



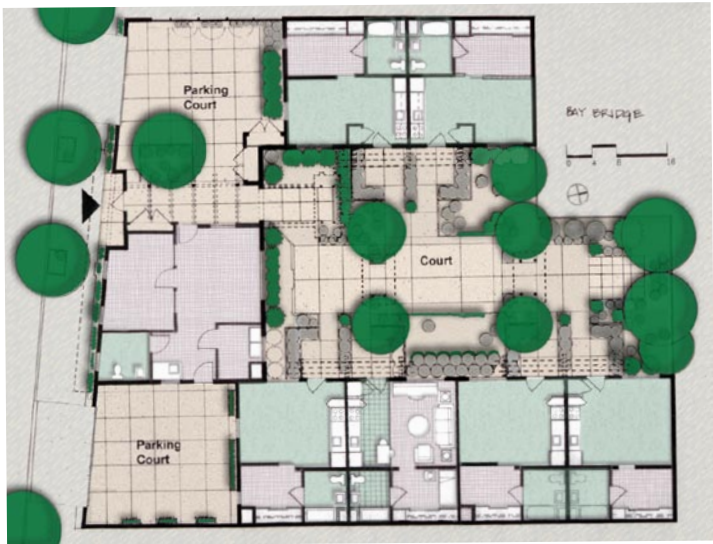
Bay Bridge

SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Prevented from locating in residential neighborhoods by NIMBY-ism, the developer was forced to settle for a difficult site that fronts onto a street serving as an exit ramp from an elevated eight-lane highway located directly to the south. The site is also bound on the west by a barbecue restaurant and retail street, and the north and east by single-family homes

Each unit faces the main courtyard and has its own front patio and trellis for residents to plant and decorate, encouraging individual expression and informal gatherings. The main court is divided into three smaller and more intimate courts by trellised gateways. As vines cover the trellises and the trees mature, these interconnected courtyard spaces become a quiet and rich 'garden of retreat' from the traffic and retail activities of surrounding streets.

A lattice wall and sun screens, planted with bougainvillea, forms the front facade. This 'living wall,' along with the garden court with its smells and seasonally changing appearance, is intended to be a life-affirming symbol, promoting optimistic notions of healing and renewal. The security screens and three red birdhouses in front of the counseling office were designed and donated by the architect to encourage further habitation of the 'living wall'.



PROJECT DATA

Client:	Resources for Community Development
Location:	Oakland, CA
Completion:	1998
Units:	6 studios
Amenities:	Community room, counseling office
Site Area:	7,200 sf
Project Area:	3,000 sf
Parking Ratio:	4 space
Cost:	\$550,000

