



MENLO
GATEWAY™

Beyond Green: Menlo Gateway Architecture Narrative

Created for the Menlo Gateway Project

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Menlo Gateway takes a new approach to suburban office park architecture, combining more densely organized structures with parking concentrated in above-grade structures. This approach allows the ground plane to be opened up and returned to pedestrian open space. As a mixed-use project that features a hotel, restaurant, sports club, and meeting facilities, Menlo Gateway will provide a work environment that is unparalleled on the Peninsula.

Menlo Gateway utilizes a variety of architectural features to achieve scale and proportion within the existing one to three-story industrial business park environment. The architecture will incorporate limestone, tinted and transparent glazing, prefinished metal panels, and precast concrete panels for exterior materials, while providing light coloration and transparency.

The buildings' forms are stepped-back at the upper levels with terraced balcony elements. Solar trellis elements are used along these upper terraces to give the buildings a light cap. These elements are common architectural features that tend to reduce the apparent height and bulk of buildings. Terraces will provide wonderful views of Bayfront Park, the San Francisco Bay and the East Bay hills beyond.

The office structures are oriented along an east-west axis, which helps to maximize the passive energy-efficient effects and minimize heat gain. In order to control the sun and heat gain to varying degrees, each building's architecture is expressed differently, depending on the exposure. For example, on southern exposures, the buildings have a variety of shading devices that serve to reduce the amount of radiant energy entering the building. At the same time, these shading devices act as light shelves to reflect light deeper into the building and reduce the amount of energy needed to artificially illuminate the building. On the east and west exposures, serrated elements and a combination of horizontal and vertical shading devices are provided to reduce the amount of solar heat gain. Finally, the northern building exposures include floor-to-floor glazing, which serves to maximize the amount of natural light flowing into the buildings.

The buildings incorporate significant, passive energy-efficient methods including exterior shading devices, light shelves, and large open window areas in order to maximize natural light. In addition, the architecture includes cool and green roofs, with roof parapet-mounted trellis structures that would shade the upper floor terraces while supporting photovoltaic solar collectors. Roof water collection systems would redirect water to irrigate onsite landscaping areas. Parking structures also include roof-mounted trellis structures that shade parked cars while supporting additional photovoltaic panels for on-site renewable energy.

Landscaped areas offer generous space for passive and active recreation. A large amphitheater allows for all-hands meetings for building tenants, while outdoor sports "rooms" provide space for basketball, volleyball or bocce ball.

A collection of softscape, hardscape, wind-protected seating areas, and water features enhance the pedestrian-oriented environment. Building occupants will have many options for relaxation as they stroll through this park-like setting. Seating areas are designed to support a variety of activities – from conversation to contemplation.

Large tree boscs create parking rooms for visitor parking, drop-off, and vehicular entry. These areas are well-screened from other pedestrian landscape areas to give a soft, lush feel to this new urban environment.