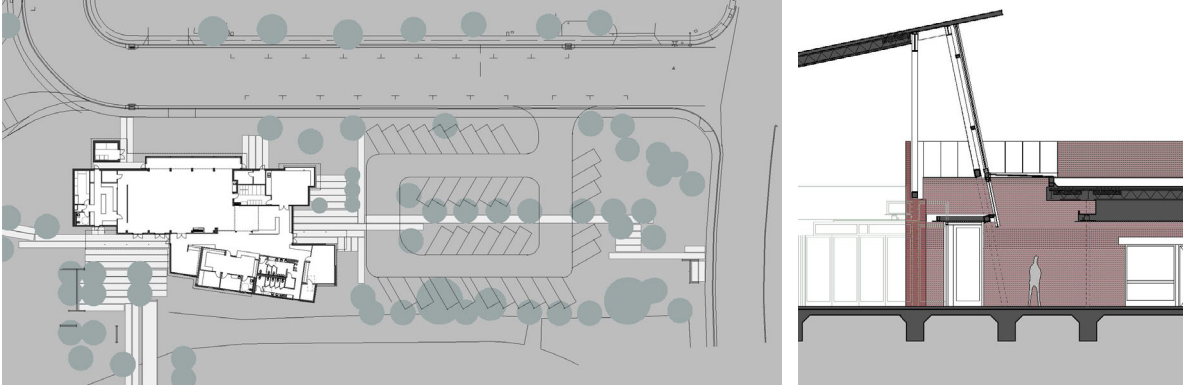




Pittsburg Senior Community Center, Pittsburg CA

Studio Urbis Design Team: Thomas Chastain, Renee Chow, Brent Hinrichs and Khyber Courchesne: in association with Group 4 Architects



SITE & PROGRAM

This project is in a town located near where the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers meet at the Delta; a part of the Suisun Bay that extends to the northwest of San Francisco Bay. After 1840 the region thrived on fishing and canning industries, and in the early 1900's a steel industry developed. The town had an active role in shipbuilding during WW2, and the project site was a part of Camp Stoneman, which was closed and returned to the city by the Army in the 1950's. To the south of the site is a public park trail system that lies above a major water supply pipeline easement. Recently developed housing lies to the north and west sides of the site, with a major road and bus stop to the east. The new construction was designed to provide accommodation for a number of service activities for seniors and their families – as well as to act as a public center for the surrounding community. The ground floor is on a single level, with a number of activities linked to exterior terraces on a slightly sloping site section. The sections of the major rooms are organized to the light and views towards the south and east, while the service and utility rooms are used to provide acoustic separation between other public areas. The structural framing system was designed to allow for variations in openness to light and view between the exterior and interior.



MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION

Reinforced concrete grade beams integrally cast with a concrete base slab link the perimeter foundations and column footings. At the tallest section steel truss joist members span the braced framing bents; steel decking completes the roof structure. The lower wall height construction consists of site-fabricated steel stud shearwall framing, organized on modular brick dimensions. The large steel structural frames are clad or left exposed depending on location. The interior wall surfaces are constructed of brick in much of the public areas in combination with gypsum wallboard panels and smooth finished plywood. The ground floor is a finished concrete slab, with areas of ceramic tile, wood and carpet set in at some areas. The door and window glazing systems are made of aluminum storefront and curtain wall fabrications, with glass and metal panels inset. Opaque exterior wall surfaces are of a combination of brick and rendered cement plaster. The standing seam roof, metal panels and flashings were fabricated of steel with a painted finish. The building is air-conditioned, and is designed so that areas can be thermally separated with folding and sliding doors to reduce the heating and cooling loads when the larger public areas are not in full use.