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## **Studio E Architects wins national sustainability design award**

High Tech High Chula Vista is the only new construction project in San Diego County to win award.

SAN DIEGO, (April 21) – The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and its Committee on the Environment (COTE) have selected High Tech High Chula Vista as one of the top 10 examples of sustainable architecture in the nation. This is the **first and only new construction project in San Diego County to win** this prestigious national award.

The school was designed by **Studio E Architects** to reflect High Tech High's emphasis on sustainability and the environment. The project minimizes energy demand through compact planning, natural ventilation, daylighting, and an efficient building design.

The building was broken into smaller parts with internal shaded courtyards to provide natural light and ventilation to learning spaces and hallways on the interior. Daylight is the primary lighting source for all circulation and learning areas.

By orienting the building to capture the prevailing breezes, break-out spaces between classrooms and the hallways are passively air conditioned. A large south facing roof canopy shades these areas and hosts a **photovoltaic array which generates nearly 80 percent of the project's energy demand.**

The organization of the building's floor plan **blurs the line between indoor and outdoor space**, and offers every opportunity for **students and staff to connect to nature**. The design is porous and open in character, while being easily-managed and maintained by teachers and staff.

The **building incorporates extremely durable, low-toxicity, low-maintenance materials** such as polished concrete floors, steel framing, steel roof and floor decking, and fiber-cement siding.

To date, the school has been recognized as **a model of good design** by the United States Green Building Council, The Environmental Protection Agency and The Collaborative for High Performance Schools.

The 47,000 square-foot school was completed in 2009 by Bycor General Contractors for **a startling \$11.5 million**, using a combination of off-site modular and on-site conventional construction in an effort to reduce construction waste, increase construction quality and provide the building on a fast-track schedule. An awards juror commented – **"This looks like a fun and lively place to go to school!"**

### **Key Environmental Facts**

- Percent of total building area that uses natural light: 86 percent
- Percent of building that can be ventilated or cooled with operable windows: 88 percent
- The roof canopy integrates a photovoltaic array which generates nearly 80 percent of the project's demanded energy on an annualized basis.
- Reclaimed water is used for 100 percent of the site's irrigation needs.
- Due to the waterless urinals, faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads, and low-flow water closets, the project demands 52 percent less water than the EPA baseline. This equates to a savings of \$5000 per year in operating costs.

## **Design Awards received by this school**

- 2010 AIA San Diego/SDG&E Energy Efficiency Integration Award
- 2010 Modular Building Institute Award of Distinction
- 2010 Los Angeles Architectural Foundation / Design Green Honor Award
- 2009 San Diego Architectural Foundation Orchid

## **About AIA COTE Awards**

The [COTE Top Ten Green Projects](#) program, now in its 15th year, is the architectural profession's best known recognition program for sustainable design excellence. The program celebrates projects that are the result of a thoroughly integrated approach to architecture, natural systems and technology. They make a positive contribution to their communities, improve comfort for building occupants and reduce environmental impacts through strategies such as reuse of existing structures, connection to transit systems, low-impact and regenerative site development, energy and water conservation, use of sustainable or renewable construction materials, and design that improves indoor air quality.

## **About Studio E Architects**

[Studio E Architects](#) is based in San Diego. Studio E provides architecture and urban design services to public, nonprofit and private clients throughout the southwestern United States. In addition to its vast, internationally recognized housing experience, Studio E Architects has been honored for its custom homes, educational/university work, mixed-use, public projects, and master planning efforts. Studio E Architects are presently overseeing the construction of a Kindergarten through eighth grade school immediately adjacent to the high school and are designing a Middle School for the High Tech High North County campus in San Marcos.

## **About High Tech High Learning**

[High Tech High](#) began in 2000 as a single charter high school launched by a coalition of San Diego business leaders and educators. It has evolved into an integrated network of schools spanning grades K-12, housing a comprehensive teacher certification program and a new, innovative Graduate School of Education. Studio E Architects has designed their first two schools to be built from the ground up - High Tech High Chula Vista and High Tech High North County in San Marcos. HTH Learning develops facilities that support its guiding principles of personalization, common intellectual mission, and adult-world connection. These principles permeate every aspect of life at HTH: the small school and class sizes, the openness and transparency, sustainable design attributes, and showcasing of student work in-progress. HTH buildings are visited by architects, school planners, and builders nationwide, who see their approach as a highly successful model.

## **Contact information**

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Photography available upon request.