

Best of **2007** Northern California

College of San Mateo Science Building & Planetarium, San Mateo

Higher Education
Award of Merit



Project Team

Owner

College of San Mateo

General Contractor

McCarthy Building Cos., San Francisco

Architect

LPA Inc., Roseville

Structural Engineer

Rutherford & Chekene, San Francisco

The Science Building and Planetarium project was one of five community college facility construction projects allowed under the design-build pilot program created by the passage of Assembly Bill 1000. The design-build team on the project was McCarthy Building Cos. and LPA Inc.

The 62,000-sq-ft, three-story, \$24 million building serves as the anchor to the cam-

pus' north entrance. It features a planetarium and an observatory with a retractable roof for several fixed telescopes and houses lecture halls, offices and laboratories. McCarthy/LPA say they dedicated the effort to following the legacy of world-renowned architect, John Carl Warnecke. The new facility's design is consistent with the campus' architectural signature of large windows and stately vertical lines. The project team ensured that the final design had Warnecke "DNA," but also suggested improvements. For example, instead of

Judges' Comments

"An innovative campus project with green elements and a neat planetarium."

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Additionally, the ceiling panels are made from recycled and non-petroleum based materials.

Sustainable elements include a reflective roof, auto flush valves to reduce water use, low VOC products, rainwater retention, "direct/indirect" evaporative cooling system, occupancy and daylight sensors, high efficiency glazing with shading to reduce head gain and natural lighting in all occupied spaces.

To accommodate CSM's schedule, McCarthy used a multi-stage "fast track" approach. Since the facility is located in the central part of the campus, the project team implemented a construction and site specific plan that overcame the obstacles of pedestrian traffic and other safety issues.

The excavation occurred on a hillside that featured large pieces of bedrock, requiring a comprehensive removal and site landscape restoration strategy. The plan included the replacement of 40-year-old utilities and the relocation of the main utility lines running directly beneath the location of the new building. <<