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A tour of buildings, plans and urban investigations by the studio of Rob Wellington Quigley FAIA.

QUIGLEY DOWNTOWN

Civic

- A** ★ **Bayside Fire Station**, 2018, West Cedar and Pacific Coast Highway.
Beloved by the community and a firefighter's favorite, the light-filled sustainable building takes its exterior design cues from the classic County Administration Bldg. across the highway. Transparent apparatus bays are lit at night like a new car showroom. A third floor hangout balcony engages the neighborhood.
- B** ★ **6th Ave. Promenade**, 2027, Elm and 6th Ave.
Quigley envisions a broad tree-lined promenade connecting Downtown and Balboa Park. The project will create a new grand entrance to the park at its ragged Southwest corner. It is currently in early concept design and supported by all adjacent communities.
- C** ★ **Balboa Park Activity Center**, 1996, Park Blvd. with Wheeler, Wimer, Blackman & Assoc.
Because of the unusual lighting requirements of a volleyball and ping-pong gym, the vast space takes on an almost spiritual quality when all the nets are down. Canted tilt-up walls eliminate reverberation. Note art celebrating tilt-up attachment points.
- D** ★ **Sherman Heights Community Center**, 1994, Island Avenue.
Anchoring the working-class Sherman Heights neighborhood, this building was created through a series of interactive design workshops and was Quigley's first community center. Visit on Día de Los Muertos if possible.
- E** ★ **The Central Library**, 2013, 11th and K. with Tucker Sadler Assoc.
Financed in significant part by local donations, the library took almost 40 years to complete. Over 300 people participated in design workshops where the unique concept of a "penthouse for the people" on the rooftop emerged. The iconic dome won a national structural engineering award. Although contemporary in materials and detail, the building learns from Balboa Park and the San Diego region.
- F** ★ **The New Children's Museum**, 2007, Front and Island Ave.
Emotional, unpretentious and more the "picture frame" than the picture itself, the building encourages energetic and uninhibited contributions from busloads of young Picassos. Joyful exhibits are designed by artists rather than educators and make this institution unique in the country. Marked by a cooling tower and void of HVAC in the main galleries, this is one of the most sustainable museums in California. Spurlock Porier designed the adjacent park and playground. The street can be closed off for large gatherings and celebrations.

Mixed Use

- a** ★ **The Beaumont**, 1988, 434 West Cedar.
Quigley's home and office for almost 30 years, this was the first legal mixed-use building in downtown and the first residential housing in Little Italy since World War II. The towers emit smoke (dry ice) for celebratory occasions like Rob's FAIA induction.
- b** ★ **Torr Kaelan**, 2012, 416 13th St., 2012
Quigley's current home and offices and downtown's most sustainable mixed use building. The building's Gaelic name means "tower or rock outcropping". Quigley means "one with unkept hair".

More in-depth descriptions,
photos and videos are available
on the firm's website and
archive: robquigley.com



Indicates that the project was awarded by the local, state or national AIA for design excellence.

Planning

- .S** ★ **Convention Center Bridge Study**.
Quigley volunteered a vision of the proposed expansion as a bridge over Harbor Blvd. connecting the facility directly with the Gaslamp, eliminating all traffic/pedestrian conflicts and creating a central plaza at the termination of 5th ave. The response to this brilliant plan? Yawn.
- .t** ★ **The Arc Walk**. 2004, Probably their most visionary project, the Quigley studio teamed with Sasaki Assoc. to create a bold and engaging statement — not in terms of iconographic architecture but in civic activity, community recreation and physical engagement with the bay. The street grid was expanded to let the city "touch the water". Despite much fanfare, positive publicity and the Port's only Orchid, this winning entry in the international competition was set on a shelf where it died within weeks.
- .U** ★ **G Street Mole**
The Quigley office was a finalist in an earlier, but equally dubious, Port competition to remake the peninsula of land.
- .V** ★ **Little Italy Focus Plan 1992**
Concerned that some well-meaning planner or business group would sanitize Little Italy or create a theme park, Quigley helped co-found a small but diverse group of local activists who created a grassroots plan to protect the historic urban design qualities that made the neighborhood special—something not "contrived, sanitized or franchised". Although officially incorporated by the redevelopment agency, the plan has been eroded over the years.
- .W** ★ **Interstate 5 Covers**.
+ (See sdcommons.org for details on "greening the gap").
- .Z** ★ Quigley co-founded the nonprofit San Diego Commons to advocate for implementation of green park-like covers over the 5.
- .X** ★ **San Diego City Collage Master Plan Update 2024** with RNP Architects.
Quigley focused on the physical campus interface with the community and is leading the greening of Russ Blvd. effort.
- .y** ★ **East Village Focus Plan**
Quigley helped co found the East Village People. A volunteer grass roots group who created a plan for the southern area of East Village through a series of workshops.

Housing

- 1** ★ **La Pension**, 1992, India and Date.
Originally designed as an SRO, it was quickly changed to a boutique hotel after the Italian yacht racing team insisted on leaving their corporate hotel and staying there. Unfortunately, the interior courtyard has been altered but the coffee at the café is still wonderful.
- 2** ★ **LIND Block**, 1999, Cedar and India.
Conceived as an alternative to the broad and destructive redevelopment strategy of one block/one developer, a group of nine architects and developers re-subdivided this block into small parcels for individual development in an effort to achieve the serendipity and authenticity of urban neighborhoods built overtime.
- 3** ★ **The Sliver**, 2021, 13th and K
A serious earthquake fault created this sliver of land allowing two units and a small ground floor commercial space. Intended as a funky foil against the slicker high rise on the other side of the earthquake garden.
- 4** ★ **Baltic Inn**, 1987, 6th Ave.
Sadly, stay away. The building has been severely vandalized architecturally and functionally altered both inside and out. The Baltic was the first modern single room occupancy hotel in America and started a national trend building affordable housing for the working poor. Quigley worked with Mike Stepner and the city to modify building and zoning codes to make the SROs affordable. These became models for other cities. The Baltic was profitable and done without subsidies.
- 5** ★ **The Island Inn**, 1993
Still affordable and recently (and beautifully) remodeled, this was the third SRO for the same developers as Baltic Inn. It won a national AIA honor award and Time Magazine's Best Designs of 1992. Best breakfast downtown is at the corner.
- 6** ★ **J St. Inn**, 1991
This was the second SRO for developers Mortenson, Fischer and Schrage. A hanging drainage culvert made into a fountain helps mitigate conversation noise between rooms at the center courtyard.
- 7** ★ **600 Front Apartments**, 1988
This was only the third full block market rate apartment complex built downtown and Quigley's first redevelopment project.
- 8** ★ **101 Market Street**, 2005
An earthquake fault running through the one-block site limited the building footprint and created the opportunity for a significant through-block urban canyon. Spurlock Porier designed the garden which serves as the project's focal point and brings light into the parking garage.