TO BEAUTIFY AN EXPERIENCE

Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium improvements provide safe, accessible entry to the County of Marin Cultural Center where art and music events, performances, presentations and farmers market take place. From simply eliminating congestion and providing accessible parking to the development of an exiting forecourt to the Auditorium, the project contributes greatly to the aesthetic quality of this important Marin County's area.

Designed by the Marin County's architect Fani Danadjieva Hansen of DHA, Inc, the design, a synthesis of building and landscape, reflects area's beauty. A scenic terrace was created with views of the lagoon, Mt. Tam and the surrounding hills and access to the park. The design preserves the historical character of Frank Lloyd Wright's Marin County Civic Center master plan. It provides an open space solution that honors veterans and Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy, connecting people with each other and Nature. It promotes public identity and sense of civic pride.

The scope of work, exterior in nature, includes the addition of 22 accessible parking spaces, incorporated in two new parking areas. In response to the County's criteria for preserving water, the low water consuming planting utilize reclaimed water for irrigation and incorporate bio- retention areas for water filtration. Trees with shading and wind breaking value screen the parking area with color and texture, contributing to the success of the overall design. The lighting solution reduces light pollution and maximizes energy savings.

Working closely with Marin County's Department of Public Works project team, Larry Beaton, Pat Echols and Eric Steger and the Contractor Ghilotti Bros, the creative "hands-on" services of the architect brought the vision to reality in the most cost effective way possible.

A positive, uplifting environment is provided through the integration of all components: art, history, water, plants, lighting, bio-retention and connectivity with Nature.

Fani Danadjieva Hansen, Architect, AIA, LEED AP, BD+C

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