



## Environmental Nature Center

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The Environmental Nature Center (ENC) was the first LEED Platinum building in Orange County, directly aligning the design with the non-profit's mission to provide environmental education through hands-on experience. The 9,000-square-foot interpretive center seeks to inspire and educate visitors by showcasing green strategies focused on ecological responsibility, sustainable practices and environmental education. Leadership of the nonprofit, which had been operating out of trailers for 30 years, wanted a new home where they could increase community knowledge and appreciation of the natural world. But the budget was tight given the project's size and ambitious sustainability goals. The challenge was to develop a top-tier green building without breaking the bank, leading the design team to focus on cost-effective passive controls. They started by siting the building in a north-south orientation to best control solar heat gain glare. To reduce HVAC costs, LPA's engineers designed the space for natural ventilation. Ocean breezes pass through low intake windows along the south; excess hot air rises up the sloped ceiling and exhales out high operable windows along the north.

### PROJECT DATA

#### CLIENT

Environmental Nature Center

#### SERVICES

Architecture, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture

#### AWARDS

LEED NC Platinum  
ASLA So. California Chapter Quality of Life Honor Award  
AIACC/Savings by Design Merit

#### FAC

9,000 square feet