



WITHEE MALCOLM ARCHITECTS, LLP

2251 W. 190th Street
Torrance, CA 90504
www.witheemalcolm.com

t. 310.217.8885
f. 310.217.0425

CONTACT: Nancy Egan
New Voodou
egan@newvoodou.com
310.943.7194

For Immediate Release

**COMMUNITIES WELCOME NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING
BY WITHEE MALCOLM ARCHITECTS
Architectural design helps to redefine the building typology**

Torrance CA — The recent openings of the Villas del Lago Apartments in the Westlake/MacArthur Park district of Los Angeles, and Elm Street Commons in Anaheim’s Colony Historic District, were cause for celebration in their respective communities. With the dearth of quality affordable housing in the region, these two developments represent substantial steps forward in providing well-designed homes with community amenities to deserving families. “We have a long commitment to improving quality of design in affordable and workforce housing,” says Dan Withee, firm principal. “Even when budgets are restrictive, we treat these projects with the same respect as we do any residential building —we understand that they are going to be someone’s home.”

Working with developer AMCAL Multi-Housing Inc. on Villas del Lago, and a development team that included Squier Properties, ADI Inc. and the City of Anaheim on Elm Street Commons, the architects have created affordable housing with the character, quality and amenities more often found in market rate developments. “We not only provided quality of life features such as lively open space, landscaped walkways, children’s play areas, community centers and security subterranean parking on both projects,” notes project designer Ricky de la Rosa, “we designed buildings that belong to their communities architecturally, buildings with details, vitality and a sense of permanence.”

Villas del Lago, a 74-unit family affordable development, replaces dilapidated housing on the site with 16 one-bedroom units, 35 two-bedroom units and 23 three-bedroom units. The building design reflects the stylized modern architecture of the nearby Miracle Mile with its distinctive art deco detailing and warm palette. To help lower living costs for residents, Villas del Lago features energy efficient appliances and design, as well as a green interior courtyard. The development also exceeds California’s Energy Efficient Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings by 15 percent.



At Elm Street Commons, the design updates the vocabulary of the traditional Mission-style that references Anaheim's early architectural beginnings, and creates a sense of warmth and tradition. The 52-unit apartment development provides housing for low and very low-income residents in a neighborhood that is close to major transportation, parks, schools, hospital, grocery store, public library, the MUZEO, and other retail outlets.

“By designing affordable apartments that address issues of context, community and sustainability as well the usual concerns for comfort and security, our work helps to raise expectations for the building type,” says Carlos Ovalle, project architect, on Elm Street Commons. Dan Withee concurs, “Working with committed developers like AMCAL, Squier and ADI, and dedicated local housing authorities leaders, we can create socially and environmentally sustainable communities that serve all of our residents.”

Withee Malcolm Architects serves clients in the residential and commercial industrial markets throughout the West from offices in Torrance, California. The firm has a long commitment to workforce and affordable housing, having been responsible for the design of over 1500 units in place with several hundred underway. For more information on the firm, visit www.witheemalcolm.com

###