Los Angeles Valley College Library & Academic Resource Center

Valley Glen, California

Construction Manager: URS Corporation
Program Management: BuildLACCD
LEED Certification: Gold (pending)
Project Size: 92,000 sf

Description: Pfeiffer Partners planned, programmed and designed the new Library & Academic Resource Center (LARC) on the campus of Los Angeles Valley College. LEED Gold certified (pending), the new center will be the campus' academic heart, serving 17,000 students and replacing the existing library built in the 1960s. The two-story building consists of the Library on the first floor with the Academic Resource Center on the second floor. Floors are connected visually through interior atria that allow abundant natural light to filter down to the first floor.

The building is fully wired for computer use, with wireless zones that will allow laptop connectivity throughout the facility. The LARC is an integrated facility with four user groups: Library, Academic Resource Center, Staff Training and Development Center, and Museum/Archive. The Library component of the project includes 750 seats and shelving for 260,000 volumes, along with a media library.

The Academic Resource Center includes the computer commons, math lab, writing center, reading center, tutoring center and five lab/classrooms. The Staff Development area contains consultation and training areas and is part of the campus' outreach program to the community. The Museum/Archive includes a changing exhibition gallery as well as curatorial, exhibit preparation, and archival research spaces, with a particular focus on the history of the San Fernando Valley.

View of Museum Corner

The new facility includes a variety of environmentally-friendly elements, construction practices and materials that contributed achievement of LEED Gold. These include onsite renewable energy from Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels, which is also shade the parking lots, producing 10% of the buildings energy; the use of natural lighting throughout the facility via low E clear and fritted glass and translucent skylight systems (above 2 story atria); manual and motorized solar shades to help control heat and glare; high efficiency light fixtures; building materials made from recycled content and renewable resources; waterless urinals and low-flow toilets; high-reflective white Cool Roof and an exterior Solid Phenolic Panel Rainscreen System to minimize solar heat gain and protect the building; occupancy sensors to reduce energy use; and the use of low odor and low emission paints, carpeting and finishes to improve air quality.

The sustainable construction principals utilized by the construction team included an exemplary reduction in construction waste, with a diversion rate exceeding 90%; 20% recycled content and regionally sourced materials; and Full Building Commissioning, greatly exceeding LEED commissioning requirements.

The new building occupies a highly visible site at the entrance to the campus. Its design is consistent with the campus context and the college's master plan, including learning clusters which help reinforce the college's strong arcade circulation system.

The project received the Community Impact Award from the Los Angeles Community College District's Build Green Program at the 2009 Los Angeles Architecture Awards.

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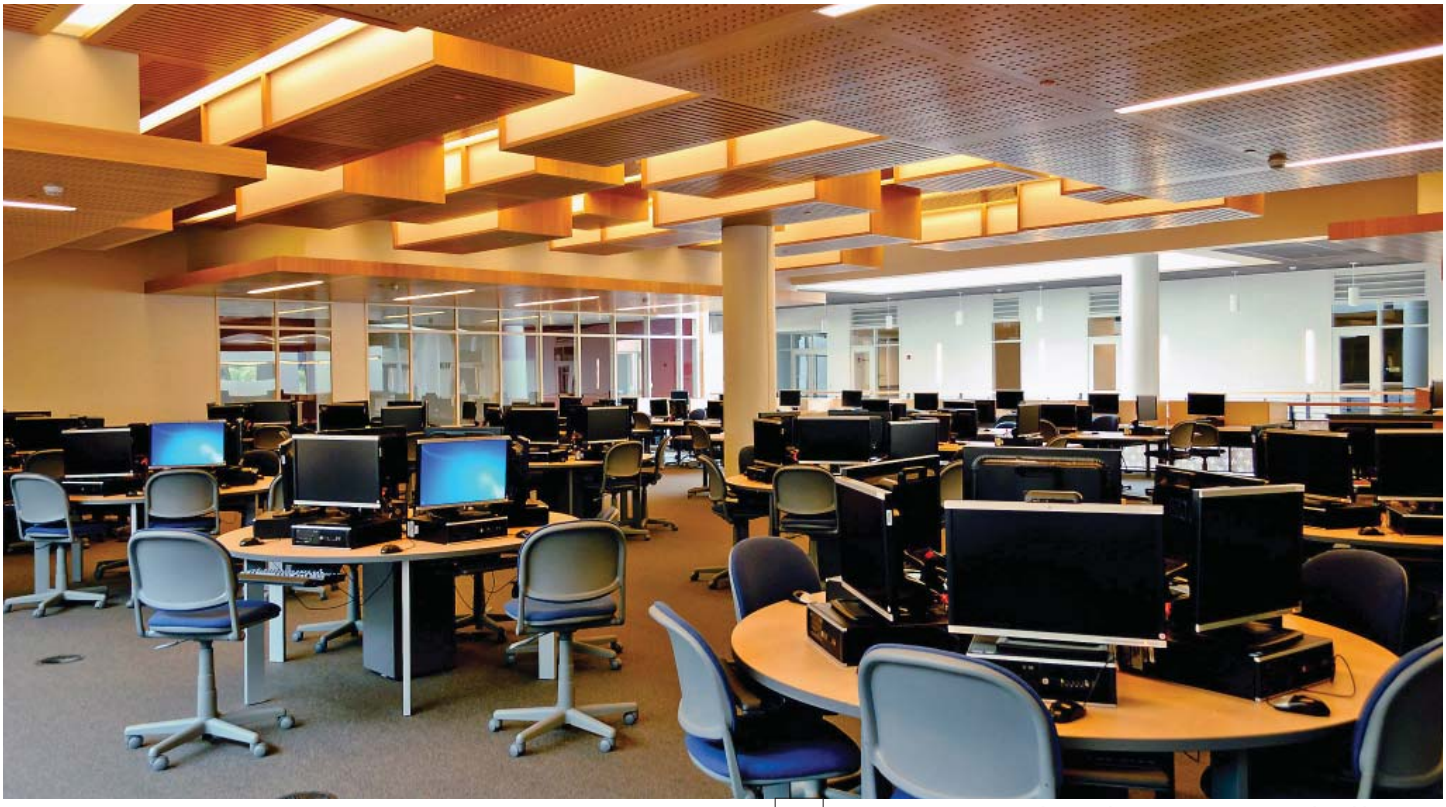

Central Computer Lab with Sustainable Bamboo and Ecoresin Ceiling Panels

Circulation Desk

Academic Resource Center Entrance

South Reading Room