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The Portola Valley Town Center, nestled at the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains on the San Francisco Peninsula west of Stanford University, was designed to embody what mattered most to the people it serves—the natural environment, strong community, self-governance and resilience. Our design goal was to complement and defer to the surrounding natural beauty in the most sustainable way possible while creating a place that was indigenous to site, culture and need. This mutual respect between the unbuilt and the built, the informal and the formal is central to the ideals of the Town of Portola Valley and shaped a design response that is simple and unique, rooted and inspiring.

Our inclusive and open design process engaged residents in a dialogue throughout the project. The Town Center truly reflects their collective aspirations and exemplifies the highest of the Town’s stewardship and conservation ideals.

Photography: César Rubio

**PROJECT AWARDS** (PARTIAL LIST)
- National AIA/COTE Top Ten Green Award
- Good Green Design Award
- AIA California Council & Savings by Design Award of Honor
- AIA San Francisco Merit Award for Energy & Sustainability
- North American Wood Design Merit Award

**PUBLICATIONS** (PARTIAL LIST)
- “Portola Valley Town Center,” by Vernon Mays, Architect magazine, 03/09
- “Town Center Gets Top Ten Treatment,” World Architecture News, 04/09
- “Award-winning firm champions sustainability...” by Zipporah Fonton, Green Business Quarterly, 11/11