AECOM

ORACLE, SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Don't let the laid-back surfer vibe fool you. SoCal's Santa Monica has always been a place where things are built. That history was something technology company Oracle wanted to explore in its latest office, at 2600 Colorado Boulevard. AECOM was just the firm to help.

The ground floor relates to the company's other locations in a way that's familiar and consistent, with high-tech materials and patterns informed by pixels. As it progresses to the second and third floors, the design takes on a more relaxed attitude befitting the local culture.
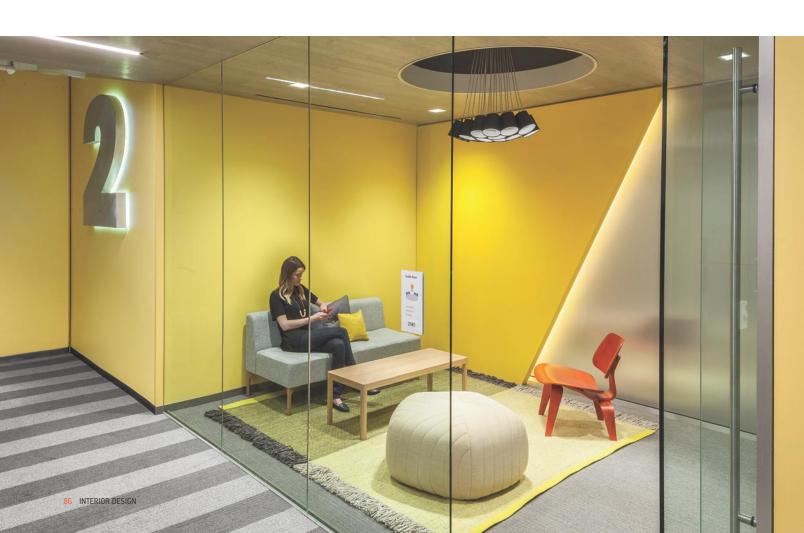
Level two, for instance, pays homage to one of the most notable fixtures of the city's manufacturing past, the Douglas Aircraft Company. Engineered industrial materials and finishes recall a hangar brightened by sunny yellow graphics of soaring airplanes. The third floor relates to the city's beachcomber present and the touristic allure of its seaside pier. Ocean blue dominates the scheme, and finishing touches include reclaimed driftwood and light fixtures made from rope. The site itself connects industries of past and present as well: It was formerly the Higgins brickyard.

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PROJECT TEAM CRESA, ARC ENGINEERING, NISHKIAN CHAMBERLAIN, ENGINEERING PLUS, BANGMAC CREATIVE, PIVOT, NEWSON BROWN ACOUSTICS, TASLIMI CONSTRUCTION

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Clockwise from opposite top: An open office area is defined by a mural of Rosie the Riveter, the cultural icon representing the women who worked in factories during World War II. The second floor is styled as an airplane hangar after the Douglas Aircraft Factory, a famed fixture of Southern California's manufacturing past. The third floor is nautically inspired in aquatic hues. Rope light fixtures resembling buoys complete the effect. A breakout room's molded-plywood chair is by Charles and Ray Eames.

74,800 square feet