

The Samarkand Administration Building

Santa Barbara, California



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Architect: Kilburn Architects, LLC; **Interior Designer:** Lantz-Boggio; **Structural Engineer:** Miyamoto International Inc.; **Contractor:** Trabucco and Associates; **Project Development:** Covenant Solutions; **Corporate Architect:** SB-Architecture PC, Inc.; **Flooring:** Dal-Tile, Durkan; **Furniture:** Drexel Heritage, Kellex, Stanley Furniture; **Lighting:** Ironworks; **Millwork:** MDC Millwork; **Wallcoverings:** Sherwin-Williams, Spinneybeck Leather; **Window Treatments:** European Designs



This project consisted of the complete architectural interior remodel of the existing, outdated Administration Building at the Samarkand Retirement Community, a faith-based CCRC owned by Covenant Retirement Communities, and located in Santa Barbara, Calif.

The scope of work entailed creating a more open and welcoming environment for both residents and staff by designing a more simple entry sequence with a single grand stair, expanding and enhancing the lobby area, adding a new conference room, reconfiguring office spaces to be more functional, and providing completely new interior finishes, furnishings, and lighting.

The renovation was based on the historic Mission-style architecture that is heavily emphasized within the local building guidelines and ties the exterior design with the interior design. The existing exterior consists of a traditional Santa Barbara white stucco façade, black steel windows, and a red tile roof. Dark-stained heavy timbers with corbels define the vaulted ceiling in the expansive double-height entry. A dark-stained curving grand

stair with a decorative wrought iron railing leads to the main reception and completes the entry sequence.

The main reception area is defined by a large, open reception desk that includes art niches for local hand-crafted art objects. New tile floors have decorative and intricate border detailing. The office redesign allowed for a more efficient and dedicated staff workroom, as well as the addition of four new offices on the lower level. Designed in concert with a resident committee, an interior color palette of soft earth colors, warm browns, and stained wood trim provide a comfortable, rich ambiance that encourages a positive and relaxing atmosphere for resident and staff interaction.

Jury comments:

- *Taking a dated-looking facility and updating not only aesthetically but also with function in mind is a great accomplishment.*

Reader comments:

- *This is an absolutely amazing transformation!*

Willow Valley Retirement Communities

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Although the two-acre courtyard at Willow Valley's Lakes Community had served residents well for 20 years, Willow Valley sought to further engage residents by offering year-round opportunities in an outdoor environment.

Willow Valley's goal of providing residents with world-class amenities was a driving force in this remodel- renovation. New gathering areas were created, including a large patio outside of the main indoor resident union. The patio, adjacent to a cascading water feature and sculpture, promotes social gatherings and al fresco dining in a resort-style atmosphere. The second patio includes an eight-foot fire pit surrounded by a pergola/gazebo.

A complete outdoor kitchen supports new activities such as family cookouts and other get-togethers. Residents enjoy playing outdoor table games, relaxing in the sun, and having cool evening fireside conversations.

The remaining half of the courtyard includes meandering paths with landscaping that supports various birds and wildlife, along with opportunities to stop and rest.

Consistent with all renovation projects at Willow Valley, the design team surveyed residents of the community and numerous suggestions were incorporated into the new design. The re-

sults of this reconstruction have been rewarding, and have moved many traditional indoor activities—such as neighbors barbecuing together, birthday parties, candlelight dining, winter ice carving demonstrations, and club meetings—to the outside.

Access to the courtyard space was limited, so the features had to be constructed in place versus pre-fabricated. Resident safety was paramount and often challenging because residents were eager to use the new spaces. The newly constructed amenities complement the surrounding architecture of the French country-style buildings.

Jury comments:

- *Effective use of outdoor spaces. Provides a variety of activity centers as well as nicely landscaped areas to walk through the gardens.*
- *The materials and execution appear to be of excellent quality. Allowing residents to choose between shade, partial shade, and full sun is a great idea.*

Reader comments:

- *Beautiful outdoor space. I would love to sit out there. Very tranquil.*
- *Love the concept.*

Design/Build: Creative Construction Solutions, LLC; **Landscaping:** Erb Brothers; **Fountain:** Integrity Pools; **Hardscape:** Rose Hill Construction, Inc.; **Patio Furnishings:** Patio at Penn Stone; **Pergola Structure:** Dalton Pavilions, Inc.; **Outdoor Appliances:** Bull Outdoor Products; **Fountain Sculpture:** Alan Swanson; **Lighting:** Yale Electric Supply Co.



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