
South facade


Courtyard & café seating


Cozy nooks for studying & meeting

CALIFORNIA NANOSYSTEMS INSTITUTE AND CAMPUS PARKING STRUCTURE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Architects: Altoon + Porter Architects, LLP in association with Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Santa Barbara, CA

Client: University of California, Santa Barbara

Construction Cost: $53,000,000

Area: 110,000 gsf

Completion: 2006

UCSB's California NanoSystems Institute was designed to be one of the world's premier nanosystems research and education facilities. It's one of three California Institutes for Science and Innovation established to nurture interdisciplinary science and engineering research.

The complex consists of the CNSI and a 600-car parking structure connected by a landscaped courtyard and colonnade. The lab facility includes a bio-nanofabrication core lab; imaging and spectroscopy core facilities; interdisciplinary generic laboratories for chemistry, engineering, and biology; Class 1000 clean rooms; and a café serving the east precinct of the UCSB campus.

The facility accommodates office and studio space for the University's Media Arts and Technology Program, which is pioneering new approaches to art and design through the union of computer science, emergent technologies, electronic media forms, and digital art research. The Allosphere, a 3-story spherical space, is an advanced research and collaboration area within the CNSI. It provides a virtual environment for immersive, interactive, stereoscopic, and pluriphonic explorations in science and art.

The CNSI's east façade -- clad in limestone, brownstone, marble, granite, bluestone, and pre-cast concrete -- is a syncopated, colorful rhythm of masonry stripes. One end of the façade, angled away from the building, displays a symbolic / ornamental mural to help announce this main gateway to the University's campus.

East facade

Lab

Café