

'Smart Growth' Expert To Lead Top-Rated College of Architecture and Environmental Design

An architect who for the last two years has been helping lead California's efforts in affordable housing, sustainable development and land-use reform has been named the new dean of Cal Poly's College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED) by President Warren J. Baker.

R. Thomas Jones has 34 years' experience in architecture, planning, housing development, public policy and education. As director of the California Futures Network, he worked closely with the legislature and governor's office in coordinating a statewide partnership of 91 environmental, business, labor, social justice, housing, transportation and open-space organizations targeting more-sustainable development patterns.

"It's a distinct pleasure to name Tom Jones to this essential position," Baker said. "He is bringing to Cal Poly not only his long experience as an architect, but also decades of involvement at both the state and national levels in important community issues. The College of Architecture and Environmental Design is gaining a dean with exceptional credentials, and we in the campus and local communities will gain the talent of an individual with rare experience in the public-policy debate over land use, housing and other major issues."

Previously, Jones served as a Bay-Area and national representative on smart growth and affordable housing issues for the San Francisco regional headquarters of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and was involved in the Partnership for Regional Livability initiative directed by the U.S. Vice President's Office. He served with San Francisco's Asian Neighborhood Design organization, first as director of architecture and planning and later as director of community planning and development, designing or developing more than 800 units of housing, and



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R. Thomas Jones
Photo by
Bob Anderson

garnering various AIA, APA and other design awards.

As San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos's architecture and urban planning representative from 1988 to 1992, Jones authored the city's first Affordable Housing Action Plan and then managed the plan's implementation. He also co-authored the book, *Good Neighbors: Affordable Family Housing*.

In 1998 *San Francisco Magazine* chose Jones as Architect of the Year for his work in affordable housing and community development.

During the past decade, Jones developed a working relationship with Cal Poly professors and students as a frequent guest lecturer and project reviewer for the CAED's San Francisco Urban Program.

Now, as the college's new dean, his vision for the future builds on his

own background and the CAED's longstanding learn-by-doing tradition. The latter includes the continued development of Poly Canyon's experimental structures by interdisciplinary student teams, many of whom have earned Cal Poly's architecture program the ranking of "Best in the West" and No. 2 in the nation (second only to Harvard's) in the "Best Architecture Schools for 2003" survey published by the journal *DesignIntelligence*.

This year the college will celebrate several milestones, including the 40th anniversary of the Architecture Department and 40 years of inspiring students to test their ideas by building their dreams in Poly Canyon. At Homecoming (Oct. 31-Nov. 2), the CAED will host "virtual tours" of Poly Canyon in the CAED Gallery, Building 5, Room 105.