

Architectural Foundation of San Francisco 2008 High School Design Competition

Program Summary:

Congratulations! You are one among many emerging design professionals in the Bay Area invited to participate in a competition to design the Bay Area Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

This building will serve as a center to promote and educate the public on sustainable agriculture, provide members of the community and local farmers with a place to meet, organize, and hold events, and increase awareness of sustainable and healthy living. The Center will also serve as an extension for the currently thriving farmer's market. The building should respect the surrounding architecture and open space as well as complement their functions. The Center should be constructed using creative integrated green building strategies and materials.

This Center and surrounding site will provide a place open to all that will foster a wide range of community activities and events. This includes, but is not limited to, local residents, farmers, artisans, tourists, ferry riders, transients, families, couples, and street performers, who buy, sell, pass through, enjoy the view, linger, perform, watch a performance, learn, explore, eat, petition, and protest.

The building's design should address its prominent location along the Embarcadero, views of the San Francisco Bay and Bay Bridge, the movement of people around and through the site, and the existing functions of the adjacent spaces.

Site:

The site is located on Pier 2 along San Francisco's Embarcadero waterfront at the end of Market Street. The site is bounded by the recently renovated historic Ferry Building (Northwest), Ferry Plaza (North), San Francisco Bay/ Ferry Gate E/ Restaurant (Northeast), the Agriculture Building (Southeast) and the Embarcadero (Southwest). Vehicular roads on the Northwest and Southeast sides of the building must be maintained, although they may be closed off for vehicles during special events, including the farmer's market. Currently the site is open to the water and will be infilled with pier as required at the designer's discretion. Leaving water exposed is allowed.

This building is easily accessible by public transportation: including Bart (2 blocks away), multiple Muni lines, the historic F Market streetcar, and Ferry Boat. Public parking is available on the Embarcadero as well as near by parking lots. No new on-site parking will be provided.

Sustainable Building Requirements:

A part of this center's mission is to promote sustainable environments and lifestyles while reducing the carbon footprint of the building and its users. This center will integrate green building strategies that help increase energy and water efficiency, use renewable energy and materials, and reduce consumption, pollution, and waste. The building should implement careful building orientation, natural day lighting, smart shading systems, water conservation, and photovoltaic solar collectors among other strategies. There will be on site trash, recycling, and compost sorting as well. Where possible, the building itself should showcase green building methods used to educate the public on sustainable architecture.

Program Requirements:

The Bay Area Center for Sustainable Agriculture will be a two-story structure not to exceed 40 feet in height. The building can be situated anywhere on the given site but in an effort to maintain light, air, and open space and minimize the footprint of the structure, the building itself must be able to fit on a 75 feet by 75 feet square plot. The Center will include the following spaces:

The following interior spaces must be located on the ground floor:

Main Entrance & Lobby: (250 sq. ft.) This will serve as the gateway into the Center from the exterior and must be easily visible to the public. The lobby includes a large community knowledge wall where event names, upcoming events, learning materials, and other information can be posted. There will also be a small information desk for greeting and assisting visitors, building security, and for providing information on events, classes, and space rental.

Multipurpose Atrium: (1000 sq. ft.) This two-story indoor/outdoor flexible space is where events, performances, and exhibitions will occur. This space should have the ability to open up to the exterior during outdoor events, and become a place for temporary vendors during the farmer's market. The atrium should have plentiful natural daylight and an open air feel even when closed off. A small mobile elevated stage should be provided for performances or presentations. The atrium must also be adjacent to the Lobby and in close proximity to vertical circulation.

Public Circulation: (350 sq. ft. max. on each floor) This interior circulation includes interior stairs, elevator and adjacent lobbies, and hallways. The elevator must have a minimum clear inside dimension of 5'-8" wide x 4'-6" deep. The stair must be at least 5'-0" wide.

The following interior spaces can be on either the ground floor or second floor:

Classroom / Meeting Room: (750 sq. ft.) This room will provide educational facilities for visiting Bay Area students and agricultural/ food science experts. Simple lab facilities should be provided which includes at least 30 sq. ft. of counter space and 3 sinks. It will also serve as a meeting room for local growers and event organizers. This space must have direct access from the exterior and be in close proximity to the vegetable garden.

Organic Café: (600 sq. ft.) This café will serve fresh organic food and drinks that are made from locally grown farms. This space must have direct access to the exterior and seating should be provided in an adjacent outdoor space.

Food Preparation Area and Supply Room: (150 sq. ft.) This space is the area where food is prepared and must be adjacent to the Café. A supply room where stock food and supplies are stored must be adjacent to the food preparation area.

Recycling Room: (75 sq. ft.) This is where trash, recyclables, and compost is sorted and stored until picked up. Although typically hidden from sight, this may be an opportunity to educate the public. This should be adjacent to the Café.

Administrative Office: (100 sq. ft.) This space is used for the day-to-day operations of the building including event preparation and organization and building maintenance.

Men's and Women's Restroom: (300 sq. ft.) Provide one restroom for each gender located near the public circulation (stairs, elevator). Each restroom will be 150 sq ft. and will have two stalls and one sink.

Janitor's Closet & Storage: (25 sq. ft.) This closet for Janitorial supplies should be adjacent to the Restrooms.

The following are exterior spaces:

Vegetable Garden: (75 sq. ft.) This is a small gardening plot where local residents and students grow vegetables while learning and educating the general public in the process. This exterior space can be located either on the ground floor or on the roof above the first story.

Roof Garden Terrace: (400 sq. ft. minimum) This exterior space above the first story should take advantage of the panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay and the Embarcadero and should provide people with a green space to sit and relax. This space can be an extension of the activities occurring on the ground floor.

Exterior Stair: This exterior stair provides access to the Roof Garden Terrace even when the building is closed. It also provides a second exit from the second story.

Other Requirements:

Passenger Drop Off: A safe passenger drop off area should be provided in front of the building somewhere along the Embarcadero. Valet parking will be provided during the farmer's market and other events. This drop-off area may be located near the Main Entrance and Lobby.

Bike Racks: An exterior space for bikes must be provided for safe bike storage.

Additional Requirements:

Project Narration: (150 words) Compose a thoughtful and concise narrative explaining the main ideas of your building design. This can include but is not limited to: How the building responds to the surrounding architecture and site, how the building promotes and educates the values of sustainable building and agriculture, how building is organized, and how will people occupy the building.

For more information regarding the context of this project:

<http://www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com/>

<http://www.cuesa.org/>

<http://ferrybuildingmap.com/>