

2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Early Childhood Education Center

Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA
New Construction

2012 School Planning & Architectural Exhibition
Harley Ellis Devereaux

Early Childhood Education Center

Exterior overall view, main entry



Community Environment

In November 2002, voters in the Rancho Santiago Community College District approved Measure E, providing \$337 million for renovation and new construction at both Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College. The new child development center complex is the newest Measure E project at Santa Ana College, accommodating 178 infants, toddlers and preschool children, as well as up to 100 college students. As an extension to the academic program of the college, the center is a unique facility featuring eight children's classrooms, lecture rooms and opportunities for on-site observation. The academic program is housed in lecture rooms and offices on the second floor of the facility's centrally located administration building.

Main stair tower at observation deck overlooking central commons



Community Environment

The child development center at Santa Ana College serves more than 200 families daily. The location on the edge of the commuter parking lot dominating the southern edge of the campus allows the College to educate and nurture parents while they attend college, work and/or seek gainful employment. The new facility also allows the consolidation of the location of the Human Development Program, an influential college level instructional program that prepares Santa Ana College's students for careers working with children. The concept lets young children have a richer experience with nature. With endemic childhood obesity and increased isolation from nature, this project provides an indoor/outdoor sanctuary from the city.



Central commons acts as the shared center piece for all the age specific play yards around it

Learning Environment

The learning environment has been designed specifically to meet the program needs of a uniquely combined program located at the edge of a large commuter College campus:

- The facility combines children's classrooms and resource areas with a small teaching facility for the college's early childhood education program.
- The children's classroom clusters, each with their own unique outdoor play space provides differentiated nursery and playground experiences that emphasize both individual development and socialization skills.
- Within the complex are distinctive play areas for each of the children's age group, which have been carefully integrated into the overall design composition.

The Center accommodates the needs of students in the College's Early Development program and provides resources that will help develop them while they are in school, as well in as in future professional endeavors.



Exterior view of 3-4 Year old classroom bungalow

Learning Environment

Some unique and effective uses of space to support learning include:

- Cluster of nurseries and age-specific areas
- Four double 'bungalows' house pairs of classrooms for different age groups with shared kitchens bathrooms and storage.
- Placement of academic program on second floor for unobtrusive observation
- Dry streambed running the length of the play yards is a shared feature for exploration and play
- Each classroom opens directly onto its own semi-private patio and the adjacent outdoor play area are subdivided into a series of smaller age-appropriate play spaces, each with toy and equipment storage.

While the footprint of each bungalow is the same, each classroom is structured so that it can be subdivided into smaller classrooms for younger children. Thus, each bungalow can house up to two large classrooms for two's and pre-school-age children or up to four small classrooms for infants and toddlers and accommodate evolving population needs in the future.

Interior view of typical children's classroom



Physical Environment

The design team was inspired by the village of craftsman cottages and gardens at Pacific Oaks, Pasadena, a leader in early childhood education. This model has been reinterpreted in a contemporary vein. The children's classrooms are clustered by age group in modernist bungalows, each with their own bathrooms, kitchens, patios, sky-lit classrooms and protected patios, with adjacent play yards grouped around a large shared commons. The center features eight children's classrooms, a central kitchen and administrative area and two lecture rooms. The College program's second floor perch includes an open veranda, allowing unobtrusive observation of the playgrounds below.

Several features help give the center its unique character:

- The scale and character of the facility is domestic in nature and responsive to the neighborhood context but appropriately "modern" in its campus setting



View South to administration building housing reception, offices and college classrooms (infant toddler classroom bungalow beyond)

Physical Environment

Unique gardens, porches and yards that form outdoor play spaces around and between the classroom buildings enhance the child-oriented environment and provide a welcoming, nurturing, integrated and secure environment

The design team had to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the College's Master Plan, which were particularly rigorous in the types of materials to be used. Perimeter walls and the base of portions of the building of honed and natural concrete block, interspersed with composition wood siding. At occasional intervals, the standing seam roofs fold over to form vertical elements which add life and rhythm to the facades. The adjacent outdoor play areas are shaded by trellises and deep overhangs and porches to shield the children from the sun.



View of playgrounds from upper observation balcony

Planning Process

Individual and integrated workshops and monthly meetings with the user groups were used to engage the two teaching faculties for the facility, the care givers, college administration and facility personnel, as well as the architects overseeing the College's Master Plan.

The consensus based design was achieved through a series of hands-on workshops:

The design team first diagrammed program relationships between indoor and outdoor spaces.

The program was then used to develop three distinct optional site massing models: a single one story building; a single two-story building; and a village scheme with separate, individual buildings housing different components of the program.

Consensus developed around the idea of the 'village' scheme. A subsequent workshop focused on different variations of the village scheme, particularly in terms of open space versus the massing of buildings on site. The subsequent plan reflected the stakeholder's desire to have both separate play yards for different age groups and a central 'commons' shared by the whole child development center community.



College level classroom for Early Child Development program



Interior view of typical children's classroom (3-4 year olds)

Exterior view of buildings and walled gardens from Southeast



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Project Details

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| Submitting Firm : | Harley Ellis Devereaux |
| Project Role | Architecture and MEP Engineering |
| Project Contact | John R. Dale, FAIA, LEED AP |
| Title | Principal and Pre K-12 Studio Leader |
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| City, State or Province, Country | Los Angeles, CA 90017 |
| Phone | 213.542.4500 |
| Other Firm: | Katherine Spitz & Associates |
| Project Role | Landscape Architecture |
| Project Contact | Katherine Spitz |
| Title | Principal |
| Address | 4212 ½ Glencoe Avenue |
| City, State or Province, Country | Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 |
| Phone | 310.574.4460 |
| Other Firm: | William Koh & Associates |
| Project Role | Structural Engineer |
| Project Contact | William K. Koh S. E. |
| Title | Principal |
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| City, State or Province, Country | Tarzana, CA 91356 |
| Phone | 818.342.1125 |
| Other Firm: | Wheeler & Gray, Inc. |
| Project Role | Civil Engineer |
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| City, State or Province, Country | Pasadena , CA 91107 |
| Phone | 626.432.5850 |
| Construction Firm: | Bernards |
| Project Role | General Contractor |
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Project Details

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Project Name | Early Childhood Education Center at Santa Ana College |
| City | Santa Ana |
| State | CA |
| District Name | Rancho Santiago Community College District |
| Supt/President | Veronica Mackenney, Director |
| Occupancy Date | 2011 |
| Grades Housed | Infant to 4 years – Children College age students |
| | |
| Capacity(Students) | 160 children and 100 students |
| Site Size (acres) | 1.23 acres (53,331 sf) |
| Gross Area (sq. ft.) | 18,200 sf |
| Per Occupant(pupil) | 94 sf / child and 125 sf of outdoor play area per child |
| gross/net please indicate | Net 1.13 (85% efficient) |
| | |
| Design and Build? | No |
| If yes, Total Cost: | Construction and site development costs |
| Includes: | |
| | |
| If no, | |
| Site Development: | \$450,000 |
| Building Construction: | \$6,050,000 |
| Fixed Equipment: | Included above |
| Other: | |
| | |
| Total: | \$6,500,000 |



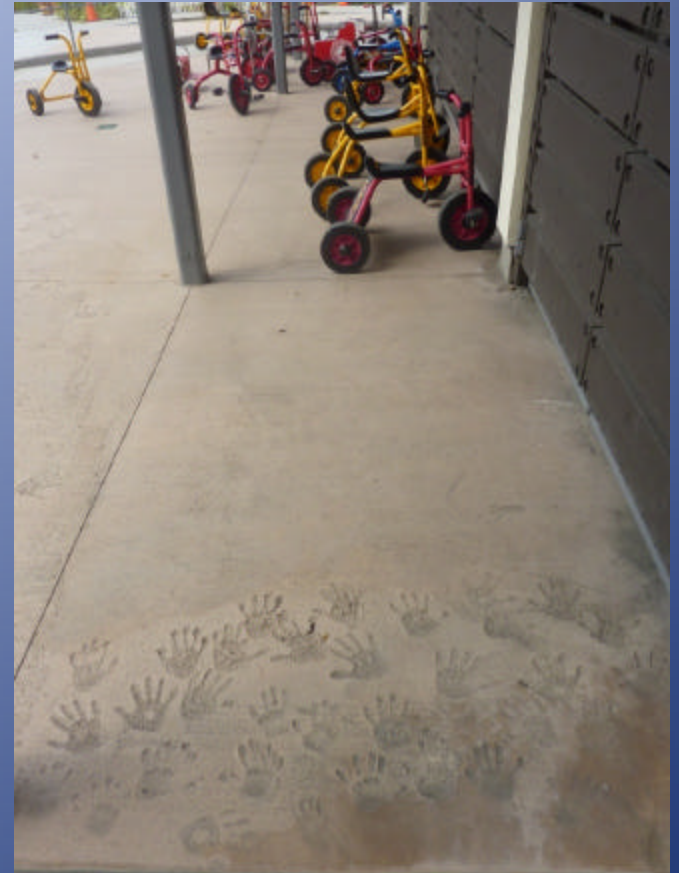
Interior view of typical children's classroom (toddlers)

View from second floor - through stairwell to play yard



Main Entry Portico





Exterior play area, bike shelters and handprints, fish imprints in stream bed

Exterior play area

