

## PROJECT

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## National City Aquatic Center

Safdie Rabines Architects



## SHARED BY

Ashleigh Popera

## PROJECT NAME

National City Aquatic Center

## LOCATION

National City,  
California

## PROJECT STATUS

Built

## YEAR COMPLETED

2016

## SIZE

5,500 sq. feet

## CLIENT/OWNER

City of National City

## ARCHITECT

Safdie Rabines Architects

## CONSULTANTS

Construction Manager:

Project Professionals

Corporation

Structural Engineer: Ori2

Engineering

Mechanical Engineer:

BSE Engineering, Inc.

Civil Engineer: Cvaldo

Corporation

Landscape Architect:

Marcie Harris Landscape

Architecture

Ceilings Plus

Lighting Designer:

Manning Lighting

BK Lighting

Lighting Designer:

Elliptipar

Lighting Designer: KIM

Lighting

Lighting Designer: Gardco

Lighting Designer:

Arcadia

## TYPE

Community

Sports

## SCOPE

New Construction

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## FROM THE ARCHITECTS:

Safdie Rabines Architects is pleased to announce completion of the much-anticipated National City Aquatic Center. Located fifteen miles north of the U.S./Mexico border in southern San Diego County, CA, the single-story, two-structure center marks the realization of National City's long-term goal to replace a makeshift facility housed in trailers for over a decade.

Sited on a scarce section of accessible coastland owned by the Port of San Diego, the 5,500 square-foot complex is positioned on the southern edge of a 5½-acre public park, where it complements the coastline just inside the mouth of the Sweetwater River Channel as it flows into San Diego Bay. Designed to facilitate recreational and educational services for the community, the new center is a key civic amenity and contemporary landmark with unobstructed views towards protected wetlands, San Diego Bay and beyond.

The center's easternmost structure contains a large gathering and educational space beneath a faceted, flying roof. Perched atop its base of glass walls, the roof appears to float as kite gliding into the air, creating a fluid dynamic for its larger counterpart to the west. Inside, the geometries of a saw tooth ceiling a reemphasized with maple-shaded laminate layered on micro-perforated aluminum. Carpet in ocean shades of teal, turquoise and aqua blues laid in a sunburst pattern accentuates the dimension of the space. Gull-shaped decals applied as bird strike prevention measures cast playful shadows that 'fly' through the room as the sun travels across the sky.

Directly to the west, the center's offices are housed in a 650 square-foot glass box enclosed with 4-foot intermittently-operable windows. The box introduces a large white, concrete block structure used for boat and equipment storage, locker rooms, showers and restrooms. With outward protruding angles and porthole-like rectangular window apertures, the ship-like edifice 'flows' up-channel in the wake of the kite structure that leads it.

Separate yet unified, the two buildings are enclosed and coalesced with custom galvanized steel gates clad with luminous acrylic resin panels.