

Crescent Village San Jose, CA

Project Identity and Location

Crescent Village is a transit-oriented, mixed-use development in the city of San Jose, CA.

Purpose of Project

Faced with a growing demand for housing in the booming Silicon Valley, an obsolete Sony manufacturing facility was redeveloped to accommodate 1700 new apartments and several new retail and entertainment businesses. The high-density mixed-use community meets Build it Green sustainability measures in five distinct neighborhoods united by a five-acre public central park. Each neighborhood provides elegant and comfortable outdoor living spaces with garden courtyards, grand pools and pedestrian-scaled walks. Human-scaled spaces, walkability, and landscapes designed for livability and comfort make this large community feel like home.

Role of Landscape Architect

The challenge with a project this size is maintaining a pedestrian scale and making it easy for people to find their way. The landscape is designed to create a sense of place that compliments the individuality of each neighborhood while easing wayfinding and unifying the community. The landscape architect fought to preserve dozens of mature Coast Redwoods, Cottonwoods and a heritage Valley Oak on-site and incorporated them into the park and neighborhood streets.

Significance

The development provides comfortable yet dense urban living using New Urbanist principles, demonstrating to the public that you can have the highest quality of life without driving and maintaining your own property. This community provides hundreds of much-needed housing units in jobs rich Silicon Valley in a contextually grounded landscape.

Special Factors

Faced with the sustainability measures set forth by Build it Green standards, Crescent Village is among the first Northern California communities to implement the state-wide storm water treatment requirements while using recycled water to irrigate the landscape.