The Tennis Coalition promotes San Francisco’s advantage for year-round public tennis by spearheading the renovation of the historic Golden Gate Park Tennis Center and strengthening San Francisco’s tennis community.

Architect: ehdd.

Contractor: PLANT

Consultants:

Lutsko Associates
Sherwood Design Engineers
Holmes
PAE
Loisos + Ubbelohde
Salter Associates
Oppenheim Lewis
Green Consulting
MendeDesign

This project is being developed through a public-private partnership between the Tennis Coalition, the SF Parks Alliance and SF Rec and Park. The design team is led by EHDD Architecture. Our process is highly collaborative to leverage the expertise of our talented team of consultants. Plant Construction is on board for constructability and cost review and will be the contractor for the privately bid project scope.
The Tennis Center is located in Golden Gate Park between the Conservatory of Flowers and the Koret Children’s playground. The primary entrance is located at Nancy Pelosi Drive.
The new project includes 17 new full-size courts, grouped in clusters for easy access. A pickleball court is located along the north edge. The new clubhouse is a long, narrow building that sits at western edge of the courts and serves as an extension of the site perimeter wall.
Conceptual Review Comments: The Committee commented on the beautiful and fluid massing of the clubhouse and appreciated the model presented at the conceptual phase of review. The Committee suggested that the team work on the relationship with the existing landscape and park itself, specifically on how the building touches the west side. It was recommended that more focus be put on this area.
SD Design Review Comments

The Committee expressed their concern that their design did not translate from their conceptual phase.

The Committee was drawn to the lightness and organic folding planes of the team’s last review.

They felt the current design felt utilitarian and very standard. The asked the team to reconsider the exterior skin and reimagine how to use average materials to create a more poetic design. The Committee understood that the team was adhering to a budget, but asked that they be creative within the constraints and boundary of material costs. They asked that the team return for an informal meeting, and there was no motion.

Informal Design Review Comments

The building evolved into a series of discreet planes. A site wall extends into the landscape and delineates the threshold between the tennis center and the park. The site wall is cast-in place concrete with a warm integral color and a board form texture to provide texture and scale. This wall breaks apart at the entrance to the Tennis Center to reveal the courts and the activities inside the clubhouse. The roof is a simple floating plane that reaches towards the courts to the east.
At the entry to the clubhouse, the glazing opens up to provide unobstructed views to the courts.
A site wall delineates the tennis club from the park. A glass façade wraps the building to the east providing view out to tennis activities. The roof extends east out towards the courts.
The elevation facing the park is a warm textured concrete wall that extends out into the site. The wall pulls apart to delineate the main entrance to the building and the TLC entrance to the south. A simple glass façade wraps the building to the east providing expansive views out to the tennis courts.
After studying many options, we found that the roof extending evenly across the east façade helped it to read as a separate floating element and helped to highlight the folding glass plane below. This created pockets of covered space along the exterior of the building to gather or sit and watch a game.
The curtain wall mullion spacing has been maximized to provide open unobstructed views to the courts. The mullion cap is articulated with a simple channel shape to create a second layer of shadow lines.
We have been carefully studying the roof edge detail to minimize the perceived depth of the roof. Tapering the roof edge from the top allowed for a continuous plane from indoors to outdoors and avoided a faceted exterior soffit that did not fit with the character of the building.
The roof and ground planes extend beyond the clubhouse towards the tennis courts creating a seamless transition from indoor to outdoor and directing views up and out to the game of tennis.
This is a preview of a couple of the concepts we are developing for the interior exhibit wall. This wall will tell the history of tennis on the site, focusing on the stories of people that have called these courts their home and the community that has been cultivated in this unique place.
The Tennis Learning Center opens onto the TLC Garden. Trees will help provide a permeable sense of enclosure and will extend the character of planting from the adjacent wooded berm. The planting wraps a flexible plaza space. This area will be used for outdoor teaching, a place to sit and have lunch before or after a game, and for events.
A tree near the south façade helps to provide shade for the building and creates a cozy space to sit just outside the TLC classroom. The perimeter garden wall provide the opportunity for a small amphitheater for outdoor teaching.