

An aerial photograph of a hillside town at dusk. The houses are illuminated with warm, golden light, and their roofs are visible. A large crowd of people is gathered on the hillside in the background. The sky is a mix of blue and purple. The right side of the image is partially obscured by a vertical strip of horizontal lines in various colors.

SLOJO

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Landscape Architecture Department

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CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO



Photo: Van Atta Associates

CASA NUEVA

Susan Van Atta (1983)

Van Atta Associates Inc.

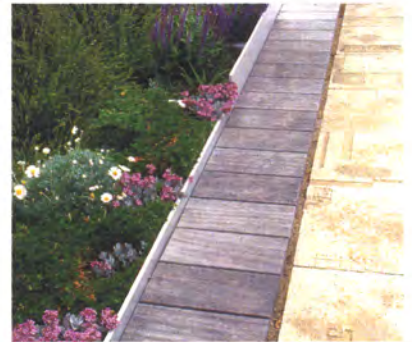
Santa Barbara, Calif.

[Project Location: Santa Barbara County](#)

Often buildings are placed where the garden should be. The success of this project stems from the opposite approach. Here a generous courtyard garden protected from freeway noise, wind and other discomforts replaces an abandoned asbestos-contaminated building, while featuring views to the surrounding foothills. The long, narrow building, placed at the edges of the site, maximizes interior access to natural light and ventilation while creating

space for patios and planted terraces for working, meeting, and recreation for the entire government campus.

The experience of the building begins in a garden, with entrance through the verdant courtyard, defined on the south and west by the building, and on the north and east with generous stairs and an arcing access ramp. Art, landscape, and architecture overlap (and share budgets) to achieve as much as



possible for the people who work here. Outdoor workstations (with power and data), occupiable artwork, and native landscape interact in a peaceful garden for work, collaboration and recreation.