

## **A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN THRIVE**

Student Housing East (SHE) is CSULA's first traditional dormitory facility. The eight-story building includes 1,500 beds, a health and wellness center, dining halls, laundry facilities, kitchens, gathering spaces, and a learning center with classroom space, practice area for musicians, and study rooms.

CSULA prioritized sustainability, both in construction and operation, as well as budget and schedule compliance. The facility needed to be open to welcome students for the Fall 2021 semester, a challenge that was made more difficult by the

## **CUSTOMER'S PRIORITIES AND GOALS**

CSULA's vision for SHE was to foster a community that enhances student's academic and personal development by creating a place where they can connect with the university community. It's a rare opportunity to build an intentional environment that can have a profound impact on students and the broader community. The strategic goals of the design-build team center on nurturing a "welcoming and inclusive campus where everyone thrives, respects differences and hones their cultural competencies," according to HED, the architect on the project. With this in mind, the ground floor of the residential complex is dedicated to community spaces – including a dining hall, lounges, a fitness and wellness center, teaching and learning commons, and student laundries. It will also contain campus administrative offices and areas for residential-life support services.

For example, after realizing the initial design needed to be modified to meet requirements for prefabrication, the architect came to Clark Pacific with a completely new design. By working together, HED and Clark Pacific's design team came up with a way to pivot the design of the facade without sacrificing other important benefits:

- Better performance through higher levels of energy efficiency and durability
- Reduced costs – Infinite Facade is proven to reduce operating costs by 20%
- Enhanced aesthetic appeal with a kinetic design – in certain light it like it is moving

The updated design was inspired by the idea that the building mass acts as the backdrop for student life. If the students are like actors in a play, then the facade is the curtain at the back of the stage. To accommodate the variation needed to convey the curtain design and achieve the repeatability needed to manufacture the facade elements, Clark Pacific and HED worked together to come up with 30 different panel types using different reveals and window layouts to create the 1,000 panels for the facade.

The next step was to bring the design to life on the jobsite. The design-build team collaborated to coordinate plate embeds, obscure joints, balance the window-to-wall ratio, and determine the placement of columns, the location of dead load points, and the overall feasibility of the design.

The result is an iconic, high-performing facade that the architect can be proud of, the engineer and contractor were able to construct with ease, and that the university can use to make the campus more welcoming and attractive.

- Modeling of the Infinite Facade allowed the team to know exactly what the final product would look like early on.
- Early collaboration allowed all stakeholders to address engineering and manufacturing details, eliminated design guesswork, and made it easier to execute the design.

Infinite Facade incorporates seven systems, including windows and insulation, into a single solution, minimizing the risk and coordination hassles of constructing those systems separately. The facility was open to welcome students for the Fall 2021 semester as planned.

**PROJECT TEAM**

**OWNER:** California State University,

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