



ASI: Student Union Building

Associated Students, Incorporated in collaboration with Operations, Planning and Construction

SUSTAINABILITY



The CSUCI Student Union Building was designed in consideration of sustainability from the start of the project, through design, and now, selecting furniture and finishes.

The most sustainable feature is the adaptive re-use of a large portion of the existing structure, extending the life of resources used in its initial construction. This is augmented by retention of mature trees; minimized footprint; efficient structural, mechanical and lighting systems. The final sustainable touch is selection of building finishes and furnishings.

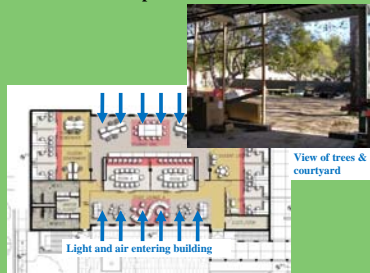
ASI will own and operate the building. Many positive sustainable decisions also are also effective in reducing the cost of operations. As such, there was a double incentive to be sustainable as it can be both environmentally and economically wise.

Numerous students have been involved in the Student Union project, beginning with the fee referendum a couple of years ago; planning and designing the building; and now preparing to open and operate the building. All of these students endorsed long-term sustainable goals, despite the fact that many will have graduated prior to opening the union.

The 'treehouse' design retains 17 mature trees in the south courtyard, shading south facing windows and creating a comfortable outdoor student activity space



The Student Union has a North-South orientation, with very few windows on the east and the west. South-facing windows are well shaded by the large existing trees. These windows provide excellent day lighting in the union as well as natural ventilation for occupant comfort.



Students were very conscious of sustainability in selecting finishes for the building. Each finish was reviewed for material content; ability to implement green-cleaning methods; and long-term durability. Finishes include linoleum (linseed oil); sealed concrete (damp mop to clean) and recycled content carpet tiles.

The building layout is very compact and efficient. This reduces the amount and complexity of structural framing as well as amount of exterior building finishes. It also reduces the amount of building envelope, achieving long-term reduction of heating and cooling requirements for this building.



The building is a simple, rectangular structure that reduces the overall footprint on the ground; minimizes quantity of steel to frame the building; and creates large open floor spaces for increased flexibility for student activities now while providing a solid framework to ease renovation in the future.

ASI reps are selecting Steelcase furniture for the Student Union. Steelcase is recognized for environmental advancements in furniture. The THINK chair shown below uses only environmentally friendly materials with the highest recycled content available. The chair is light to minimize overall materials.



When CSUCI no longer needs the chairs, Steelcase will decide whether to resell, refurbish, donate, or recycle. The THINK chair is designed to be easily disassembled into recyclable pieces and materials.