

Indian Wells, California

Work Force Housing Today

Indian Wells Senior Housing, Studio E

Situated in a 7.5-acre former date grove on the edge of the desert city of Indian Wells, this project comprises ninety-one single-story one-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors. The units, grouped into sixplex buildings, focus on east-west-oriented paseos that feed into courtyards at the center of the site. A continuous central spine links these courtyards along a north-south axis. Residents access auto parking, which plays a small, but necessary role in their day-to-day lives, through east-west-oriented alleys.

The building plans organize the housing units according to a thermal and social gradient that becomes more enclosed and cool as one moves into the plan. A shaded outdoor "room" connects enclosed interior living spaces and private, non-covered outdoor spaces for winter and evening use. A thermal chimney anchors each unit. Inspired by Middle Eastern wind towers, these chimneys vent hot air and capture cool night breezes.

Awards:

2000 Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, Washington DC

1999 World Habitat Award Finalist, Building & Social Housing Foundation, Leicester, UK

1998 Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, California Council

1996 American Institute of Architects, Riverside Vintage Award

1995 American Institute of Architects San Diego, Citation of Recognition



Project Data

Project Type:	Affordable Rental Senior Apartments
Total Units:	90 One-Bedroom Units
On-site Amenities:	Community Center
Site Area / Density:	12 Dwelling Units/Acre



The Stardust Center
for Affordable Homes and the Family