



NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 1, 2007

LA Animal Services Project Wins Architectural Merit Award

Los Angeles – Los Angeles Animal Services' expanded North Central Animal Care Center received a Merit Award for Institutional/Educational Projects from the Pasadena & Foothills chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The \$8.1 million, award-winning expansion was designed by Choy Associates, Tracy A. Stone, architect, and was completed in October of 2006. The addition includes 74,200 sf of outdoor dog kennels (170), various assorted small animal, bird and reptile holding facilities, a detached behavioral assessment room, and new training yards. This project has transformed the facility from a bare-bones warehouse for animals to a sustainable community center focused on facilitating successful adoptions.

The appearance of the existing facility was transformed by the addition of a long, curved wall clad in locally salvaged redwood siding; a datum that organizes and integrates the existing building with the new exterior kennels, the new parking lots, the behavioral assessment room, and landscape. The kennel runs, which fan out from the wall, are designed to draw people through the aisles, and to encourage them to continue until they have seen all the animals. A series of playful water fountains punctuate the kennel runs and provide a pleasing audible environment for both visitors and the animals.

Raised puppy kennels are located strategically throughout and feature benches to allow children the opportunity to climb up and visit with the animals. The new kennel aisles are shaded by canopies of building-integrated photovoltaic cells. These panels generate enough electricity to power the entire facility.

To increase public awareness of the shelter and attract visitors, the new elements of the building are designed to create a recognizable and positive image for the facility. The western end of the wall is punctuated by an illuminated glass tower that serves as a landmark and a beacon for the building. The canopies and the fountains project through the wall (marking the aisles from the parking lot and giving glimpses of shadows and life beyond) and are protected on the public side by a series of art-glass enclosures (the public art component is thus integrated into the fabric of the project).

The project was awarded a Gold Level certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The Architectural Merit award was presented at a Design Awards Banquet Thursday evening, September 27, 2007. The 2007 Pasadena & Foothill AIA Design Awards program provides a forum to celebrate design excellence and innovation; an arena where architects are recognized by their peers for their effort and dedication to the profession.

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at

1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381

(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at www.LAAnimalServices.com.

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