

Apollo at Rosecrans | Project Description

A collection of five buildings, **Apollo at Rosecrans** is an adaptive reuse of old defense industry and aerospace industry warehouse space, transformed into a creative office campus in El Segundo, California.

Intense security and privacy are hallmarks of both defense and aerospace. Apollo at Rosecrans was a collection of windowless, inward oriented buildings designed with security in mind. Once an employee left their car in the morning, they entered a secure space and didn't leave until their work day was over.

The design team led by the landscape architect endeavored to break this paradigm and flip it on its head. A strong series of outdoor spaces were created and interconnected with clear and logical circulation corridors helping to draw the interior spaces out and provide an amenity rich environment for the users. The Landscape Architect worked with the Architect and Developer to create a cohesive master planned campus with a variety of spaces and activities geared towards enjoying the wonderful climate of El Segundo. The oppressive, bleak and often windowless buildings were turned inside out and transformed into light, bright and airy places with strong connections to the outdoors. Both private and public work spaces were strategically integrated into the building redesign to allow employees collaborative environments both indoors and out.

Through close work with the City of El Segundo, the Landscape Architect was able to transform unusable outdoor spaces such as fire lanes and parking lots into pocket parks and patios interconnected by a strong circulation system. A linkage of spaces and environments designed for flexibility and diversity. This allows employees to walk the campus while on conference calls, take group meetings outdoors, brown bag or food truck or blow off steam during the typical work day.

Like most developments of its time, the original campus landscape was thirsty and water intensive. Over 100,000 SF of lawn and paving was removed and replaced with porous materials and drought tolerant plants, leaving small portions of lawn for outdoor activities such as volleyball or kicking around a soccer ball. A large percentage of mature trees were preserved and meticulously worked around so the final project has a strong landscape presence and feeling of gravitas with the ground plane providing vibrancy and whimsy.

At the heart of the project asphalt parking was removed for creation of a central plaza or park. Grounded by a large double sided outdoor fireplace and trellis, the park is flexible open space designed to accommodate larger outdoor events like a half-pipe or concert while still providing the feeling of intimacy and enclosure. BBQ grills allow employees to cook or a food truck area allows for another gourmet option at lunch time. Stepped amphitheater-like seating provide a backdrop and informal gathering area.