

# Construction Week

News, bids, projects and plans

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Section C



## Domusstudio finishes church design

Daily Transcript staff report

San Diego-based **domusstudio architecture** has completed work on the Malibu Presbyterian Church.

The 8,000-square-foot church replaces the original structure that was destroyed by wildfires in 2007. The church's steel beam cross was the only item salvaged from the fire and incorporated in the new house of worship. The steel beam stands on the church as a symbol of faith.

The church's exterior is comprised of glass and brick wall. Some of the new features inside include a balcony, a seating area that wraps around the altar and a sound system with a video screen.

"Not only were we challenged by church members to create a worship venue that captured the coastline views, but also to create a space that was acoustically correct for their worship style," said David Keitel, senior associate at domusstudio. "On top of that, we had to contend with stringent seismic and wind zone regulations and the highest fire-rated zone in the state."

To help reduce the damage when it comes to fires, the building will have stone-clad exterior walls, a single-sloped copper roof and noncombustible materials throughout the church.

The church is also made up of used tinted laminated glass, high-efficiency lighting and mechanical systems to



Photo courtesy of domusstudio architecture

**The recently completed Malibu Presbyterian Church replaces the building destroyed in a 2007 wildfire. A San Diego firm, domusstudio architecture, oversaw architectural design.**

improve energy efficiency and reduce the structure's carbon footprint.

The design and construction took four years, beginning with meetings with church members to come up with plans that captured what they wanted in their new church, including incorporating what parishioners loved about the old sanctuary.

The new structure is the first step in

restoring Malibu Presbyterian Church.

Construction of the 9,000-square-foot administrative offices and preschool building is scheduled to begin last week. Future plans for a community center, open to all Malibu residents, is also in the planning stages.

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## Judge rules Plaza project improperly OK'd

By DOUG SHERWIN  
The Daily Transcript

Despite arguments from San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith, a Superior Court judge recently affirmed an earlier ruling that the plan to renovate Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama was improperly approved and must be set aside.

The proposed \$45.3 million project, which has been opposed by the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) from its inception, calls for the construction of a bypass bridge and a paid parking garage to eliminate vehicle traffic from the center of Balboa Park.

Judge Timothy Taylor initially rejected the city's argument that there is "no reasonable beneficial use" for the property if the renovations are not made — a showing that is required by municipal code when anyone attempts to alter a historical structure or facility.

During previous oral arguments, Goldsmith contended there are "unreasonable beneficial uses," which the city is free to reject in favor of one deemed more beneficial.

"Respectfully, this strikes the court as re-writing the Municipal Code," Taylor wrote in a 15-page final ruling. "The City Council did not enact lan-

See Plaza on 2C

### Index

BID BOARD ..... 7C  
BIDS RECEIVED ..... 5C  
NEW LISTINGS ..... 6C  
UPDATE ..... 6C

32 Pages

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