



2007 Award of Excellence  
**AIA Montana Design Awards Program**  
Merit Award



Photography by Michael Dowling, AIA

Architect of Record:

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### **Lewis and Clark Villages, The University of Montana**

The architects conducted several workshops on campus inviting students, faculty and administration to help conceptualize this project. Through interactive sessions, several design features started to emerge which are highlighted in each category below.

#### Site

- Breezeways through the buildings connect parking areas to interactive green spaces and building entries. The spaces between the buildings were created to encourage student interaction and “happenstance” meeting opportunities. The size of these spaces were scaled to create comfortable, intimate areas to be shared between adjacent units.
- View corridors were established through the site to connect the project and the University golf course to the adjacent residential neighborhood and to maximize views of the mountains beyond.
- Walking and biking trails traverse the site connecting the nearby community gardens to the Main Campus.
- City and University buses serve the project and the neighborhood through the planning of a bus stop and transit connection point.

#### Apartment Buildings

Eleven buildings contain 18 apartments per building. Apartments are located on 3 floors are served by 3 stair towers. All units are acoustically separated from each other vertically and horizontally. Highly energy efficient Structural Insulated Panels (SIPS) were used for all exterior walls. R50 roof insulation was installed. Served by 3 central boilers, many units do not call for heat even when the outdoor air temperature reaches 10 degrees.

#### Sustainable community Center

- The “living room” of the complex is designed to be a community gathering place and to be as sustainable as possible. Located in the center of the site and leading to a new bus stop, the center houses a kitchen, large gathering space, mail boxes, and office, central communication and data distribution closet and service bay. The stained concrete plaza became the “percent for the arts” piece and represents Lewis and Clarks’ journey through the area.
- Sustainable design includes roof rainwater collection and distribution into landscaping, R50 RASTRA block wall construction, passive solar heating and R48 SIPS roof panels. Construction waste management, recycling of materials and locally available materials all add to the “green” nature of the community Center.