PART III: DESIGN PRINCIPLES & GUIDELINES
SITE CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

The study area is located in a distinct coastal setting characterized by steep slopes and rugged vegetation. The coastal sage scrub on weathered slopes is a direct response to the orientation, ocean exposure, steady on-shore wind condition and dry climate. The pattern of this natural landscape has been changed by major interventions such as the filling of two canyons that once bisected the site, the establishment of non-native plant species particularly eucalyptus, and extensive grading for development and roadways. Development proposed by this plan arranges the existing landscape fragments into a new landscape pattern. The disturbed landscape inboard of development is transformed into the setting for Scripps work and activity. The rustic landscape outboard of development, including coastal sage and eucalyptus, is preserved and enhanced.

As evidenced by development on the west side of Scripps, the introduction of irrigation substantially changes the landscape character. Given the preciousness of water in southern California and the University's changing policies regarding irrigation, the landscape of this neighborhood should remain consistent with the micro-climate. The landscape materials planted outboard of buildings should be selected to blend with and extend the naturally drought-tolerant landscape that exists on the hillside. Irrigated garden areas should be limited to places that receive frequent use. Lush and colorful use of plant materials should occur in inboard areas, providing shade and wind protection, framing views, defining outdoor rooms and passageways.

GUIDELINES

Development should be organized around and serviced from graded areas that exist on the site. It should be consolidated and compact to keep disruption of the rustic landscape to a minimum and to maintain the general shape of the topography (Figure 13).

Grading and landshaping will be required in developing this hillside neighborhood. It should be done in a manner that deliberately merges the buildings and roads into the larger landform and provides access to exterior spaces from within buildings for the use and enjoyment of the Scripps community.

Roads on hillsides can cause great disruption to the overall shape of the land. Where possible, new development should be accessed from existing roads. New roads through the rustic landscape areas should be kept short and their width should not exceed the minimum required for fire protection access. Insofar as possible, new roads should follow the contour of the land to minimize cutting and filling.

Parking should be accommodated in large, efficient lots. No parking should be allowed along access roads in an effort to keep widths to a minimum. The only exception to this is along Shellback Way which passes through a development area. See Scripps Courts for planting guidelines in parking areas.
Drainage from new development (buildings, courts, and roads) must be channeled into an existing storm drain system and away from the hillside to minimize erosion, slippage of the hillside, and pollution of nearshore waters.

Utilities should be installed underground beneath roadways and courts, but not below planted open spaces.

Outboard of development plant material should be selected and placed to merge the buildings with the surrounding landscape and augment the existing landscape character (Figure 14). The University's policy is to follow fire limitations on design outlined by the City of San Diego Planning Department in The Landscape Technical Manual. An 85-foot brush management zone is extended beyond the buildings. Three sub-zones specify differing degrees of pruning, trimming and management. The emphasis of this plan is on maintenance of a native vegetation context while introducing limited irrigation within this zone. These restrictions coupled with the suggested water budget make the design and selection of planting a rigorous design exercise.

Native Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub includes plant materials that were historically extensive in this coastal area and that have been largely lost due to development. The patches of scrubland that exist on the northern and southern portions of the site should be preserved and augmented to the extent possible as a remnant of this unique environment.

Eucalyptus groves have become characteristic features of the main UCSD campus. The stand on the east edge of the site, especially the masses which screen development from adjacent roads, should be preserved. Extending the grove into planting areas in the Expedition Way parking lot may be an appropriate way to help maintain the rustic character of the outboard area and screen the cars in the lot from public view.

The maximum number of trees permitted within the 85-foot brush management zone should be retained or planted with native species like oak and toyon. Tree plantings of all species must respect the public views of the ocean and Point La Jolla from La Jolla Shores Drive and Expedition Way.

Low plantings and ground covers should be selected to reinforce the existing vegetation patterns and blend with the color and texture of the coastal sage scrub. These should be extended into the planting areas in the Expedition Way parking lot. Individual project landscaping should not be limited to the immediate building footprints.

Inboard of development colorful plant materials should be used in conjunction with outside spaces and circulation paths. Soil conditions should be evaluated and amended as required to accommodate the selected plant material. They should not be set up as the counter-focus to the larger hillside landscape character, but placed to enhance the enjoyment of the outdoor life that occurs within the Scripps community. North of Munk Laboratory, the small,
well-tended glade that is surrounded by the native bluff vegetation exemplifies this kind of landscape definition. The glade, lush yet simple, carves a wind protected place out of the rustic vegetation.

**Tree plantings** are required within the development areas primarily to provide shade and wind protection. Neighborhood and private views west to the ocean are considered a primary amenity and need to be preserved and enhanced. Dense canopy intrusions into long range views should be minimized.

**Trees close to buildings** with high-headed and/or lacy, open canopies should be selected to filter direct sun from the south and west; minimize view intrusion by allowing views past trunks and through canopies; and settle the buildings in the bigger landscape. Native species are preferable, but eucalyptus should not be overlooked where their planting can strengthen an existing landscape character such as outboard Upper Mesa Court along the east edge of the buildings or within pocket gardens adjacent to the existing stand of eucalyptus.

**Trees out from buildings** within views should have low canopies that provide shade underneath but allow for outlook from the upper levels of the surrounding buildings and common terraces.

**Ground covers** should be selected to enhance views and to protect the hillside and cut slopes from erosion.

**Scripps Grove** is central to the plan and Scripps Ladder. It is the most important and visible new planting in the neighborhood. It should be an extension of the established tree characteristics (*i.e.*, drought tolerant and rustic), while having a low, open canopy for views through and over the Grove. See **Scripps Ladder** for specific guidelines on the Grove.

**The Hillside Meadow** is a mix of low ground covers, preferably monochromatic, which provide a long lasting blossom for those passing by it or looking down on it from surrounding buildings. The Meadow is also the foreground for ocean vistas from Upper Mesa Court and higher elevations. Drought tolerant ground covers such as *Lantana montevidensis* "Dwarf White" (Trailing Lantana) and *Lonicera japonica* "Halliana" (Hall's Honeysuckle) or other native species would be well suited for the field. *Trachelospermum jasminoides* (Star Jasmine), which has a pleasant fragrance would be appropriate along the walkways. On the east side of Shellback Way trees of the Scripps Grove should be planted at the toe of the slope and irregularly up the hillside, to extend the Grove around the key building and to soften the downhill edge of the Meadow. On the west side of Shellback Way and adjacent to the tall mass of Nierenberg Hall, a new colorful planting could be established to break the heaviness of the architectural form and provide color in front of the existing melaleuca trees.
IMPLEMENTATION

A water budget should be established by the University for the Hillside Neighborhood in a manner similar to a construction budget. A specific amount of water will be allotted to each individual project as part of the project description. Landscape materials selection and design will be limited by this allotment.

An open space preservation and maintenance plan should be established by the University to protect and maintain the native vegetation, natural landforms and rustic landscape outboard of development within this neighborhood. As suggested by the UCSD Master Plan, a program for maintenance and improvement of the existing eucalyptus trees should be undertaken. These elements serve to establish the character of the SIO Hillside Neighborhood and to screen development from public views.
Private Views
Circulation, furniture arrangement and window placement should consider the views and natural light afforded by the space.
SCRIPPS LADDER AND PATH NETWORK

The concept of Scripps Ladder was implemented by the Revelle Laboratory project as a means for linking buildings along an accessible passageway eventually connecting the entire SIO campus. The portions of the Ladder along Discovery Way and through Revelle Laboratory serve as models for accessibility within the SIO Hillside Neighborhood. The Ladder through Revelle Laboratory is celebrated with elevators and terraces intentionally integrating the required accessibility to buildings with west-facing and wind-protected outdoor meeting places. Further south the Ladder becomes Discovery Way, the main route through that part of campus. Scripps activity is concentrated along both sides of the roadway. Buildings, gathering places and outdoor work areas face it and most campus traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) passes along it.

Drawing from these examples, the Ladder and related path network through the SIO Hillside Neighborhood should extend full accessibility in ways that help people find their way, link activities, and allow for casual social encounters. The Hillside Neighborhood portion of Scripps Ladder will be primarily a pedestrian passage, moving across the hillside with the use of inclined paths, bridges, elevators and exterior corridors along the sides of the buildings.

A strong visual identity of the path network is critical to successful social interaction within the project and is important in giving Scripps Ladder an identifiable and memorable character throughout the Hillside Neighborhood.

PATH ORGANIZATION

Four different paths and path types make up the network (Figure 16). These are sited and aligned to be direct and connect places within the neighborhood that people frequent, such as building entrances, elevator lobbies, large class or seminar rooms and natural meeting places. A prime concern of the Scripps community is the security of the people who will use the path. Visibility, lighting and emergency provisions, such as call boxes, should be considered in the design of Scripps Ladder and path network.

Scripps Ladder through this neighborhood extends from Scripps Crossing to the Expedition Way parking lot by the most direct route possible. It is a completely open and accessible exterior passageway. The Ladder goes around the south edge of Nierenberg Hall to Shellback Way, then through a building to Upper Mesa Court. An elevator across the court to the east connects to a switchback path that leads to the Expedition Way parking lot. Eventually the Ladder will connect to future development across Expedition Way. The entirety of this path must conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Paths parallel to the Ladder serve to provide an alternative route for people moving up or down the hill that does not involve going through buildings or using elevators. These paths are not necessarily accessible. For the purposes of strengthening the presence of the Ladder,
VIEW CORRIDORS AND OUTLOOK

The views afforded by this site comprise some of the most memorable and engaging characteristics of the study area. Of the views, the ones west of SIO, La Jolla and the Pacific Ocean are the most powerful and the most desirable. They are long and broad and provide a direct, visible connection between the Scripps community and the Pacific Ocean. This broad panorama together with close and intimate views work to give viewers a special sense of their place in the landscape.

VIEW TYPES

Public views of the ocean must be respected where they are not blocked by existing vegetation and landform. New development should not create view obstructions from La Jolla Shores Drive and Expedition Way east of the site (Figure 15). Buildings should be sited and their masses limited so that the existing natural obstructions such as the stand of eucalyptus and the landform west of the site will screen them from public view. Public views of the Hillside Neighborhood from the west are also of concern. The selected color palette, materials and landscaping are proposed to help settle the buildings into the surrounding landscape, screen them from view and visually break up their mass.

Views from within the neighborhood, or neighborhood views, should draw attention to the distinct characteristics of this physical setting. Windows and balconies in buildings and outdoor gathering places throughout the neighborhood should be positioned so that they have pleasant outlooks to the ocean, the distant Point La Jolla, nearby groves of trees and the newly created courts and terraces. The ocean outlook is most desirable and particularly appropriate for common outdoor places, public passages and rooms that are frequently used by many people.

Private views from laboratories, offices and work stations should be carefully examined when organizing floor plans. Circulation, furniture arrangement and window placement should consider the views and natural light afforded by the space.

IMPLEMENTATION

Accurate view studies should be required for the Marine Sciences Physical Planning Committee, Campus/Community Planning Committee, and Design Review Board during the schematic design phases of individual projects. The studies should assist in determining the massing and height of the proposed development and their impact on views. The University should provide design teams with digitized site information for three dimensional computer modeling of the proposed schemes. As an alternative, the University could install on-site story poles which mark the corners and heights of proposed buildings.
the materials, colors and landscaping for the parallel paths should match those of the Ladder. Seating should be accommodated at the landings of these paths.

**P-1** South of Nierenberg Hall a stair connects Scripps Ladder across Downwind Way to a sidewalk along the north edge of Deep Sea Court. The walk accesses buildings around the court without requiring use of the bridge over Downwind Way or the elevators in the court buildings.

**P-2** An accessible walk through Scripps Grove is a switchback path that connects Shellback Way to Upper Mesa Court.

**P-3** Upper Mesa Stair connects the east end of the court to the path leading to the Expedition Way parking lot. Large, square landings at the intersection of the Ladder and the stair run should provide places to sit and view the ocean through Scripps Grove.

**Connecting paths** link areas to the north and south of the Ladder. These are accessible paths.

**C-1** A path turning north past Scripps Crossing connects to the southeast corner of Nierenberg parking lot, providing access to the buildings surrounding Ocean Court. A free standing elevator or lift will have to be installed along the path west of Nierenberg Hall to make this path accessible.

**C-2** A bridge across Downwind Way on the south end of Nierenberg Hall connects Scripps Ladder to Deep Sea Court along a building. Flowering vines along its sides soften the mass of the structure across Downwind Way.

**C-3** A gently sloping path between Ocean Court and the corner of Expedition Way and Downwind Way moves along the east side of Shellback Way and through the rustic landscape north of Downwind Way. The northern portion of this path will be a primary pedestrian link between Ocean Court and Deep Sea Court. A concrete sidewalk on the east side of Shellback Way and west of the proposed staging/parking area is required.

**C-4** An exterior corridor or gallery along the west face of OAR connects the terrace at the south end of OAR to the north end of the building and to the north parcel.

**C-5** An exterior corridor or gallery along VH/TBR connects to the upper levels of OAR and provides a secondary link to the Hillside Commons and Upper Mesa Court.

**C-6** A sidewalk along the west edge of Upper Mesa Court provides access to the buildings along Mesa Way.
Eucalyptus Walk connects Ocean Court to the Expedition Way parking lot. This path has two sections. A stepped walk accesses the terrace between VH/TRB and OAR facilities above Ocean Court then moves along the stand of eucalyptus north of Upper Mesa Court, offering a quiet alternative walk to Scripps Ladder.

The portion of Eucalyptus Walk from Ocean Court to the terrace between VH/TRB and OAR should be treated as an extension of the buildings adjacent to it. The portion through the trees should be in character with the rustic landscape, such as asphalt or gravel with railroad tie steps. Rails and lighting should not be a primary feature of this walk and should be used only as required. The rails should be metal pipe rails dark in color to blend with the vegetation. The lighting should be provided from pole mounted fixtures.

GUIDELINES

The character of Scripps Ladder and supporting paths should reflect the nautical nature of Scripps and extend the character of Scripps Crossing. With the exception of Eucalyptus Walk (described above), materials and lighting should be consistent throughout the neighborhood when traveling between buildings (Figure 17). The Ladder should be differentiated from the connecting paths with landscape and the use of more intense colors. A color portfolio devised for this neighborhood specifies the colors for the paths.

Handrails, guardrails and lighting should be placed on the downhill side of the paths and designed as an integral aspect of the path system. The placement of lights on the downhill sides will create beads of light along the hillside as seen from below, illuminate the hillside, and increase the sense of security along the path network. Concentrating the vertical elements on one side of the path minimizes the clutter along the walkways and hillside.

The paving materials should integrate colors and textures to emphasize the direction of movement. The sides of the paths should be lined with a continuous colored or textured concrete band along a natural concrete walk.

Guard and hand rails should be simple, metal pipe railings anchored to the downhill side of the path and should be carried into buildings where they continue the paths. They should be in regular lengths which correspond to the spacing of the path lighting. A deeper, more intense color could identify Scripps Ladder and a lighter, less intense one should mark the supporting paths. The colors should be consistent throughout the neighborhood.

Path lighting should provide the light required for passage at night and minimize light pollution. Bollard standards, preferably metal, should direct light into pools on the paving and screen the light source from above. Like the rails, the bollard lighting standards should be on the downhill side of the path. The spacing required for proper illumination will establish the standardized length of the rails. The lighting needs to comply with UCSD Outdoor Lighting Policy and Lighting Design Guidelines which require low pressure sodium
FIGURE 17
Scripps Ladder
lamps. The Planning Advisory Committee preferred the bollard standards to the typical campus pole standard.

**Scripps Grove**, a special planted landmark, should be used to strengthen Scripps Ladder's visual presence. Taking the central campus eucalyptus grove as a paradigm, the area including the Ladder between Shellback Way and Upper Mesa Court should be treated as a grove planted along the path with regularly spaced, low headed trees so not to impact the view from higher elevations and particularly the Hillside Commons. The selected tree species *Eucalyptus torquata* spaced at approximately 20 feet in terraces will blend with the established vegetation and grow to a maximum of 25 feet in height. The soil condition should be evaluated and amended as required to accommodate the trees and other plantings along the grove. Scripps Grove should extend across Shellback Way and contain the pathway to the southern edge of Nierenberg Hall. The same trees should provide shade in the Hillside Commons and along the path as it moves across Upper Mesa Court and the hillside to the Expedition Way parking lot.

**Secondary planting** along Scripps Ladder should feature the most brightly colored usage of landscaping in the neighborhood to underscore the importance of the passageway. Colorful bougainvillea on the south side of the central transition building, and along the walls of Upper Mesa Court would be appropriate. Red bougainvillea would be particularly so because it is planted in the Revelle Laboratory complex. *Lantana montevideensis* "white dwarf" as a ground cover would extend the Hillside Meadow below Scripps Grove.

**Building elevators** which serve as vertical access along the path system should be sited and delineated as obvious continuations of the public passageway. Elevator shafts and cabs should be open (i.e., glass enclosed) so that their operation is visible. Landings should be generous and signs should clearly indicate accessibility and the level on which the path continues.

**24-hour passage** should be provided by Scripps Ladder. Security must be evaluated for the uses that occur in proximity to public exterior circulation along buildings.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

A **special landscape budget** should be established by the University for the design, construction and maintenance of an identifiable path network as it moves through the open spaces within the neighborhood. The budget should allow for the preparation of designs that specify paving and rail materials, colors, lighting standards and path widths which are consistent with the guidelines and campus policies on paths and lighting.
SCRIPPS COURTS

A variety of outdoor working and meeting places are central to the social framework of SIO. Four different types of courts establish a hierarchy of outdoor work and service areas as well as large and small outdoor meeting and relaxation places. They are created by the buildings, the path network and roads which surround and pass through them. Each court type plays a particular role in the life of this neighborhood; all accommodate being outdoors and provide places of common identity for various working groups (Figure 18).

COURT TYPES AND GUIDELINES

Arrival Courts are landmark features of the neighborhood. They are large, graded and paved surfaces which aggregate the programmatic elements of the neighborhood. They are multi-purpose places that provide for main entrances to buildings, parking, outdoor work areas, lay-down yards and fire access.

Tress in the arrival courts parking areas should be used to create a smaller, more friendly scale of open space suggestive of the scale of SIO West. Species with low, wide canopies and colorful blossoms should be planted in an orchard pattern. Care should be taken in selecting trees that minimize view obstructions from surrounding buildings. A different species should be selected for Ocean Court and Deep Sea Court to accentuate the individual character of each. The landscaping focus should be on the center or field of the lot, not around the edges. The trees in Upper Mesa Court are the same as those in Scripps Grove. Trees in the parking lots should have adequate permeable area to provide air and water to the roots. Should the parking areas be decked trees should be accommodated on the topmost level.

Permeable paving materials should be considered for the arrival courts as a way to absorb water that otherwise would be lost to runoff and lend distinction to the court spaces.

Terraces are transition places where the Scripps Ladder and supporting paths intersect or provide access to buildings. They should be designed as meeting spots, with comfortable places for visiting or resting in both sun and shade. In terms of materials, color and landscaping, terraces should be treated as extensions of Scripps Ladder or connecting paths if they occur off the Ladder.

Wind protection is critical to the usefulness of outdoor gathering places at SIO. If landscaping and shrubbery is not sufficient or appropriate for mitigating wind and framing views, glass panels could be used. The spaces they contain should be designed as outdoor rooms of the buildings from which they extend, like the glass-paneled terrace at Revelle Laboratory.
The Hillside Commons is a central gathering place planned for west of Upper Mesa Court. It is placed at the intersection of many paths and it should serve as the collector for the neighborhood. It should be designed to open to the south and west engaging ocean views, and it should be protected from the westerly wind. A variety of places to sit in the sun or shade should be provided. The uses adjacent to the court should draw people from throughout the Scripps community (as would a commissary, a lecture hall or classrooms) so the Commons can be shared by as many people as possible. The colors, materials and landscaping for the Commons should include the palette of Scripps Ladder. (See guideline for wind protection following Terraces.)

Pocket gardens are situated in places where a building opens onto or reaches into the outboard landscape. They should be designed as landscaped rooms formed by exterior walls of buildings and vegetation where small groups could meet outdoors for seminars or relaxation, or a person can be alone. The materials and colors of the pocket gardens should be treated as an extension of the building. Shrubs should occur to define these courts and to create a sense of privacy and protection for the occupants. Where the gardens are outboard of development the planting should be selected to blend with the character and color of the surrounding rustic landscape. Where inboard the gardens can be more lush like the one north of Munk Laboratory. (See guideline for wind protection following Terraces.)

IMPLEMENTATION

As individual projects are identified, they should be considered in light of the entire neighborhood organization and assigned to the arrival court which best serves their program requirements.

Arrival court levels need to be tested and established to facilitate phased construction and assure that the desired pedestrian connections can be made. This will effect floor to floor heights within buildings.

Landscape standards for parking areas within the neighborhoods need to be established by the University for the number of trees and size of permeable area around them.
LINKED BUILDINGS

The siting of the buildings on this hillside is critical in the formation of an integrated neighborhood plan. Buildings will have to carefully step down and across the hillside in ways that retain the surrounding open space and preserve public views while forging the connections required by Scripps Ladder and defining the hierarchy of Scripps Courts. They should offer ease of circulation and provide frequent points of interaction with the outdoors, and they should reflect the variety of working groups that make up the Scripps community. Larger buildings should efficiently accommodate laboratories, vehicular access and shared support requirements. Smaller buildings should accommodate uses that are more independent and require less space (Figure 19).

Building types are classified to further elaborate the "stair-step" and courtyard building concepts proposed in the SIO Master Plan. This system of classification encourages the use of more than one building type in any given parcel within the neighborhood. The intention is to afford appropriate siting strategies that preserve and engage the hillside while enhancing both visual and physical linkages throughout the site.

BUILDING TYPES

**Transition buildings** run perpendicular to the contours, generally east/west, and provide elevator access required by the Scripps Ladder and path network. An elevator should connect the lowest building level to the highest. Making the most efficient use of the elevators requires that these buildings be taller than three stories and may require a second elevator. This type can accommodate a building program which requires limited vehicular access and service.

**Court buildings** typically act to retain the hillside around the arrival courts. On one side they open onto the court, on the other they merge with the surrounding landform, which may be as much as 30' higher than the court elevation at the eastern edge. Court buildings generally run perpendicular or parallel to the contours. The ground level of these buildings are particularly appropriate for high-bay laboratory spaces because they can open up directly onto a vehicular service area.

**Cottages** are small buildings set within the landscape. These smaller structures should be similar in scale to the carpenter's cottages on SIO West, which seem to embody the character of the tight-knit Scripps community in ways that larger institutional buildings do not. The cottages would most readily accommodate offices, meeting rooms, and dry labs for small working groups, and should be sited on the hillside to allow direct accessibility from building floor levels to grade at uphill and downhill access points.
BUILDING FORM AND CHARACTER

The SIO Hillside Neighborhood will primarily consist of laboratories, offices, work yards, and gathering places. The work that occurs here is the event, not the buildings. The structures should be readily adaptable to the various demands placed upon them by the scholars, scientists, staff and students who will use them. To provide the buildings with a degree of continuity and to enhance the usefulness of the work and gathering places, the structure of the buildings should have functional integrity that is consistently responsive to the micro-climate, natural ventilation, solar orientation and salt-air corrosion.

GUIDELINES

The building massing should be simple and straightforward. The buildings should provide a clear edge to the outboard open space and not protrude into it with major building projections or extensions. The buildings should be massed in units small enough to allow standard-length fire hoses to reach all sides from central service areas and adjacent roads without requiring additional grading outboard of development for fire access. The general shape of the building should be longer than wide and the roofs should be the dominant element in the massing of building.

Heights of buildings are important in maintaining the small scale of SIO and to the preservation of public views from the east over the site. Building heights vary throughout the Hillside Neighborhood; refer to Parcel Descriptions for specific height limitations. Generally development can be as tall as four stories on the uphill sides of arrival courts and step down the hillside following the contour of the land. Stories or floor-to-floor heights will deviate depending on use, structural and mechanical requirements and connections to other buildings and shared terraces. High-bay laboratory spaces may be as high as 20'; office and support space as low as 10'.

Access to buildings is required on different levels to link paths between buildings and to open onto terraces and gardens. The primary entrances and elevator lobbies of all buildings should open onto arrival courts. Secondary entrances off terraces and courts should not compete in importance or scale with primary entrances.

Circulation within buildings is critical in linking buildings into the social framework and it should be distinct and identifiable. People should know where they are when in a building passageway.

Exterior passages along buildings are desirable and especially appropriate in accessing levels which have only one frontage and require a single-loaded circulation configuration. The hierarchy between privacy, views and public exterior circulation must be considered when identifying building sites, preparing space planning and conceptual designs for individual projects.

Corridors within the buildings should have outlook at the ends.
The conceptual approach to building materials and color should be consistent throughout the neighborhood. Buildings can be thought of as geodes, with hard, simple exterior shells that blend with their surroundings and protect the delicate gems within. Colors should be selected from the color portfolio prepared for this neighborhood.

The outboard side should be quiet and simple, of colors and materials that reflect and complement the surrounding vegetation - the deep greens and browns of the eucalyptus or the sage greens of the native vegetation (Figure 20).

The inboard side, on the other hand, should be brighter with more colorful hues and expressive of the work that will happen in and around the building (Figure 20). Although the body of the building may be the same all around, balconies, exterior circulation, large court-level openings, deep overhangs providing sun control are encouraged on the inboard side providing opportunities to use metal and brighter accent colors.

The finish siding or cladding on buildings should be wood, preferably left natural and self-weathering. The intent is the creation of a cohesive neighborhood which is compatible with and complementary to the setting. Wood is a warm material which has small scale definition and is not institutional in feeling. Within the specificity of self-weathering woods (i.e., redwood, cedar, western cedar and cypress) a variety of cladding systems can be used, such as board-and-batten, shingles, vertical and horizontal boards.

The exterior siding should follow the contour of the grade and not be stepped, exposing only a minimum amount of concrete foundation.

Building roofs are an important concern of this neighborhood because they are very visible from higher grade elevations. The roofs should be considered as fifth elevations and treated with the same attention and concern.

Roofs silhouettes should be simple, and either flat or shaped in low bows. The location of roof top equipment should be carefully considered and covered from view.

Roof materials such as metal and rolled roofing should not be reflective or shiny and the colors should be deep, not light or bright, to minimize glare. Gravel coverings should be neutral in color toward dark values.

Retaining walls extending from buildings into the surrounding landscape should be carefully designed to suit the activities which they are accommodating.

Surface erosion around buildings on hillside sites has been a problem in the past at SIO. Design and site planning of parcels should consider potential erosion caused by water run-off around the uphill edges and corners of buildings.
Building service areas and trash containers should be accommodated within the building envelope at the arrival court elevation.

The structural system should be separate from interior partitioning so future expansion or connection between interior spaces can be easily accommodated.

Windows should be designed to incorporate shading devices and minimize glare depending on the solar orientation of the opening. Special attention should be given to windows with western exposure because they are desired to frame the ocean view, but can cause substantial heat gain and glare within the building if not properly treated with overhangs and shading devices. (The Hillside Neighborhood color portfolio should discuss the color of the glass regarding ultraviolet reduction or exclusion.)

IMPLEMENTATION

Roof plans, site plans and elevations submitted to the Design Review Board should be required to show all equipment such as elevator penthouses, satellite dishes, antennae, mechanical equipment, electrical sub-stations, that would have to be accommodated on roofs or around the building. They should be evaluated for visual and amenity impact on surrounding spaces.

A color portfolio specifying the palette for the neighborhood should be prepared and distributed with the design information for individual projects.

Harsh weather conditions require that UCSD develop a maintenance program for the upkeep of buildings and site improvements.

The issue of natural and controlled ventilation systems within future buildings should be investigated during preliminary design phase of future buildings to determine the most effective and long term solution to proper ventilation. While natural ventilation of interior work spaces is preferred, spaces that house climate-sensitive equipment require appropriate HVAC and desalinization systems.