

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

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SAN MARCOS

MCMAHAN HOUSE

Chancellor Court, CSU San Marcos
Designed by Rob Wellington Quigley, 2009

The McMahan House's four buildings and courtyard are designed to host meetings, corporate events, parties, and receptions for both campus and community members.

WHISPERING BENCH

Forum Plaza, CSU San Marcos | Designed by Fritzie Urquhart, 2019

Located in the center of campus, a unique and symbolic concrete bench honors the indelible impact of President Karen Haynes and First Gentleman Jim Mickelson. The design's signature acoustical phenomena can carry even a faint whisper from one end to the other.

KELLOGG LIBRARY

333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road, CSU San Marcos Designed by Carrier Johnson + Culture, 2004

Elementary School (K-5) campuses have been updated and enhanced throughout the years. The two schools have been extensively renovated and will be consolidated into one new, comprehensive Kindergarten through 8th grade school campus.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

595 Campus View Drive, CSU San Marcos Designed by Hornberger + Worstell, 2014

The University Student Union (USU) provides a space where students can study, eat, play, and enjoy. The signature rooftop patio offers picturesque views of San Marcos and the campus.

SPORTS CENTER

Campus Way & Campus View Drive, CSU San Marcos Designed by Gensler, 2016

This 26,000-square-foot expansion of the M. Gordon Clarke Field House and Student Union joins sports and student life in a multipurpose hub for recreation and wellness on the California State University San Marcos campus.

THE QUAD

200 East Barham Drive | Designed by Safdie Rabines, 2015

The QUAD is a 5-story student housing project that includes 591 dorm rooms, 12,000 square-feet of academic/student life/event spaces, 20,000 square-foot of ground-floor retail, and cafe and outdoor dining space oriented along the main entrance to North City.

EXTENDED LEARNING BUILDING

288 Campus Way | Designed by Safdie Rabines, 2019

Replacing the existing on-campus Extended Learning Building, the 6-story facility will house classrooms, laboratory, faculty, and administrative spaces for Extended Learning and their subsidiary departments.

CUBE 3 STUDENT HOUSING (FUTURE PROJECT)

190 East Barnham Drive | Designed by Safdie Rabines, 2022

This 8-story student housing complex is linked to the university with a pedestrian bridge. The development is designed as three housing clusters organized around two courtyards.

BLOCK C

250 North City Drive | Designed by Safdie Rabines, 2016

Block C is the first mixed-use/market-rate housing project in North City. The 213,500 square-foot structure offers an urban living experience with ground floor retail, and restaurant and entertainment spaces facing North City's "main street," North City Drive.

SAN ELIJO HILLS

1256 San Elijo Road North | Designed by Architects BP & Associates & Calthorpe & Associates, 1994

One of San Diego County's most notable master-planned communities. This project is an example of "New Urbanism"- a throwback to the pre-World War II approach to city building, which emphasizes walkability and mixed-use development.

- Town Square: The centerpiece of the neighborhood, featuring a park and central fountain.
- Retail blocks: A mix of retail and services at street level, with residences above.
- Copper Creek Apartments: Affordable housing project, located at 1730 Elfin Forest Road.
- Copper Creek Trail: A 2.8-mile trail in the heart of the town.
- San Elijo Park and ballfields, north of the main square.
- San Elijo elementary and middle schools, on Schoolhouse Way.

PALOMAR COLLEGE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS COMPLEX

W. Mission Road & N. Las Posas Road | Designed by BNIM Architects, 2019
Lauded for its innovative green design, this complex houses numerous
facilities, including administrative and staff offices and warehouse space. The
project utilizes such energy-efficient features as thermal chimneys,
rainwater harvesting, and unique passive lighting.

THE DOME AT PALOMAR COLLEGE

Comet Circle, 1959

One of the earliest geodesic structures built in the United States, "The Dome" gymnasium at Palomar College has become an enduring icon of the campus landscape since its completion in 1959.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1020 Rose Ranch Road, 1887

The original chapel was constructed out of lumber sourced from the giant redwood of Northern California. Another building was later moved to the site and the two were spliced together, creating a cross-shaped structure.

OLD CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT ROW

1020 W. San Marcos Boulevard, 1970s

This dining complex began as a fruit and vegetable stand in the 1970s. Today the complex is a San Marcos icon, housing thirteen restaurants, including the Old California Mining Company and the Old California Coffee House and Eatery.

HERITAGE PARK

1952 Sycamore Drive

Heritage Park is the headquarters of the San Marcos Historical Society. The 39-acre park includes two equestrian arenas, picnic areas, playgrounds, and four historic buildings: Connors Hall, Williams Barn or "Red Barn," the Bidwell House, the Cox House and the Native Plant Garden.

JACK'S POND

986 La Moree Road

Jack's Pond Park is a 23-acre park with picnic areas and a playground. The Nature Center offers science and outdoor education programs with hands-on nature study, interpretive hikes and more.

INLAND RAIL TRAIL

W. Mission Road & N. Pacific Street

Inland Rail Trail is a 11.1 mile out and back trail which follows alongside existing rail lines. The trail is primarily used for walking, running, and road biking and is accessible year-round.

