

Best of 2008 Southern California

Anteater Recreation Center Expansion, Irvine

Restoration
Award of Merit



Project Team

Owner: University of California, Irvine, Irvine

General Contractor: Soltek Pacific, San Diego

Architect: Robbins Jorgensen Christopher, San Diego

Structural Engineer: SMR – ISD Consulting, San Diego

Civil Engineer: RBF Consulting, San Diego

Mechanical Engineer: M.A. Engineers, San Diego

Electrical Engineer: ILA Zammit Engineering, San Diego

UC Irvine needed to expand the Anteater Recreation Center because of increasing demand for recreational facilities and space shortages that limited class offerings.

To meet that demand, UCI officials decided to expand the school's existing recreation center located on the eastern side of the campus.

The \$12-million project took about 15 months to complete.

The expansion and renovation of the Anteater Recreation Center added 20,000 sq ft and includes a 10,000-sq-ft weight training and fitness facility. Two large multipurpose activity rooms were added and office space was added for campus staff, student

offices and meeting rooms. A large demonstration kitchen was also added. Classes such as aerobics, dance, martial arts and fencing will be taught in the new rooms.

Judge's Comment:

"A very nice addition and architectural upgrade to the campus"

One of the challenges the design team faced was creating a "welcoming student" feel for the recreation center since it is near student housing but far from the campus core.

The campus architect took UCI students on a nationwide tour of other college recreational facilities. The students suggested such ideas as signage to navigate the campus center and an agrarian theme.

The design team also styled the building after the California Irvine Ranch which was where UCI was built. The building team also needed to merge the existing building with the new facility.

Structural steel framing was installed that allowed for 11 to 14 ft high ceilings in the main rooms. To match the existing building, the designers used materials such as a pitched metal roof and tan split faced block.

The design team is seeking a LEED silver certification for this project and is in line with other UCI policies to seek more sustainable building practices. <<