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Alumnae Biography

S. Pearl Freeman, AIA
M. ARCH | 1976

S. Pearl Freeman, AIA has more than three decades of senior-level professional and managerial experience in architectural practice and governmental service. Her career has focused on the integration of design excellence, building technology and sustainable design. For 25 years, she was Principal Architect of The Colyer Freeman Group LLP in San Francisco, designing and renovating public buildings. In 2005, she joined the $5 billion capital building program of the Judicial Council of California to provide “access to justice” throughout the state. Pearl is currently Manager of the project management team for 11 projects valued at over $1.6 billion. Her notable achievements for the program include the first courthouse to receive LEED certification (Silver), and the first high-rise courthouse.

SAN BERNARDINO JUSTICE CENTER

OWNER: Judicial Council of California
Manager – Capital Program, S. Pearl Freeman, AIA
ARCHITECT: SOM, Managing Partner, Gene Schnair, FAIA,
Managing Director, Steve Sobel, FAIA

Opened in May 2014, the San Bernardino Justice Center bridges the scales of downtown development to unify the urban fabric, creating a visible landmark for the city uniting the public with vibrant open space. Situated at the intersection of San Bernardino’s County Government Center and the Downtown City Center, the Justice Center serves as a nexus for the city’s political and economic development and is the first high-rise and base isolated courthouse for the judicial branch of California.

The new building dramatically improves the courts efficiency by consolidating functions that were previously scattered in 13 different facilities across the county. The 361,000 sf facility complements the adjacent historic courthouse and the court facility to create a community with a flexible, modern, and sustainable center for justice. The project consists of an 11-story courtroom tower visible on the skyline, and a linear, three-story podium that holds the street edge. As the feature spaces of the building, the courtrooms balance the functional requirements of judicial proceedings with highly refined interiors that reflect the dignity of the Court.

AWARDS
National Council of Structural Engineers Association. Award of Merit, 2014
Structural Engineers Association of Northern California, Excellence in Structural Engineering, 2014
Structural Engineers Association of California Excellence in Structural Engineering, 2014

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The project was led by an Owner/Architect team of three accomplished Washington University graduates: S. Pearl Freeman AIA (M.Arch 1976), of the Judicial Council of California and SOM’s Managing Partner, Gene Schnair, FAIA (M.Arch/MBA 1976) and Managing Director, Steven K. Sobel FAIA (M.Arch 1978).