

## Ratcliff in Cupertino, California

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*The two-story De Anza College Media and Learning Centre, in Cupertino, California, designed by Ratcliff.*

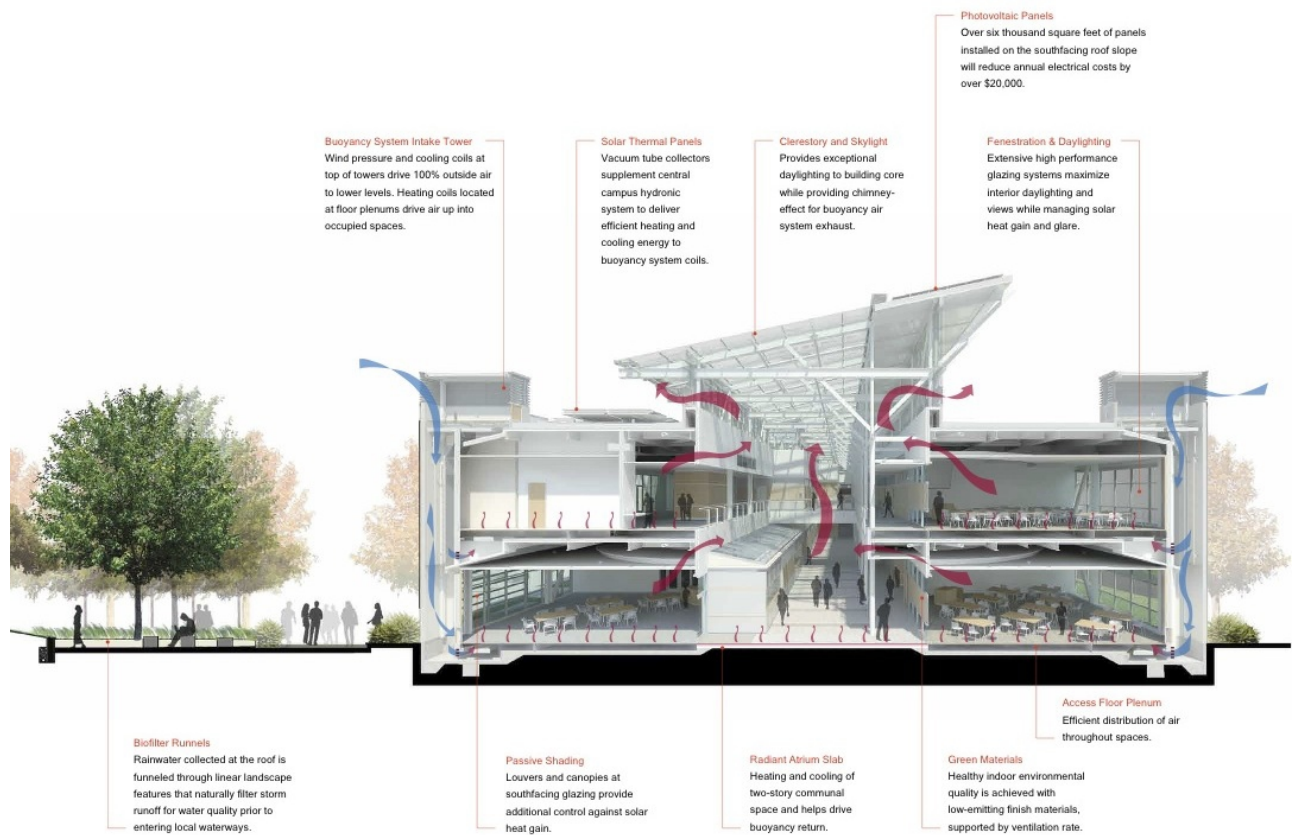
*Photo: David Wakely*

Ratcliff, an architecture firm in Emeryville, California, designed the recently completed Media and Learning Center at De Anza College, in Cupertino, California. The 14-classroom, 67,000-square-foot (6,200-square-meter) project opened for classes in September, accommodating classes in anthropology and general education.



*The 80-foot-long (24-meter-long) atrium of the Media and Learning Center. Photo: David Wakely*

The building is expected to earn a LEED Platinum certification and sports a number of sustainable features, including a 6,000-square-foot (560-square-meter) photovoltaic array mounted adjacent to the fritted-glass skylight over a central atrium space. The atrium's clerestory glazing, along with considerable glazing along the building's facades, helps to provide daylight access to many of the spaces.



*Section diagram showing air circulation patterns. Image: Ratcliff*

The atrium also plays a central role as the exhaust point of the center's passive-downdraft ventilation system. Cooling towers located along either side of the building serve as the system's air supply. And rooftop vacuum-tube thermal solar array also provides heat for the HVAC system.





*The vacuum-sealed thermal solar array. Photo: David Wakely*

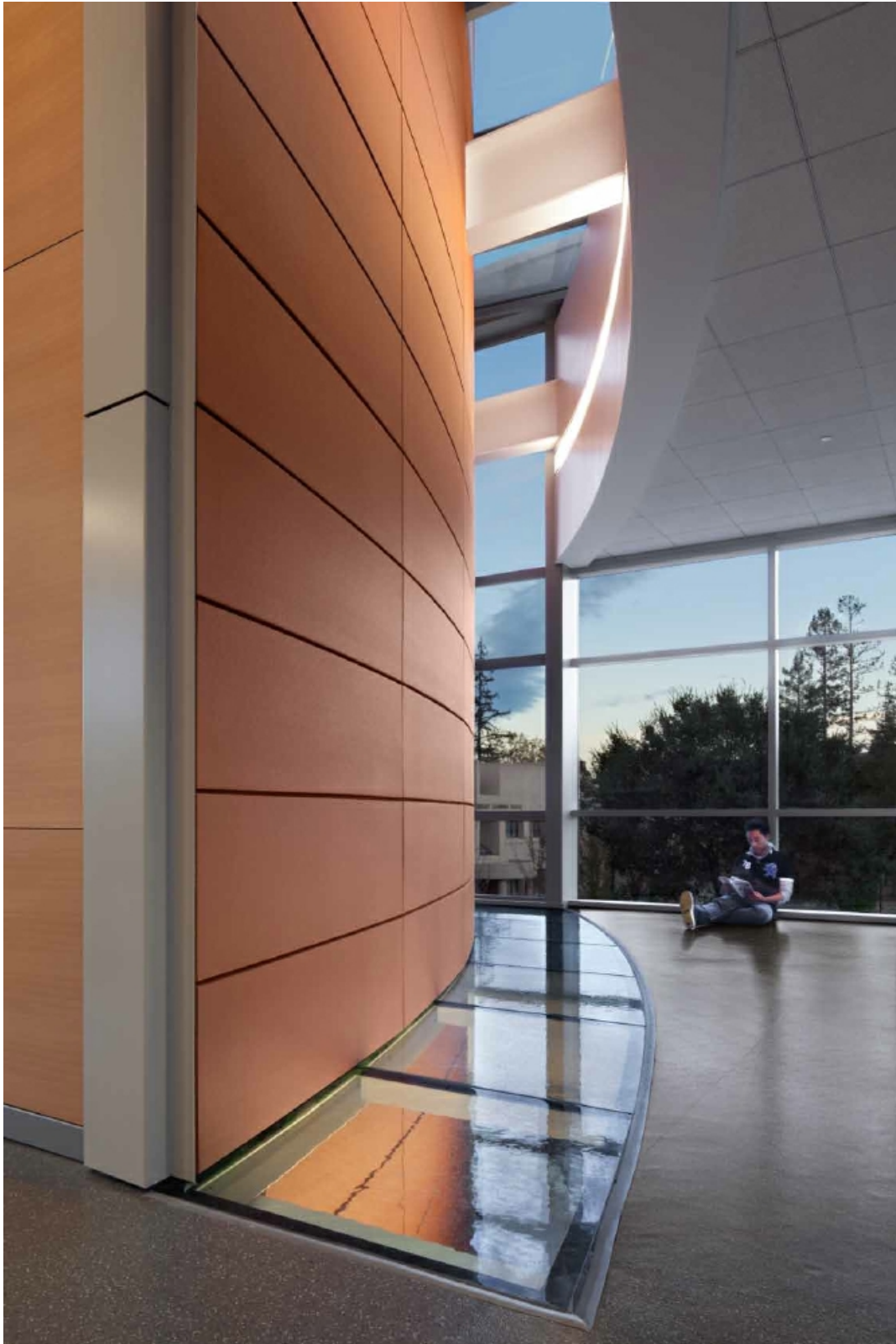
The grounds are planted with drought-resistant vegetation and shade trees, and include storm-water runnels that conserve irrigation water.

The building's steel structure is a buckling restrained brace-frame system that absorbs seismic energy by allowing a building to flex, reducing the possibility of damage at key structural connections during earthquakes.



*A radially configured classroom of the Media and Learning Center. Photo: David Wakely*

The firm estimates that the Media and Learning Center will use as much as 71% less energy than the regional average for higher-education buildings. WSP Flack + Kurtz is the engineer of record for the \$37-million project.



*Smaller skylights can be found around the building. Photo: David Wakely*





*The building's photovoltaic array. Photo: David Wakely*

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Source: Architecture Week People & Places Blog