LABORATORIES FOR UCLA:

GORDON AND VIRGINIA MACDONALD MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES BUILDING (PHASE 1) AND GONDA (GOLDSCHMIED) NEUROSCIENCE AND GENETICS RESEARCH CENTER (PHASE 2)

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc. in association with Payette Associates, Inc. (Phase 1) and Lee, Burkhart, Liu, Inc. (Phase 2)

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Client: University of California, Los Angeles

Area, Construction Cost, and Completion:

- MacDonald Labs: 155,000 gsf, $38,250,000, 1991
- Gonda (Goldschmied) Center: 124,125 gsf, $36,000,000, 1998

The MacDonald Research Laboratories Building, a medical research facility used jointly by the UCLA Medical School and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, occupies a prominent sloping site on the western UCLA campus. A broad plaza connects it with the Gonda (Goldschmied) Neuroscience and Genetics Research Center, also designed by VSBA.

Recalling the spirit of the historic buildings in the older section of the campus, an arcade extends across the main level of MacDonald’s plaza facade. To preserve green space between the two research buildings, the loading dock was located underground beneath this central lawn. The plaza abuts a wide, stepped pedestrian walk linking the new complex to other parts of the campus. At the northern end, an arched portal and a column sporting the UCLA Bruin mascot mark the walkway entrance.

The Gonda (Goldschmied) Neuroscience and Genetics Research Center is a generic loft accommodating the spatial and mechanical flexibility appropriate to the dynamics of science-laboratory programs. Ornament at the base of the building’s facade is bold, but also pedestrian-friendly. Vertical glass niches define the southern access to the lab complex.

For MacDonald, VSBA was prime and provided exterior architectural and site design, and Payette Associates completed interior programming and design. For Gonda, VSBA served as consultants to Lee, Burkhart, Liu, Inc. We prepared the exterior facade and site work construction documents for both projects.

Awards: The Los Angeles Beautiful Business and Industry Award, 1993 (MacDonald); Brick in Architecture Award, Brick Industry Association and Architecture Magazine, 2001 (Gonda)
VSBA

MacDonald Laboratory
University of California