

## – PROJECT ATTRIBUTES

- + project location:  
SAN FRANCISCO, SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY, CA, USA
- + substantial completion date:  
22 FEBRUARY 2019
- + gross floor area:  
18,980 SF
- + number of stories:  
ONE
- + building program:  
RECREATIONAL POOL WITH LOBBY, COMMUNITY ROOM  
AND LOCKER ROOMS
- + project climate zone:  
3 (CEC CLIMATE ZONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 24)
- + site area:  
44,058 SF
- + project setting:  
URBAN
- + cost of construction:  
\$11M
- + sustainability certification/target:  
LEED GOLD EQUIVALENT

## design for/equitable communities

# Balboa Park Pool

Balboa Park, an ethnically diverse neighborhood of 50,000 residents, contains San Francisco’s highest youth population yet only one pool. Renovation of the beloved Balboa Pool, a local icon, is part of citywide efforts to improve wellness and recreational equity among underserved communities.

Built in 1956, the International-style structure was seismically unsafe and disintegrating from extensive deferred maintenance. Replacing an opaque fiberglass wall with high-performance glazing showcases the impact of neighborly socialization and physical fitness. Swimmers enjoy park views; park users see a venue that responds to community goals, as articulated in five heavily attended multilingual workshops. The result is a fully accessible facility with diversified programming. The design improves the flow of traffic and reinforces community walkability. Given the area’s rich transit connections, no new parking was added.

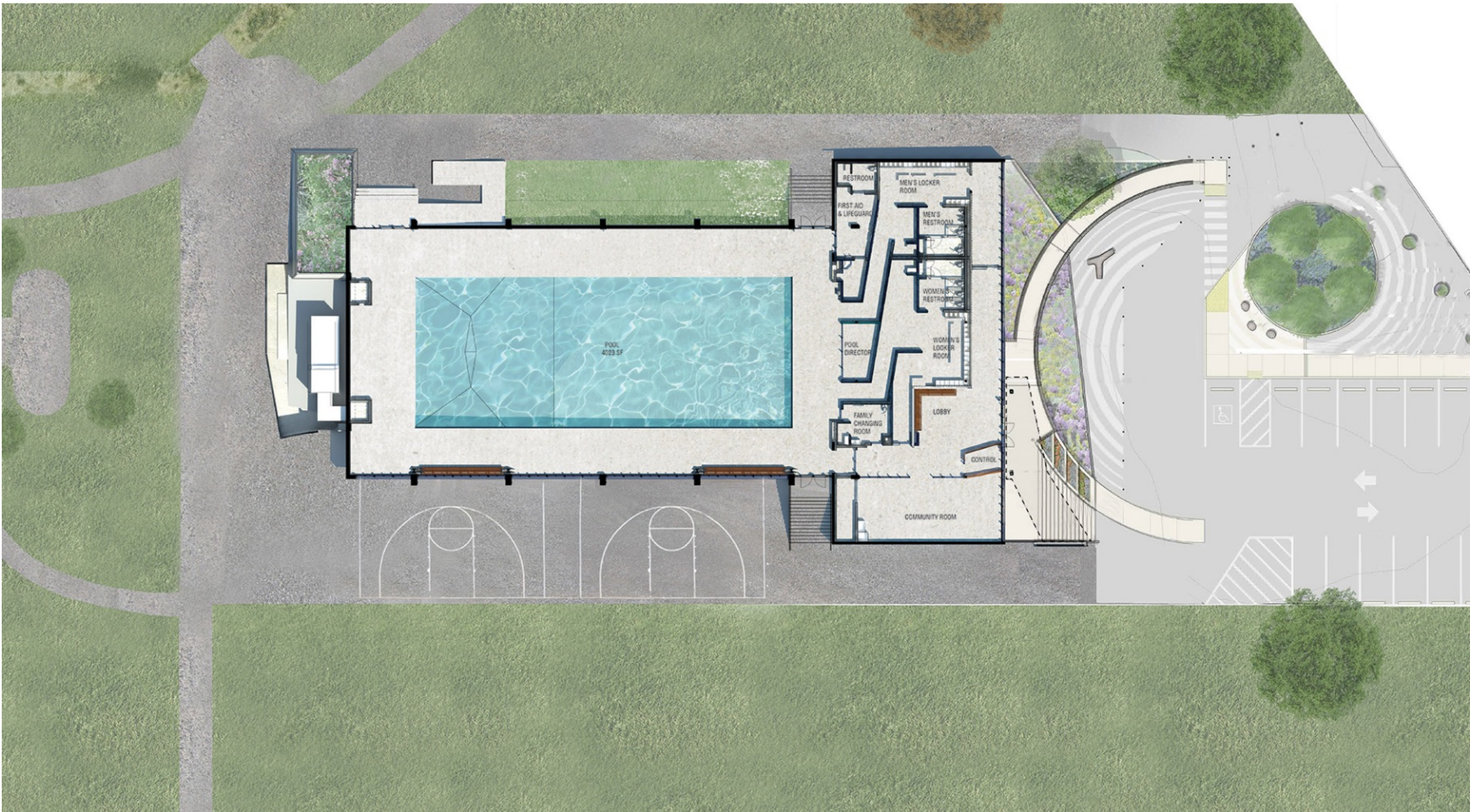
The non-ADA-compliant entry ramp was reimagined for accessibility while retaining historic character. The existing pool, too long for many users, received a new bulkhead, creating two pool zones in one. Separating lane-swimmers from learners and families enables everyone to enjoy the pool together. A whimsical mural, supported through public-art funding, celebrates the diversity of users and neighborhood, reinforcing the message that all are welcome. Designers reconfigured the changing rooms and administrative areas, carving out a new 800-square-foot community room accessible even when the natatorium is closed.

Equity’s impacts multiply when designers consider environmental justice in their projects. Here, wastewater is carried from the pool dehumidification unit for use in toilets, reducing water use by 45%. High-efficiency LED lighting relies on building controls, minimizing electrical use. Low-VOC materials and dehumidifying HVAC vastly improve air quality.

This project has drawn praise from the City for bringing aquatic recreation to underserved youth and swimmers of all ages, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It received an AIASF Social Responsibility commendation and California Preservation Foundation rehabilitation design award.















### DAYLIGHTING AND VIEWS

NEW WINDOWS WITH HIGH PERFORMANCE GLAZING PROVIDED UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF THE BALBOA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD AND HILLS BEYOND, WHILE DECREASING SOLAR HEAT GAIN AND GLARE.



### RECYCLED BUILDING

EXISTING CONCRETE SHELL AND WOOD STRUCTURE WAS PRESERVED AND REVIVED. MINIMAL OFF-HAULING AND DELIVERY OF MAJOR MATERIALS FOR THE PROJECT RESULTED IN LIGHT CARBON FOOTPRINT.



### SOLAR ENERGY

BUILDING SYSTEMS WERE PLANNED FOR FUTURE RENEWABLE ENERGY POWER SOURCES - WITH POINTS OF CONNECTION FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR HOT WATER OR ELECTRICITY.

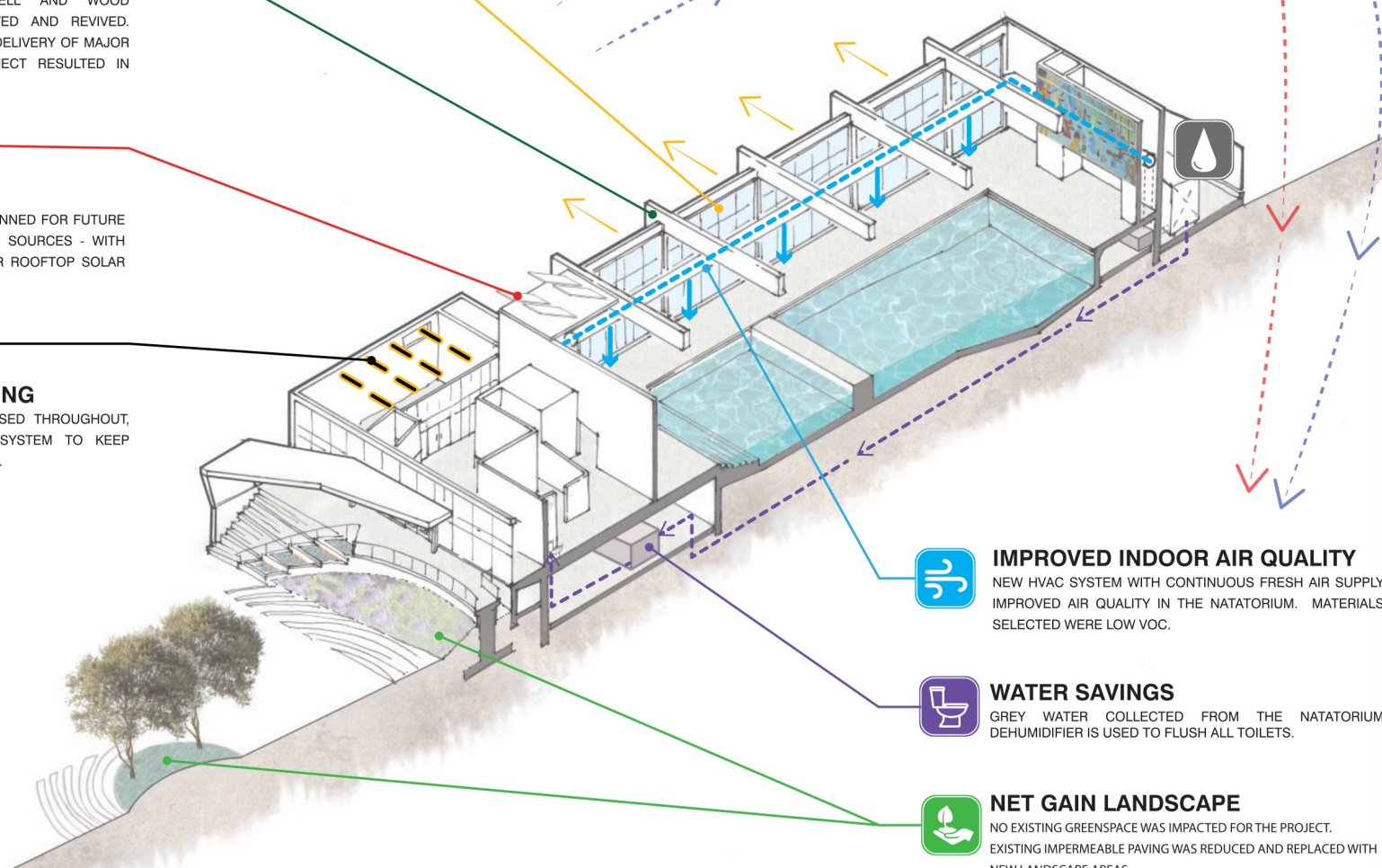


### EFFICIENT LIGHTING

HIGH EFFICACY LIGHTING USED THROUGHOUT, WITH BUILDING CONTROL SYSTEM TO KEEP ELECTRICAL USE TO MINIMUM.

SUMMER SUN 61°

WINTER SUN 15°



### IMPROVED INDOOR AIR QUALITY

NEW HVAC SYSTEM WITH CONTINUOUS FRESH AIR SUPPLY IMPROVED AIR QUALITY IN THE NATATORIUM. MATERIALS SELECTED WERE LOW VOC.



### WATER SAVINGS

GREY WATER COLLECTED FROM THE NATATORIUM DEHUMIDIFIER IS USED TO FLUSH ALL TOILETS.



### NET GAIN LANDSCAPE

NO EXISTING GREENSPACE WAS IMPACTED FOR THE PROJECT. EXISTING IMPERMEABLE PAVING WAS REDUCED AND REPLACED WITH NEW LANDSCAPE AREAS.







