



2007 Award of Excellence
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Citation Award



Photography by Lance Gordon

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The Ranch House at Del Sur

Goals and Design Solutions: When the developer approached the architect to design a visitor and information center for a new housing subdivision in San Diego, the requirements set forth were simple; the building must be eco-friendly, residential in nature and achieve a platinum LEED rating. These requirements resulted in the Ranch House being designed in the spirit of the hardy family ranches that dotted San Diego's landscape in earlier days. The design intent for this structure was to encapsulate "eco-friendly" functionality while maintaining a sense of residential warmth and scale.

Design solutions included recycled beams from an old pier in Portland, Oregon utilized as the ceiling trusses and supports; reclaimed floorboards harvested from a barn in Pennsylvania and recycled blue jean cotton used as insulation. Rapidly renewable resources used in construction of the building include cork flooring, countertops made from compressed sunflower husks and cabinets made from wheat board. The project's extensive use of stone and reclaimed materials is immediately evidenced in the striking visual impact of the building exterior. The Ranch House demonstrates the uses will be incorporated into the homebuilding industry's mainstream designs.

The Ranch House at Del Sur has recently been awarded a Platinum LEED certification with a score of 59 points. It is the first private enterprise, new construction building to achieve Platinum rating in California and San Diego's first. Of the approximately 680 LEED-NC (new construction) certified buildings in the world, only 28 have achieved Platinum certification.