

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Henry T Yang  
Chancellor UCSB  
5221 Cheadle Hall  
Santa Barbara CA 93106

Dear Chancellor Yang,

As the college of LEED Fellows, we are united in our objection to the proposed windowless design of UCSB Munger Hall dormitory. We believe that all housing facilities must provide residents with healthy environments which include a connection to the outdoors with daylight and quality views.

The LEED green building rating system promotes not only low energy use in buildings, but also healthy environments for all occupants. The intent of LEED v4 credits for daylight and quality views are clearly described below:

LEED V4 EQ Quality Views intent: “To give occupants a connection to the natural outdoor environment by providing quality views.”

LEED V4 EQ Quality Views Daylight Intent: “To connect building occupants with the outdoors, reinforce circadian rhythms, and reduce the use of electrical lighting by introducing daylight into the space.”

The WELL Building standard also promotes daylight and views in Feature 61 – Right to Light:

“Proximity to windows, outdoor views and daylight in indoor spaces are some of the most sought-after elements of design. As such, buildings should utilize daylight as a primary source of lighting to the greatest extent possible.”

Artificial simulation of daylight does not provide these benefits, resulting in an unhealthy environment. Both LEED and WELL have developed their standards based on rigorous review of existing evidence. Research has consistently shown that quality views reduce stress, anxiety, and improve cognitive function<sup>i</sup>. A windowless dormitory could adversely affect the mental and physical health of UCSB students.

The exceedingly dense, windowless design has also resulted in many other concerns, such as delayed evacuation during an emergency, lack of resiliency in case of an electricity outage, and complete dependence upon electricity for both ventilation and lighting.

**We strongly recommend that the proposed windowless design be rejected and replaced with a design where every student has access to natural daylight and quality views from every sleeping and living space.**

Regards from the college of LEED Fellows,

**Nancy Clanton, LEED Fellow, PE, FIALD, FIES, RMI Fellow**  
**Joyce S. Lee, LEED Fellow, FAIA, WELL AP**  
**Alan Scott, FAIA, LEED Fellow, LEED AP BD+C, O+M, CEM, WELL AP**

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<sup>i</sup> For example, see research by S&R Kaplan, U Michigan; P Kahn, U Wash; WH Koo, UC Berkeley

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