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# ARCHITECT

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DECADE AWARD

MERIT

▼ 1. Samitaur

LOCATION: Culver City, California  
DESIGNER: Eric Owen Moss Architects  
WEBSITE: www.ericowenmoss.com

The design for this office building, completed with owner/builder Frederick and Laurie Samitaur Smith of Samitaur Constructs, utilized the air rights over a service road to create space in a dense existing fabric. The new structure is elevated 15 feet—the required clearance to maintain vehicular access—over the service road and ties the extant buildings together into an office and classroom complex for a digital-imaging firm. The building is conceived as a simple rectangular block supported by steel pipe columns and girders that span the road. Columns supporting the new building are positioned to avoid loading doors leading to the access road.

There are two design exceptions to the block. First, the entry/exit stair and lounge/roof deck space on the southeast corner where cars enter the site; second, the west-facing courtyard area with bridge, pool fountain and employee outdoor seating that hangs over the auto egress road below.



▼ 3. Solar Umbrella

LOCATION: Venice, California  
DESIGNER: Pugh + Scarpa Architects  
WEBSITE: www.pugh-scarpa.com

Nestled amidst a neighborhood of single-story bungalows, the Solar Umbrella residence boldly establishes a precedent for the next generation of California modernist architecture. Located on a narrow through lot, the Solar Umbrella addition transforms the architects' existing bungalow into a glorious residence equipped for responsible living in the twenty-first century.

Solar panels wrapping around the south elevation and roof become the defining formal expression of the residence. These panels, conceived as a solar canopy, protect the body of the building from thermal heat gain by screening large portions of the structure from direct exposure to the sun. This state-of-the-art solar skin absorbs and transforms sunlight into usable energy, providing the residence with 100 percent of its electricity. Featuring recycled, renewable and high performance materials throughout, the Solar Umbrella showcases the architects' ability to marry sustainability with sophisticated design.



▲ 2. L.A. Design Center (Phase I)

LOCATION: Los Angeles, California  
DESIGNER: John Friedman Alice Kimm Architects, Inc.  
WEBSITE: www.jfak.net

The Los Angeles Design Center was created as a furniture showroom district in South Los Angeles that would provide the many area manufacturers with a much-needed place to display their products

This first phase involved the renovation of two run-down warehouses into a 20,000-square-foot space for Cisco Brothers, and another 60,000-square-foot of leaseable tenant space. Equally significant is the transformation of the parking lot between the two warehouses into a hybridized motor court and event space that serves as the social center of the project.

Though it was essential to produce a strong identity for the project, it was equally important that it not create an unwelcome, foreign presence in the neighborhood. The solution was to layer the buildings with a richly textured, heterogeneous palette of materials and screens—a new set of clothes that seem both permanent and impermanent.

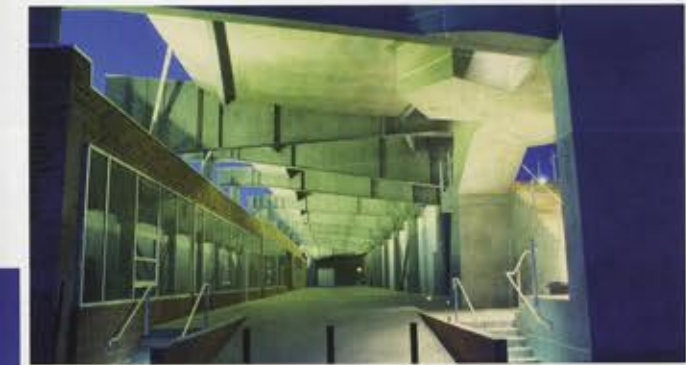


► 4. Ground Zero Advertising Agency

LOCATION: Marina del Rey, California  
DESIGNER: Shubin + Donaldson Architects  
WEBSITE: www.shubinanddonaldson.com

Ground Zero, a high-profile, three-year-old advertising agency, was expanding and relocating to a former film-production warehouse in Marina del Rey. The client called for an open-plan work area to house a staff of 70, theatrical screens to project images of work, team work rooms, three conference rooms, video- and sound-editing bays, a reading library, and a focus-group facility.

The 25,000-square-foot warehouse was completely gutted and sandblasted. The interior shell of the building was left raw and exposed with sandblasted concrete walls and a bow-truss ceiling. The existing concrete floors were sealed and interior "war rooms" at the perimeter were added with architectural elements to express this sense of an interior village within. A second loft level above the team rooms houses the library, video-editing bays and focus-group rooms.



Tom Bonner

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