



# DOMINICAN SISTERS HOUSE OF FORMATION SAN RAFAEL, CA

**Client:** Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

**Site Area:** 6,200 S.F. / 0.57 acre

**Density:** 8 units - 14 DUA

**Completion:** August 2005

**Construction est.:** \$2M

**Contact:** Sister Carla Kovack  
Dominican Sisters  
1520 Grand Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415.257.0142

Oliver Dibble  
Swinerton Builders  
260 Townsend Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
415.421.2980

## Eco Convent Represents Sisters Vision for the Future

The Dominican Sisters House of Formation represents the vision of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael for their future members. This communal-living facility is designed around the principles of green and sustainable building, achieving a Gold LEED™ rating. The building is designed to accommodate active communal engagement, and includes a chapel for worship for the house residents and the greater campus. A meditative garden at the center of the cluster of buildings incorporates a dry creek bed which will collect and retain roof stormwater. All plantings are drought-tolerant or native species, with drip irrigation in the meditative garden and un-irrigated native grasses in the surrounding site

### Design Features

- Building form and trellis frame meditative garden
- Chapel for house residents and greater campus
- House accommodates both private and communal spaces

### Green Features

- LEED™ Gold Rated
- Orientation maximizes sun exposure for rooftop solar panels
- Collection and retention of stormwater
- Photovoltaic solar panels & Solar hot water heating system
- Compact massing: Bedrooms and bathrooms are stacked for efficient use of materials
- Use of recycled/reclaimed materials