

East Wilmington Greenbelt Community Center

Wilmington, California



This new 10,000 square foot community center is located in a re-developing, neighborhood on a greenbelt park that was formerly a freight rail line. The building contains a gymnasium, community room, offices, a kitchen and storage.

The limited construction budget was met by using load-bearing glazed concrete block as the structural system of the building, which simultaneously provided durable finishes for both the exterior and interior of the project. The design was envisioned as a series of colorful volumes of differing sizes that represent the program activities that take place within each volume. They are further defined with their own color designation. The glazed concrete blocks are arranged in a lively pattern, reminiscent of rich Latin-American textiles and baskets.

By the use of durable materials in a creative and welcoming manner, the facility has become a source of pride for the area, and also resists vandalism in the off hours. Designed under the direction of Christopher Coe while Managing Director and Director of Design of Arquitectonica Los Angeles.