

# Design Inspiration

UC Berkeley Anchor House Dormitory  
by Morris Adjmi Architects

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"Brick lends to creating the kind of depth and detail that makes a building feel alive and contextual—that it has substance, and it's not just a thin veil."

**Morris Adjmi**

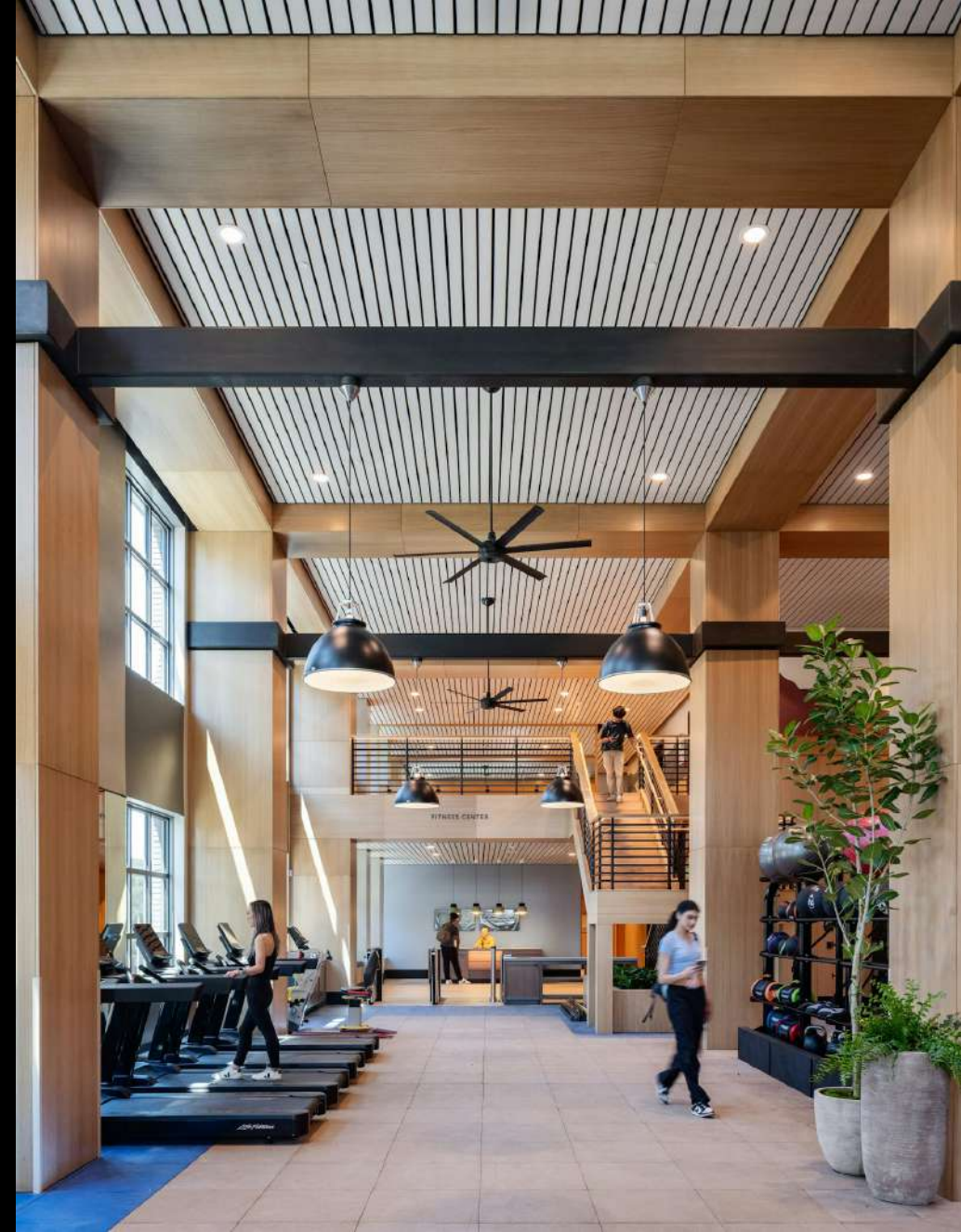


The **Anchor House** is a transformative dormitory project that sets a new standard for student residential living.

Located just one block from UC Berkeley's campus and three blocks from the Berkeley BART station, the mixed-use dormitory is designed and programmed to help the University's transfer students thrive academically, socially, and culturally.







**The Anchor House has been designed to meet LEED Gold certification requirements, as well as Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Neutrality by 2025 and Scope 3 by 2050.**

Sustainable design features include sun shading; green roofs & courtyard (including a heat island); climate-appropriate landscaping; a high-performance building façade; an all-electric building + Green Power purchase; rooftop solar panels; high efficiency LED lighting; long-term bicycle storage and electric vehicle charging.



Anchor House is a state-of-the-art residential building located at the prime gateway location across the street from the western edge of UC Berkeley's campus.

The mixed-use project reimagines the student residential experience by providing a transformational design tailored to the unique needs of transfer students, many of whom come from low-income backgrounds and are often first-generation college students.



**UC Berkeley  
Anchor House Dormitory**

**455,000** Square Feet

**245** Residential Units

**14** Stories

**Berkeley, California, 2024**

*"This project was about so much more than adding a contextual building to Berkeley's evolving skyline. Our ambition for Anchor House was to create a place of community and belonging. A place where students would feel safe, inspired, and supported."*

**Morris Adjmi**



**MA** designed the dormitory as a transition between traditional university-style neoclassical architecture and Berkeley's eclectic downtown fabric.

**Charcoal-hued hand-laid Interstate Brick** is found on the building's base, beginning at ground level and continuing toward internal courtyard areas.

Floors four through twelve feature a lighter, warm gray brick, alongside a metal grid expression. Floors thirteen and fourteen have a dark, metal two-story single bay expression.

Within, the dormitory program consists of studio, two-, and four-bedroom apartments. Each fully furnished unit features private, single bedrooms and built-in desks in front of the 7'x7' windows to access natural light and air. The apartments also include full kitchens with all major appliances, including a washer and dryer.







Designed as a hub of connection and belonging for transfer students, Anchor House offers residents multiple community spaces and resources.

The building has two event spaces with accompanying catering kitchens, a culinary classroom for Rausser College of Natural Resources to promote healthy and sustainable cooking, and a "maker space" run by the Berkeley Art Studio, with classes for students and the community.

An expansive indoor/outdoor fitness center is also be available to residents, along with a rooftop vegetable garden, secure bicycle storage, a bike maintenance shop, and lounges, lockers, and activity spaces for residents and other Berkeley students who commute to school.





520 West 20th  
New York, New York



Overline Residences  
Atlanta, Georgia

## Morris Adjmi, *"The Brick Master"*

With the firm's motto *"standing out while fitting in,"* Adjmi challenges perceptions of depth, light, and lines through extremely innovative, exciting, and modern uses of brick.



350 & 400 Summer  
Boston, Massachusetts



The Grand Mulberry  
New York, New York

*"I have always admired brick. Hand-pressed brick was one of the first man-made building materials dating back to the Romans... Its past and potential are extremely vast and exciting..."*

*Brick also works for me because it is a human scale in the way that it relates to context and history. These considerations are very important to our design approach. Not only that but it's a sustainable and practical choice. It comes from the earth or can be created from recycled materials."*

Interview extracts and the architect's opinion. (MA Architects, NY)



## Masonry Construction Process

*"The brick work on the Anchor House project was Design-Build. The original design called for brick clad precast panels on the first three stories of the building to match the rest of the building cladding.*

*The architect, MA, made the choice to have hand laid brick installed instead. John Jackson Masonry (JJM) was contracted by Build Group, the GC, to perform this scope.*

*We in turn contracted **Flex Architecture** and **KPFF Engineering** to assist us with the design of the hand laid brick façade at the exterior of the building, at the interior courtyard and on the 13th Level terraces.*

*During the design process another element was added to our scope. There was to be a site element at the interior courtyard consisting of a series of free-standing arches made from brick salvaged from the building that was demoed on the project site. This involved designing and building a brick cavity wall fully reinforced and grouted.*

*JJM also installed 522 linear feet of concealed lintel system by **Hohmann & Barnard**. H&B provided the design and engineering for their system.*

*It was a privilege for JJM to work on such a relevant project, meeting the highest quality standards and expectations."*

Tom Sneed, John Jackson Masonry.





## Credits

Design Architect:  
Morris Adjmi Architects, NY (MA)

General Contractor:  
Build Group

Masonry Contractor:  
John Jackson Masonry

Brick Producer:  
Interstate Brick

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Our organization promotes masonry as an essential design and building material while uniting our trade with the AEC community (architecture, engineering, and construction).

CMC is a non-profit organization.



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