

## College of Santa Fe Visual Arts Center

This stunning complex houses five structures: the Marion Center for Photographic Arts, the Thaw Art History Center, Tishman Hall (for studio fundamentals), Tipton Hall (a lecture venue) and the independent nonprofit Santa Fe Art Institute.

The complex was designed by international award-winning architect Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico, who is known for his use of proportion, color and light. The Visual Arts Center features courtyards, bright colors, interesting textures and non-symmetrical roof lines. All of the buildings, with the exception of the Santa Fe Art Institute, are connected by covered porticos. Special materials were utilized to complete Legorreta's vision of the project, including exterior stone pavers and interior stone countertops imported from Mexico.

According to Legorreta, Santa Fe has "a very special light." This light was brought out with the use of a three-quarter inch honey-colored onyx glaze on the art studio windows. The offices are equipped with Wausau aluminum operable windows, while the rest of the structure is outfitted with non-operable "frameless" windows. (The frames are buried in the drywall so all that is visible is the glass.)

The majority of the doors are custom-crafted of solid white oak. Most of the floors are concrete finished with a lithachrome stain.

Exterior synthetic stucco was used so that the bright colors required by the architect could be obtained, and because the synthetic stucco will allow for some expansion and contraction with less of a chance for cracking. This was important because no control joints were allowed on the building.



Location..... Santa Fe, NM  
 Owner ..... College of Santa Fe  
 Architects  
     Design..... Legotteta + Logorreta  
     Of Record ..... Lloyd & Tryk  
 Cost.....\$8.6M  
 Size ..... 54,000 sf  
 Completed ..... December 1998