Step Up on Fifth

Project Data
Project Description:
Located in downtown Santa Monica StepUp provides a home support service and rehabilitation for the homeless and mentally disabled population. The project also includes commercial/retail space at the ground level as well as an underground parking.

Project Type:
SRO

Completion: 2009

Architect: Pugh Scarpa Architects

Owner: A Community of Friends

Units: 46 studio apartments

Project Squarefootage: 30,000 sq ft

Home Qualities
The facade of the project is clad in anodized aluminum panels creating a screen that is intended to both provide sun protection and privacy. The material reappears as screens on both the east and south walls.

Materials + Assemblies
The project distinguishes itself by incorporating energy efficient measures that exceed standard practices. These measures optimize building performance and reduce energy use during construction and occupancy.

Sustainability
Step Up incorporates energy efficient measures that exceed standard practices including passive solar design strategies, shaping the building for exposure to prevailing winds and to induce buoyancy for natural ventilation. The windows were designed to maximize daylighting, with shading located on the south and west facing windows.

During construction, effort was made to conserve materials and recycle when possible. The project achieved more than 75% recycling rate. The carpeting used has a high recycled content, all natural linoleum flooring, utilizes CFL lighting throughout the building. The insulation is made from recycled materials, and double pane windows were used. Each apartment has dual flush toilets as well as other energy saving appliances. The project exceeded the Title 24 measure by more than 30%.