

Real Estate Roundup

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College Buildings Achieve LEED Silver Certification

The new Humanities & Arts and Math & Business classroom buildings at San Diego Miramar College have been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Silver certifications for sustainable and green design by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The buildings, which were completed in November 2010, are the San Diego Community College District's ninth and 10th facilities to be LEED certified. The classroom buildings are Miramar College's first to obtain the prestigious Silver certification.

The Humanities & Arts Building consists of 45,000 square feet of new space for the English, visual arts, music, speech and foreign language programs. The building includes state-of-the-art "smart" classrooms equipped with computers and audiovisual and multimedia equipment. It also includes a 60-seat lecture theater, a recording studio, and studio space for drawing, painting and ceramics.

The Math & Business Building consists of approximately 46,000 square feet of new "smart" business computer classrooms, computer labs, and a mathematics research center.

Both projects were named "Projects of Distinction" winners in the 2008 Education Design Showcase, honoring innovative, yet, practical solutions in planning, design and construction of higher education facilities.

Combined as a \$34.3 million dual-classroom building project, the facilities include a number of unique features: Sloped roofs provide north-facing clerestory windows (a band of narrow windows along the very top of a high wall, allowing light to filter into adjacent spaces) and south-facing photovoltaic panels.

The design includes efficient thermal "massing," which delays the transfer of heat throughout the course of a day, and minimizes the impact of a heating or cooling load on a building. Heavy materials such as concrete, brick and stone can all be used to achieve thermal massing.

All windows utilize "high-performance" glass that allows sunlight to filter into the building, but reduces the amount of ultraviolet light and solar heat entering the building.

Recycled materials, high-efficiency lighting, plumbing and mechanical systems are used throughout.

The classroom buildings were funded by the college district's \$1.55 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program, which is providing for new instructional and career training facilities, major renovations, and campuswide infrastructure projects at City, Mesa and Miramar colleges, and six Continuing Education campuses throughout San Diego. The project team included: NTD Architecture, Sundt Construction, DCE Inc., Michael Wall Engineering, Wiseman + Rohy Structural Engineers, James Bray and Gafcon Inc.