindfulness of the local environment, very appropriate for a facility that serves a religious order.

Project Title

Presentation Welcoming Center and Dining Hall

Location of Project

Los Gatos, CA

Architect

Daniel Smith & Associates

General Contractor

Swinerton Builders

Structural Engineer

Tipping Mar + Associates

Mechanical Engineer

High Sun Engineering

Electrical Engineer

Silverman & Light

Civil Engineer

Carroll Engineering

Landscape

Wolfe Mason Associates/DC&E