"Our challenge to the SRB architects was to design a building that would house key student service departments while attracting and welcoming all kinds of students in spaces that would promote—but not force—encounters and meaningful connections among students,"

Yonnie Harris
UCSB Dean of Students
UCSB Student Resource Building

Optimizing Efficiency and Student Well-Being

The SRB: An atmosphere fit for all

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The original Student Resource building was constructed in 2007. The SRB was first certified under LEED® for New Construction in 2007 where it received Silver certification, and has since made further improvements to the facility in order to target Platinum for its second LEED® in existing building certification in 2015. The SRB provides a healthy indoor environment by allowing natural air to flow into the building. The building brings together several student resource centers and departments of the Student Affairs Division to foster an atmosphere of collaboration, and creates an environment to study, to learn, or to work in.

INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The SRB has three different mechanisms to keep occupants comfortable while minimizing energy usage. These three mechanisms include radiant floor (hot water pipes) and baseboard panel heating, natural ventilation through the windows and atrium, where it allows hot air to escape from the ceiling while cool air stays at the ground floor. Also, mechanical ventilation pushes air through vents in non-perimeter rooms. Overall, the SRB uses approximately 600,000 kWh of electricity yearly, compared to an average office building of similar size using 950,000 kWh per year.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

The SRB is placed at a major campus intersection, and functions as a component of the arrival gateway that connects the adjacent residential community of Isla Vista to the central campus. Every day, more than 10,000 students, staff, and faculty approach the campus from this direction and use it as their campus living room to meet, study, and socialize throughout the day.

INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY

Narrow floor widths in the SRB maximize the effects of daylighting and natural ventilation. The design team made every effort to create a healthy environment for the SRB project. Interior materials included engineered stone flooring with high recycled content, rubber flooring, carpet tiles with post-industrial nylon content, low VOC paints, FSC certified woods, highly recycled acoustical tiles used only where necessary, and furniture upholstery of wool and recyclednylons.

ABOUT LEED®

University of California at Santa Barbara undergraduates worked with LEED Accredited Professionals on campus to certify the Student Resource Building. Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is a green building certification program designed by the US Green Building Council that recognizes best-in-class strategies and practices.