



The Earth & Marine Sciences Building at UC Santa Cruz.

UCSC science building wins architect's award

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SANTA CRUZ — The designers of the new Earth and Marine Sciences building at UC Santa Cruz have been recognized by a jury of their peers.

The Los Angeles-based architectural team of Zimmer, Gunsul, Frasca and McLellan & Copenhagen received a Merit Award for their work on the \$29.6 million building.

The award was announced last week by the 1995 American Institute of Architects California Council.

The building, which houses programs in marine sciences, biology, chemistry, geology, paleontology and seismology, opened in the spring of 1994.

The jury, composed of four leading California architects, called the building "an impressive" piece of work.

UC Santa Cruz spokesman Robert Irion said the architects designed the building with input from facility and staff members from a campus building committee. Campus architects from the university's department of Facilities and Planning also were involved.

Initially, he said, there were a few complaints about the 142,500-square-foot build-

ing's narrow, "maze-like" hallways.

"But once students and faculty occupied it for some time, they just loved it," Irion said. "The lab facilities are really top-notch, more spacious and more conducive to the facility's work than the old digs at Applied Sciences."

While the new building is much larger than others on campus, the architects designed it to appear like a series of smaller units and fit into the campus' redwood environment, said Debra Barbour, an associate partner at the architectural firm.

Among the building's features:

- A 10,000-square-foot, 2761-seat lecture hall/auditorium wing.
- A 72,500-square-foot lab space.
- An L-shaped administration block of 60,000 square feet.

The building houses a diverse array of "technically demanding" research labs that range from metal-free trace element analysis rooms to aquariums for holding marine specimens.

It was also designed to promote interaction between the various academic disciplines and department members, according to Irion.