

Libraries - Branches



Valley library wins architectural award

3-16-87

BOULDER CREEK - The American Institute of Architects has selected the new Boulder Creek Library as one of six libraries in this year's listing of awards of excellence.

It was designed, using the suggestions and ideas of residents, by architect Peter Calthorpe.

"This award belongs to each of the over 100 local participants in the community design workshops where the building first evolved," said County Supervisor Joe Cucchiara whose district includes San Lorenzo Valley.

Selection of the Boulder Creek Library was significant, said architect Jeff Oberdorfer because "most architectural awards go to multi-million dollar projects in urban areas."

Oberdorfer set up the community workshops to come up with design ideas for the building.

Perched on a gentle slope at the outskirts of town, the library building is organized into a number of

rooms, lit by natural light. The covered walkways protect visitors from wet weather; the entry art gallery is tall with natural light from above.

The library's reference and check out room is the largest space with cross-gabled roof and fireplace. Brookshelf rooms have low ceilings and less natural light in order to preserve the books. Skylights create comfortable private areas in the three reading rooms and a community room provides space for meetings, film-showings and art exhibits.

Large redwood trees surround the exterior deck and amphitheater.

"The community design process was unusual but has resulted in a building which is cherished by its community and is quite functional," commented Library Director Anne Turner.

The Award of Excellence will be presented to the Santa Cruz County library system and architect Calthorpe at the American Institute of Architects' annual conference in San Francisco at the Stock Exchange Club at 2 p.m. June 27.