



DOMINICAN SISTERS HOUSE OF FORMATION

SAN RAFAEL, CA

Eco Convent Represents Sisters Vision for the Future

DESCRIPTION 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.

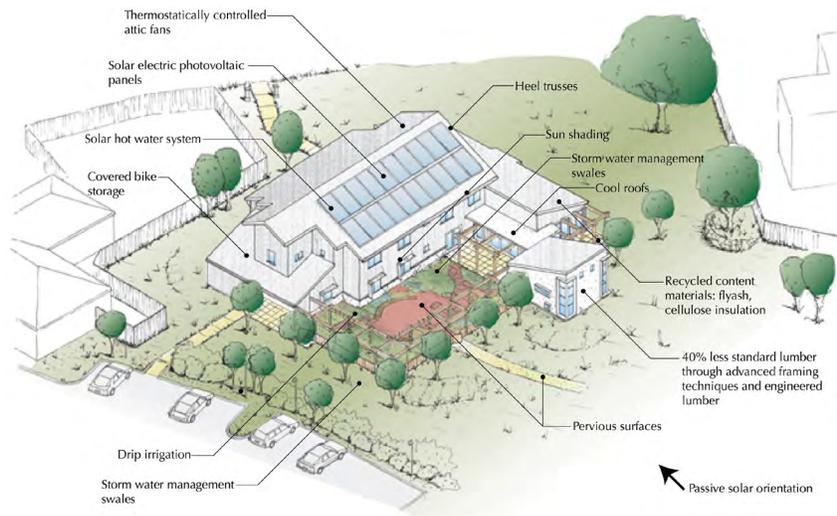
VISION Create a sustainable communal home for novice sisters, representing the Dominican Sisters stewardship of the future.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS Incorporate green and sustainable building practices while creating a new home for the sisters including both private and communal worship spaces.



GREEN FEATURES

- LEED™ Gold Rated
- Orientation maximizes sun exposure for rooftop solar panels
- Collection and retention of stormwater
- Photovoltaic solar panels will provide for up to 95% of electrical power needs
- Compact massing: Bedrooms and bathrooms are stacked for efficient use of materials
- Solar hot water heating system with a 90% efficient central boiler
- Recycled/reclaimed content carpet, gypsum board, insulation, cabinets, linoleum floors, paints, adhesives and sealants



Client:
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

Building size/acres:
6,200 sq.ft./.57 acre

Units: 8 Residential Suites

Completion: August 2005

Construction est.: \$2M

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DESIGN FEATURES

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

