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Structures Awards 2022

Adobe's North Tower is the 2022 Structures honoree for Best Office Project (Large)

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Editor's note: Each year, the Silicon Valley Business Journal presents its Structures Awards, which honor the best commercial real estate projects, deals and people in the region. Leading up to a special awards ceremony and celebration this Thursday, the SVBJ will announce a group of this year's winners each day. For tickets to the event at the Signia by Hilton in San Jose, [click here](#).



TOMAS OVALLE / THE SILICON VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Adobe's long called downtown San Jose. Now, the company is expanding with a gleaming fourth tower, the first office project to be completed in the city in two decades.

Adobe North Tower, at 333 West San Fernando St.

It's only fitting that the San Jose-based software company known for its Photoshop and Illustrator graphics programs is building a tower that its owner hopes will be set apart from other downtown San Jose buildings because of the bright color motifs that will make their way through the structure.

Set to house as many as 3,000 workers when it's completed early next year, Adobe's North Tower in downtown San Jose will feature three color "strands" that will thread their way through the 18-story building to demarcate certain functions. For instance, the Orange strand will mark social areas such as hubs and all-hands meeting rooms; Green will be used to signal collaboration rooms; and Blue will be used for private booths and "brainstorming" rooms.

"These colors serve as a beacon of color and creativity to the skyline of the City of San Jose and a color story and wayfinding device for Adobe employees and visitors using the spaces," said Adobe spokeswoman Ladan Herovi.

Constructing the 1.3-million-square-foot building – 700,000 of which will be office space while almost 600,000 will be for underground parking – was no easy task, as the project broke ground in June 2019, or about nine months before the pandemic ushered in a combination of supply-chain issues and on-site construction protocol. For instance, specifications for items such as doors and kitchen equipment had to be altered to account for supply shortages, while Adobe made extensive use of cameras and videos to allow executives to review construction progress without visiting the site.

Once completed, the building will include an elevated pedestrian bridge connecting the new building with the rest of Adobe's campus in downtown San Jose, where it's maintained its headquarters since 1997. Illustrative of the ever-environmentally-conscious Silicon Valley, the building will also be the first of its kind in San Jose to eschew the use of natural gas for energy, and will instead be all-electric.

Best Office Project, Large – Adobe North Tower

Location: 333 W. San Fernando St., San Jose

Size: 1.3 million square feet

Cost: Not disclosed

Features: The tower will have orange, blue and green color “strands” that will be visible from the exterior while signaling specific work purposes for Adobe employees.

Status: Started June 2019, set to be completed in early 2023

Background: Adobe acquired the 2.5-acre downtown San Jose site for the North Tower in early 2018. The building will almost double the company’s headcount in downtown San Jose to more than 6,000 workers.

Challenge: Shelter-in-place mandates and supply-chain interruptions from the pandemic forced Adobe to tweak its construction schedules and protocol as well as some of its building specifications.

Key Players

Owner/developer: Adobe

Architect: Gensler

General contractor: Devcon Construction Inc.

Landscaping: Bionic

Engineering: Taylor Engineering

Mechanical engineering: ACCO Engineered Systems

Electrical engineering: Sprig Electric

Plumbing: KDS Plumbing

Furniture: Pivot Interiors

Subcontractors: Niteo, Arup, and SCG Foodspace



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