

# UC Berkeley

## Places

### Title

ARCO Chemical Company Research and Engineering Center, "The Meadows" [The Inhabited Landscape: An Exhibition]

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1q67q7sp>

### Journal

Places, 4(4)

### ISSN

0731-0455

### Author

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### Publication Date

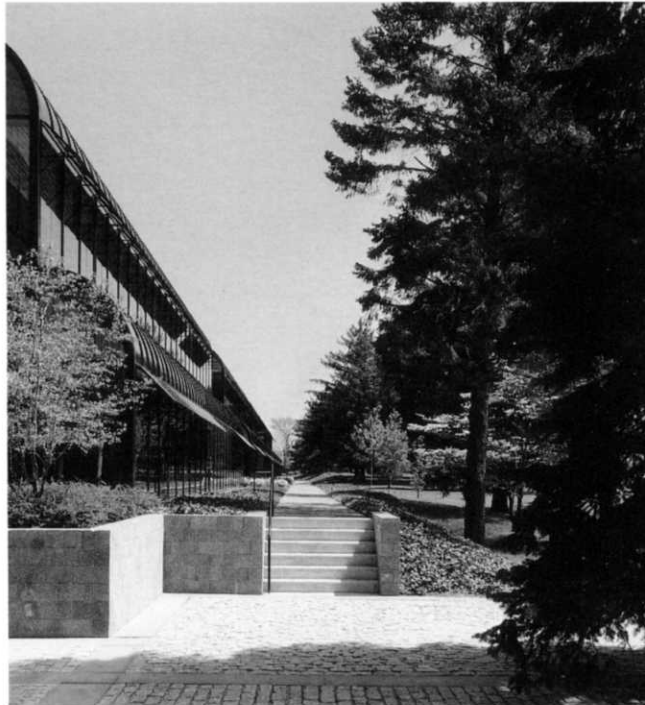
1988-01-15

Peer reviewed

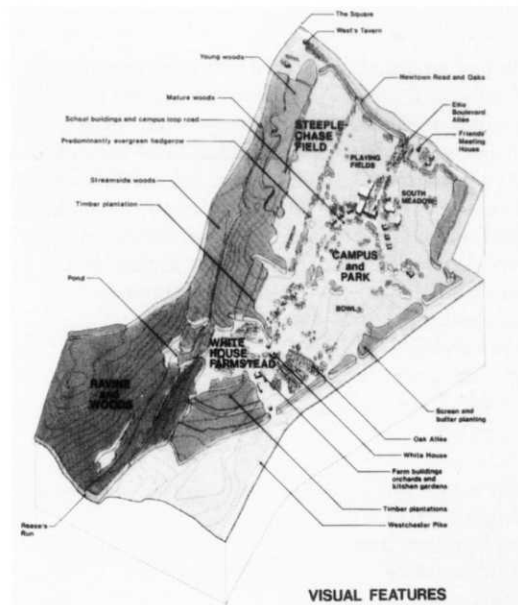
# ARCO Chemical Company Research and Engineering Center, “The Meadows”

## Jury Comments

The site design succeeds in placing a high-technology, semi-industrial building complex into a bucolic landscape by consolidating cars and buildings into one section of the site. The ingenuity and care of previous generations of gardeners have been preserved. They created the picturesque, rolling landscape and the hedgerow that now divides the workaday part of the site from the rest. A new, finely detailed stone entrance plaza terminates the prominent hedgerow and strongly marks the entry to the complex.



A



B

## Architect's Statement

The ARCO Chemical and Polymer Company sponsored a competition for the design of a large research and development center on a 312-acre suburban site, formerly used by a boarding school. The site contained an abandoned farmstead with relic orchards, a defunct school with English Park landscape, playing fields, Georgian buildings, an arboretum and overgrown steeplechase, an evergreen hedgerow and a forested ravine. The task was to devise a way to locate the buildings while preserving the ambiance of the site and surrounding residential community. We prepared a detailed site assessment that examined the existing natural processes and major elements. The site concept evolved from this thorough assessment and led to the scheme subsequently built.

Major building masses and parking lots are located in the steeplechase, while the evergreen hedgerow separates and screens laboratories, pilot plant and parking lots for the smaller-scale Georgian school buildings, which together form the Village Green Commons. The loop road provides two major employee and service entrances. Visitors use the old school drive, which skirts the edge of the English Park—the central focus of the site—and passes by the gracious older

school buildings. The new office wing overlooks the park and extends the crescent of the older buildings.



C

**A ARCO Chemical Company Research and Engineering Center, "The Meadows"**

© James D'Addio, photographer

**B ARCO Chemical Company Research and Engineering Center, existing visual features**

**C ARCO Chemical Company Research and Engineering Center**

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**D ARCO Chemical Company Research and Engineering Center, site plan**



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