

Portable Construction Training Center

1999-2000 ACSA Design Award Recipient

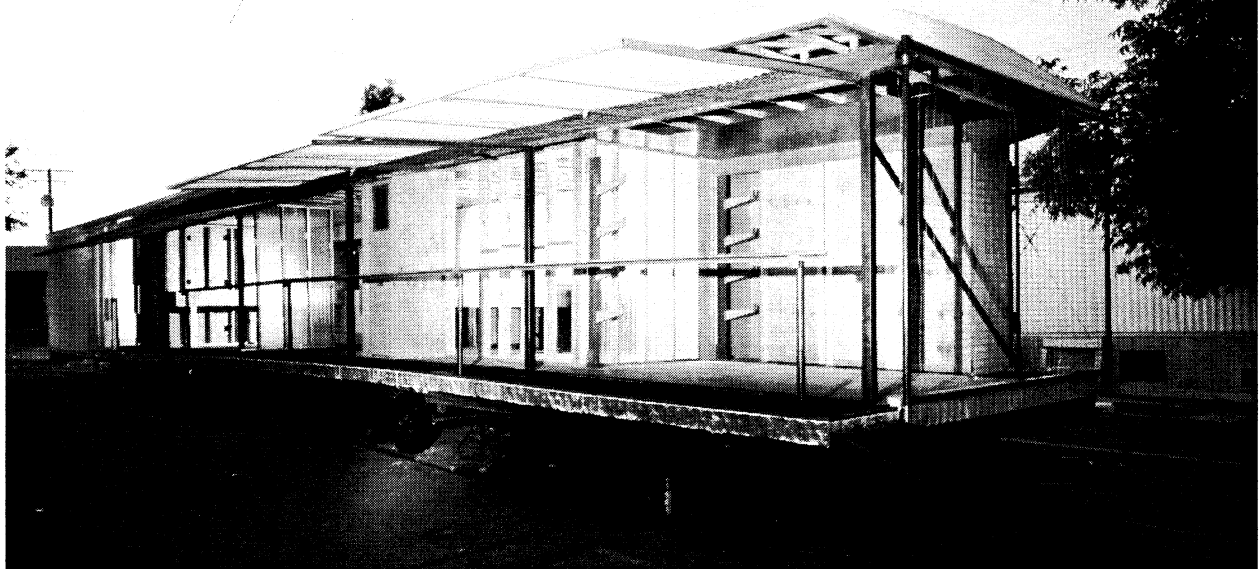
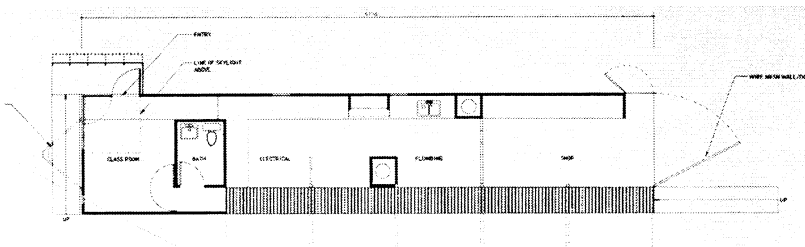
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The Portable Construction Training Center was conceived for the Venice Community Housing Corporation, an organization founded with the mission to develop and maintain permanently affordable housing for disadvantaged and low-income individuals. This non-profit organization affords an opportunity for their student trainees to learn construction skills and in turn apply their skills to needed projects. The 14 x 65 foot PCTC is a hands-on classroom used as the focal point in this construction training process. The PCTC allows space for the four basic construction trades: plumbing, painting and plaster repair, carpentry, and electrical.

The design concept encourages visual connections between apprentice and teacher. There is a 14 x 14 foot meeting space at

the PCTC's threshold that exhibits construction example boards, and provides a well-lit location to gather between building sessions. Like a large porch, one entire length of the trailer folds open to reveal interior independent workstations. This creates a catwalk for the teachers which facilitates inspection and interaction.

In this 90 degree position, the operable translucent panels give shade and regulate the natural flow of hot and cool air. Additionally, the far end of the PCTC folds open to provide a wood shop, where tools can be disengaged to roll outside beyond the parameter of the trailer. Portable, flexible, and operable, the PCTC is a symbol for alternative construction techniques and provides a place to teach them.



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