

## Center for Novel Therapeutics (CNT)

The Center for Novel Therapeutics (CNT) has been called a “grand project.” CNT won the San Diego Architectural Foundation’ Orchids and Onions 2020 Malone Grand Orchid and has a LEED Gold rating (very energy efficient).

The name of the building gives us a clue to what is special. The word “novel” means something new and unusual. The goal of the project is to reduce the time from “bench to patient.” The building’s open/shared-space concept is aimed at increasing academic and industry research collaborations.

The plan of the building looks like a backwards letter J. Inside the “letter” there is an open space called an atrium. This atrium is a courtyard that is covered.

An interesting, floating, curving stair inside the atrium provides at the same time a beautiful sculptural element and access to the other floors of this three-story building

The building was designed by Perkins & Will for BioMed Realty Trust and UCSD and is a \$92 million project. CNT completed in 2019 is located on the campus of UCSD in the east Health Science Park.



In the same manner as the nearby world-famous Salk Institute for Biological Studies, the design of CNT facilitates the specific functions that the building is used for, while encouraging interactions of the people working there. The inversion of traditional laboratory design - pushing the laboratories to the outside of the building - creates views and introduces generous amounts of daylight

Innovative design and attention to detail is everywhere in the CNT. For example, notice those floating green cubes in the picture above. Use your imagination to figure out what are they? Why are

they there? Why are two inside the atrium and one floating outside? The building is designed to encourage imagination and new discoveries.

Good design, as exemplified by CNT, is aesthetically pleasing, functional, and integrates well with the site and surrounding. CNT is environmentally conscious in building material choice and long-term energy conservation. CNT has been called, “A Collision of Research and Discovery”, speeding up the delivery of life saving cancer treatments by blending academic with private sector research.

Additional information:

<https://perkinswill.com/project/center-for-novel-therapeutics/>  
[https://www.coffman.com/portfolio\\_items/center-for-novel-therapeutics/](https://www.coffman.com/portfolio_items/center-for-novel-therapeutics/)  
<https://www.biomedrealty.com/properties/cnt>  
<https://www.orchidsandonions.org/project/center-for-novel-therapeutics/>

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Center for Novel Therapeutics Photo Credit – Perkins & Wills

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