A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

USC Village unites living and learning and connects the University Park Campus and its neighborhood in new ways.
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"In the development we dedicate today, we can witness the echoes of antiquity. We can see the influence of thousands of years of civilization. We can feel the presence of the past, as well as faith in our future."

USC PRESIDENT C. L. MAX NIKIAS
Grand opening of USC Village, Aug. 17, 2017
Everything you wanted to know about the biggest expansion project in USC history.

USC Village Revealed

Once only a bold dream, a new home for Troy has risen and pierced the sky. Welcome to USC Village.

A place like no other

Some 1.25 million square feet in size, USC Village is a place where thousands of today's and tomorrow's Trojans will get their start as part of the Trojan Family.

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Stay Fit at Home

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With the square footage of about six basketball courts, students immerse themselves in the residential college experience at USC Village's dining hall. Fourteen custom-made chandeliers hang overhead, and natural light filters through finely crafted stained glass windows that feature USC academic and residential college symbols rich in tradition. Imagine eating at Harry Potter's Hogwarts, rather than running off to seep into the ground water is then allowed to filter during a storm. The dry wells can catch and hold 200,000 gallons of water the complex's stormwater management system can manage. That's how many gallons it holds: 198,000.

The Clock Tower

At about 14 stories tall, the clock tower is the tallest of USC's buildings with a height of 185 feet, or approximately 652 square feet. It is taller than the Space Needle, which stands at 605 feet, and it's the tallest building in Los Angeles. It features a clock, a bell, and its spire stand atop the Kathleen L. McCarthy Honors College. Insider secret: No, you can't go inside it. Rising over the Central Piazza and outdoor dining areas, the clock tower is a nod to the town with its medieval origins and one of the few squares of medieval times. Aaron Tofani MRED '11, in his book about the Aeneid classics such as The Iliad and The Odyssey and Homer's time-honored tale of Troy. Hecuba, wife of King Priam, and her beloved city. Her story lives on in the statue of the mythical matriarch, Hecuba. Sculptor Christopher Slatoff created the bronze sculpture of Hecuba in 1993 at the pride of the USC Village piazza. The statue of the mythical matriarch, Hecuba, symbolizes the gender equality in our academic community. "Hecuba is the monumental presence of Hecuba in the USC Village and its embodiment of women's strength," says President C. L. Max Nikias, "the majestic symbol of the diverse women of Troy."

USC's newest residential colleges have been endowed by generous donors to the benefit of generations of students. They're more than a place to live. They're where students will discover their academic passions and make friends for life. They're places where students will be passionate defended by their families and friends, as space for classes like yoga and spinning.

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Honors Dining Hall

The Aeneid classics such as the Odyssey and The Trojan ages have been interpreted by USC's most talented culinary artists. A diverse menu offers a wide selection of options, including vegan and gluten-free options.

Student Lounges and Study Areas

The clock tower is a nod to the town square of medieval times. The tower houses cellular antennas (and a one-ton bell) as well as a 360° observation deck that provides a panoramic view of the city.

Bike Garages

Each residential building has assigned bike storage for students. Students can park their bicycles in the largest garage, which has a capacity for 1,300 bikes. In all, nearly 1,300 bikes can be stored indoors at the site. The bike trunks are large enough to hold 500 bikes. In all, nearly 1,300 bikes can be stored indoors at the site.

Student Rooms and Suites

The suites are elegantly furnished and equipped with durable furniture, built-in Wi-Fi and hookups for wall-mounted flat-screen TVs. Each living space comes with its own unique spectrum of colors for tile, walls, carpet and furnishings.

Open Spaces

USC Village has a courtyard open space on a two-level rack. The largest garage has a capacity for 1,300 bikes. In all, nearly 1,300 bikes can be stored indoors at the site. The bike trunks are large enough to hold 500 bikes. In all, nearly 1,300 bikes can be stored indoors at the site.

Specifications

- **Total units for students**: 663
- **Increase in beds**: 24%
- **Suites with kitchens**: 518
- **Residential lounges**: 80
- **Approximate number of trees growing onsite**: 390
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ARCHITECTURE

It took three years for USC Village’s buildings to rise, but the inspiration behind their exteriors goes back centuries. The project reflects Collegiate Gothic architecture, which includes elements of English Tudor design. With a nod to the centuries-old, ivy-covered university campuses of Oxford and Cambridge, USC Village’s architectural flourishes evoke a sense of antiquity and grandeur, but the buildings are firmly grounded in the modern world with the latest technology and amenities. Recessed, arched entryways are set off with decorative stone carvings and moldings. Paned windows abound, many with tracery featuring geometric patterns. Red-brick and cream-colored masonry ties USC Village visually to the rest of the University Park Campus. Gothic arches and carved finials point toward the crowns of the 70-foot-tall buildings, while the McCarthy Honors College clock tower rises over the Central Piazza below, which includes Fubon Fountain and the Hecuba statue. Detailed but not overly ornate or fussy, the building facades honor academia, reflecting President C. L. Max Nikias’ vision for “the best and most timeless kind of human community.”

BICYCLES

Bikes are a common sight on the University Park Campus, and at USC Village, no student’s bike has to spend the night outdoors. No students have to climb over bikes stashed in their rooms, either, thanks to bicycle garages built into the complex.

- Each residential building has an indoor bike garage at ground level.
- Garages can hold 1,272 bikes in all.
- Double-stacked racks allow for bikes to be lifted easily and locked away.
- Tire pumps and repair stations are plentiful.
- 224 outdoor bike slots are available for visitors.
- Without a bike? Students can buy one at the new Solé Bicycles shop onsite.

CONSTRUCTION

Before USC Village opened, it was already changing lives. “It’s always going to be here, and I can say I was part of it,” says Marcellous Bell, a carpenter who started working at the site in January 2016 and is one of thousands of local workers who built the complex. Five years ago, he couldn’t have imagined being part of such an enormous project. Back then, he was on a different path. The talented high school football player had drifted into petty theft and fighting, and was once shot in the back. But he found support from a community group that helped him turn his life around and find a job at USC Village. “I did a full 180. I’ve learned stuff here I didn’t even know I could do,” Bell says. With the project completed, he’s proud of his work. Says Bell: “Someday I can say, ‘I helped put a roof over your head.’”
Designers drew on colors and textures inspired by Italian landscapes when they created USC Village’s interiors. Each building has its own unique color palette, with fabrics and furnishings to match. Students’ rooms were designed with their needs in mind. First-year students new to college life live in settings that help them get to know each other, while upperclassmen have suites that share a common kitchen.

16 different floor plans make the most of each living space.

>12,000 pieces of residential furniture fill USC’s residence halls. Most suites have rooms with coffee tables, couches and chairs where students can relax and study together.

80 student lounges are found throughout the eight residential colleges, ranging from floor-level lobbies to upstairs study rooms.

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DESIGN
More than 12,000 pieces of residential furniture fill USC Village’s residence halls: dressers, beds, desks, tables, chairs and couches. Most were made with some recycled material, and all were chosen for durability, simplicity and style after extensive testing. (Just one example: Staff sifted through a dozen models of desk chairs before picking one.)

Mattresses made at a nearby factory in Monte-bello give Trojans the best of both worlds. Too firm? Flip it over to choose its softer side.

There are 80 student lounges throughout USC Village, and two-thirds are outfitted with audiovisual equipment for sharing presentations or watching TV. The rest were designed for quiet group study and relaxation.

The lobbies and lounges feature a signature color scheme unique to each building. “We tried to pick out flexible, modern furniture that incorporated colors from the building into each lounge,” interior designer Jan Edison says. “The color scheme for each building is based on landscapes, and you’ll see that echoed as you walk through the residential life lounges.”

Designers also made sure that windows were built throughout to provide plenty of natural light in bedrooms and lounges. Residents enjoy sweeping views of USC Village buildings, the busy passos below and even downtown L.A.

FACULTY IN RESIDENCE
Thousands of undergraduates now live at USC Village. So do six faculty members. Known as faculty in residence, these professors reinforce the special elements of USC’s residential college system. They share meals with students and plan events and trips, helping students build bonds with each other inside and outside the classroom.

Faculty in residence are spread across USC’s undergraduate housing, but USC Village has a half-dozen professors all to itself: Laura Baker, Ruth Chung, Broderick Leaks, John Pascarella, Neelesh Tiruviluamala and Trisha Tucker.

“We’re here to build authentic, caring relationships,” says Pascarella, an associate professor of clinical education who had been a faculty member in residence at South Residential College since 2012. One of his passions is supporting first-generation students through his annual College Access Day.

“We want to draw from students’ diverse backgrounds, to expose them to growth opportunities they’re not going to get in class,” Pascarella says. “We want to connect students with alumni and cultivate a commitment to service, which aligns with our mission as a university.”

Chung, associate professor of clinical education, works with students at Cale Residential College, which emphasizes global perspectives, and at Irani Residential College, which focuses on performance science. Chung has been teaching at USC for more than two decades, chairing committees on pedagogy and academic integrity. Her two sons, one a sophomore at USC, will live with her.

She looks forward to trips to venues like Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Watts Towers. She’s also thinking of informal gatherings centered around food, like a “Noodles of the World” night.

Tiruviluamala, an assistant professor of mathematics, grew up in a family that played math games for fun. He hopes to extend the tradition at Priam Residential College, which is themed around innovation and design.

“Creating an academic and intellectual environment that’s nourished in a relaxed way, that’s exactly what residential college life at USC Village can be,” he says. “My best times in college were outside the classroom. That doesn’t mean I wasn’t learning.”

Tucker, an assistant professor in writing, joins Pascarella at McCarthy Honors College to mentor freshman scholars. Baker, a psychology professor, takes her expertise from her prior stint at Webb Tower over to Cowlings Residential College, which focuses on arts and culture. Leaks, a clinical psychologist at Student Counseling Services, handles duties at Bohnett Residential College, which is themed around social justice, and Nemirovsky Residential College, which emphasizes sustainability.

EATERS
Hungry? More than a dozen restaurants are open to the public at USC Village, with more to come. And of course, there’s always fresh and affordable fare at the Honors Dining Hall at McCarthy Honors College. Like all university-run restaurants, it receives a steady supply of herbs and leafy greens from USC’s own aeroponic vegetable garden.

USC Village’s new public offerings include healthful eating spots like Greenleaf Gourmet Chopshop and SunLife Organics; coffee purveyors Starbucks and Butcher, Baker, Cappuccino Maker; ice cream sandwich hotspot The Baked Bear; and plenty of restaurants dishing up Vietnamese, Italian, Mediterranean and Mexican food.

“We’re creating that experiential space where students can bump into professors, faculty and staff,” says Laurie Stone, associate senior vice president of university real estate and asset management. “Sharing coffee, breaking bread, talking about what you’re working on—that kind of idea creation allows for interdisciplinary activity.”

Several of the businesses are run by alumni. Aaron Tofani ’11 co-founded Rance’s Pizzeria, which offers Chicago-style deep-dish pizza onsite. “I want to see big groups of students talking over pizza,” Tofani says. “We also want the indoor and outdoor spaces to blend together to get that Southern California feeling.”

Nearby is Trejo’s Tacos. Its menu features vegan dishes like tacos made with Asian jackfruit. Vouches co-founder Jeff Georgino ’89: “The texture is like pulled pork.”

And, yes—they’ll be open for business during football season.

Professors next door: Neelesh Tiruviluamala, left, Laura Baker and John Pascarella
You can’t blame first-time visitors to USC Village when they’re taken in by the sheer scope of the massive $700 million residential-retail complex. But its beauty also lies in its details. They’re apparent in the gem-colored light and muted shadows cast by USC Village’s handcrafted stained-glass windows. The windows star as the showpiece of the complex’s expansive dining area in McCarthy Honors College and offer a collegiate sensibility reminiscent of Harry Potter’s Hogwarts.

Created at Judson Studios in northeast Los Angeles, the windows give a glimpse into the university’s soul. Emblems of Troy abound in the panels, from the university’s shield to colorful crests and icons that represent the USC schools and residential colleges. Some symbols were chosen from USC’s heraldic academic flags to reflect the longstanding, deep traditions of the university. "Our iconography represents the proud symbolism of the Trojan Family," says USC President C. L. Max Nikias, who worked closely with the artists for a year to ensure that the panels celebrate USC’s intellectual heritage. "The timeless artistry of these beautiful windows is a testimony to our vibrant culture and rich shared past."

It’s fitting that the creators behind the windows—one of the nation’s most acclaimed glass artisans—have a history intertwined with USC. Their story begins with English painter William Lees Judson, who became the first dean of USC’s fine arts school in the late 1890s. He convinced USC to build its residential College of Fine Arts in northeast Los Angeles, across the street from his own home above the Arroyo Seco. When the college building burned down in 1910, it was replaced with the American Craftsman-style building that still stands on the site.

After USC eventually relocated its fine arts programs to the University Park Campus, Judson moved his family’s stained-glass business—Judson Studios—to the former college building. In the years since, the building has been designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, and three subsequent generations of Judsons have attended USC. The artist behind the stained glass at USC Village, David Judson MA ’96, is William Lees Judson’s great-great-grandson.

The studio has created stained glass for buildings across USC, including Our Savior Parish/USC Caruso Catholic Center, Mudd Hall and Town and Gown, filling rooms with light that inspires, enlightens and uplifts.

Windows in the Honors Dining Hall feature emblems that draw upon USC’s academic heritage. Elements of USC’s shield and seal that appear frequently in the windows include the sun, which evokes USC’s location in the west, and the torch, which symbolizes knowledge.

Stained glass is still made in much the same way it was in the Middle Ages. Artisans cut colored glass, which may then be further painted and fired to seal in the tint. The shapes are surrounded with lead, fitted together and soldered into place to form a window.

William Lees Judson, right, was the first dean of the USC College of Fine Arts and the founder of Judson Studios. The center that once housed the art school, left, burned down in 1910. Builders put up a new structure for the college on the same site, and today it’s home to Judson Studios.
HECUBA
At USC Village, all paseos lead to the Central Piazza, which features a uniquely Trojan landmark that celebrates the women of Troy: a sculpture of Hecuba, the majestic queen of Troy. Wife of King Priam, Hecuba took a stand to preserve and protect her family and beloved city. Her story lives on in classic works by Homer, Virgil and Euripides.

“In times of great grief and great joy, in times of trial and tribulation, in times of tragedy and triumph, it was Hecuba whose courage and compassion embodied the strength of spirit that is found within every Trojan,” USC President C. L. Max Nikias says.

The Hecuba statue rises gracefully more than 20 feet into the sky. Her figure stands atop a base sculpted with reliefs of six female figures who depict the ethnic diversity of USC in the 21st century. They are African, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Native American. The figures also represent the diversity of USC’s wide array of disciplines, including medicine, technology, and the humanities, sciences, arts and social sciences.

Renowned California-born artist and Trojan parent Christopher Slatoff, who previously created the Judge Robert Maclay Widney statue that stands at Widney Alumni House, designed the regal bronze sculpture. The towering figure weighs nearly 2 tons and matches the grand scale of the Central Piazza. While Tommy Trojan stands proudly in Hahn Plaza representing the spirit of Troy and the traits of the ideal Trojan, Hecuba warmly welcomes everyone into the Trojan Family, as she represents strength of spirit and celebrates the women of Troy.

JOBS
USC Village brought construction jobs to South Los Angeles, as well as ongoing work in maintenance, retail, food service and more. Here’s a snapshot of how the project’s construction boosted employment:

- 5,600 Carpenters, electricians, painters, masons and other skilled tradesmen and women
- 2.6 million Cumulative work hours
- 550 Average number of workers who worked onsite daily
- 38% Proportion of workers who lived in the city of Los Angeles
- >20% Proportion of workers who lived within 5 miles of the project

KEYS
One less thing USC Village residents have to worry about: lost room keys. Students use their ID cards to open their room doors and, if they live in a multi-bedroom unit, their individual bedroom doors. The cards also unlock the gates that protect USC Village’s perimeter, which are closed to the public overnight. The lobby of each building has a 24-hour staffed reception desk to ensure that only students and registered guests can enter student living areas. Security measures include fingerprint scanners and facial recognition. To summon elevators and go upstairs, residents must scan an ID card at the elevator bank.

ICONOGRAPHY
The symbols of heraldry have stood as marks of achievement for centuries. What’s old is now new, as USC draws on this history to shape the icons that represent its residential colleges.

Each USC residential college has its own crest. With the creation of eight new residential colleges at USC Village, the suite of crests now has swelled to 14. Every crest displays visual elements that hold special meaning. The design for McCarthy Honors College, for example, is inspired by the intersecting walkways of McCarthy Quad. Symbols used in the crests often relate to the theme of the residential college or originate as elements from USC’s seal and shield.

The crests remain true to the university’s official colors, upholding tradition and a sense of place and belonging.
LAND

Long before there was USC Village, there was the land on which it now stands—scrubby and open.

When the Spanish arrived to lay claim to California, indigenous people known as the Tongva (Gabrielino) inhabited the Los Angeles basin. The original Spanish civilian settlement that would become the city of Los Angeles grew in the 1780s around the area today known as Olvera Street in downtown L.A.

During the era of Spanish and Mexican ranchos, the long trip from El Pueblo de Los Angeles to the lonely site of the future USC was probably best attempted on horseback. After California was ceded to the United States, one man who certainly visited the area where USC Village now stands was prominent surveyor Henry Hancock. He would have walked along what is today Hoover Street, dragging the chains and stakes used to mark the borders of the city of Los Angeles under the U.S. Land Commission’s patent of 1856. (Hoover formed the city’s western edge. The city’s southwestern corner stood at the site of what is now Metro’s Exposition/LUSC rail station.)

Within a few decades of Judge Robert Maclay Widney’s founding of USC in 1880, maps of Los Angeles show houses dotting expansive fields north of the university. As USC and L.A. matured, the North University Park neighborhood thrived. Street blocks like 31st and 32nd between Hoover and Orchard Avenue, which no longer exist, once were lined with homes. Many took up residence in Victorian and Craftsman houses in North University Park, and some of these structures still stand.

Just after the turn of the 20th century, a police station opened at Jefferson Boulevard and Hoover—the first outside downtown L.A. The site would later host a bank, then a Denny’s restaurant. Today, it features an entrance to USC Village. Maps from a 1921 real estate atlas in USC Libraries’ Special Collections show a nursery in the area. They also show a theater on Jefferson between McClintock Avenue and Hoover. Known as University Theater, it become the Realart Theater, and then the Trojan Theater, which showed its last movie in 1952.

Businesses continued to grow along Jefferson in the latter half of the century. Photos show shops like Tuxedo Center and Hensley Jewelers. There was also a pharmacy, camera shop, travel agency and cleaners. But in the 1970s, a redevelopment project sought to stimulate renewal in the area. Besides seeing new apartment buildings and a fire station built on Jefferson, students and neighbors could frequent the new University Village shopping center—which opened in 1976 on the site of a former meatpacking plant.

Trojans may remember businesses from the time: Tam’s, a stationery and book store; Silverwoods, a men’s clothing shop; and the 32nd Street Market, to name a few.

USC purchased the University Village shopping center in 1999, and by the 2000s, it was time for a fresh start on the property. The center was demolished in 2014, opening a new chapter for students and neighborhood residents alike.
The Kathleen L. McCarthy Honors College is now home to first-year students who are among the nation's brightest. In 2014, the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, chaired by USC Trustee Kathleen Leavey McCarthy '57, donated $30 million to the university, making it possible to integrate USC's undergraduate scholarship and honors programs and establish a community of exceptional scholars at the residential college.

McCarthy Honors College houses nearly 600 freshman scholars and offers exclusive academic, cultural and social activities. Students receive regular mentoring from two members of the faculty in residence and an extensive residential education staff, who coordinate weekly themed discussions with guest speakers. Other activities include presentations from USC faculty and visiting scholars. The building also features dedicated spaces for honors seminars, group study, one-on-one advising and relaxing outdoors. Freshmen at the residential college can participate in unique opportunities available only to honors students. They also move in to their rooms before other USC students do and bond as a community at a special off-campus retreat during Welcome Week.

Their home is immediately recognizable to visitors. It features USC Village's most prominent architectural feature, a 150-foot-tall clock tower that overlooks the Central Piazza.

Excavate 15 acres of land, and you're bound to find an object someone left behind. USC Village construction workers acted as contemporary archaeologists, salvaging mysterious detritus they discovered during the project. Among their odd “treasures” were intricate glass bottles, a few horseshoes and a railroad spike. No one knows their provenance, now lost to the shifting sands of Los Angeles history.

The biggest mixed-use development project ever in South L.A. history, USC Village welcomes its neighbors to enjoy its open piazzas and offers green space for anyone interested in strolling and relaxing in public areas.

The complex's retail outlets—including Trader Joe's and Target—offer healthful food and everyday essentials. More than 460 public parking spaces are available to shoppers in an underground lot. A community room was built to host local events and gatherings, as well.

Neighbors also benefit from the street improvements along Jefferson Boulevard, including wider sidewalks, bike lanes and more crosswalks, some of which have been updated to allow for safer pedestrian crossings. USC Village also brings the community jobs at its residence halls, shops and restaurants.

With more than 2,500 beds for students, USC Village frees up rental housing space for the community, as more students live on campus rather than in nearby apartments. USC also invested $20 million in affordable housing funds for the neighborhood and opened a free legal clinic providing help for South L.A. residents needing housing and landlord-tenant dispute resolution.

Funds for affordable housing:

$20 million
Philanthropy

USC Village will transform student life for generations to come, and the Trojan Family is playing a big part in it.

More than a million bricks went into the construction of USC Village, but it was the generosity of the Trojan Family that built it.

USC trustees, alumni, Trojan parents and friends from around the world stepped forward to make USC Village possible. Their words echo those of USC Trustee Kathleen Leavey McCarthy ’57, who has given to USC for many years to support improvements across the university.

“Seeing the university evolve over the years has been nothing but a joyful experience,” says McCarthy, whose latest gift created a new residential honors college for exceptional freshmen at USC Village.

McCarthy is one example of the many people who have celebrated the rise of USC and helped make it happen through their giving. Thanks to gifts of all sizes, USC now offers an unparalleled living-learning program—a key factor in recruiting the highest caliber students.

TAKING THE LEAD

Every student who has thrown a Frisbee across McCarthy Quad or had a late-night study session in Leavey Library has experienced firsthand the generosity of Kathleen Leavey McCarthy and her family. As chair of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, which was created by her parents, McCarthy helped fund these two hubs for students. In 2014, she took her commitment one step further: She gave USC’s honors students a new home.

A $30 million gift from her family’s foundation established Kathleen L. McCarthy Honors College at USC Village.

The residence hall houses first-year students who received Mork Family, Stamps Leadership, Trustee or Presidential scholarships. “This is going to be a very special place for these students who are so bright and accomplished,” McCarthy said when the gift was announced.

Since 2012, almost all USC freshmen have lived in the residential college system. Often referred to as the Oxford model, this centuries-old academic tradition assigns students housing in a “college,” where interacting with other students and faculty mentors outside the classroom forges intellectual and social bonds that can last a lifetime. USC Village’s eight new residential colleges blend traditions from the Oxford model with elements unique to USC.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Other USC trustees and alumni stepped in to help create USC Village, as well. So far, seven residential colleges have been endowed, including two by donors who chose to give anonymously.

Through his $20 million gift, USC Trustee Ray Irani PhD ’57, former CEO of Occidental Petroleum, named the Ray Irani Residential College and established a scholarship fund that will help students attend USC. His gift also endowed two faculty chairs: the Ghada Irani Chair in the Keck School of Medicine of USC, named for his wife; and the Ray Irani Chair, established at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.

A philanthropist and technology entrepreneur, USC Trustee David Bohnett ’78 pledged $15 million to endow the David C. Bohnett Residential College, which
focuses on social justice and community service. In addition, Bohnett established a leadership fund at the USC Price School of Public Policy supporting a fellowship in public policy with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. He also endowed a chair in social entrepreneurship at the USC Marshall School of Business.

Charles Cale ’66, a USC trustee and financial investor, and his wife, Jessie, are longtime supporters of academic and athletic programs across the university. Their latest gift of $15 million established the Jessie and Charles Cale Residential College at USC Village.

A $15 million gift from USC Trustee Shelly Nemirovsky ’85 and her husband, Ofer, established the Shelly and Ofer Nemirovsky Residential College at USC Village. “Knowing that all USC students will now have the opportunity to continue conversations beyond the classroom, in the spirit of collaboration, is thrilling for me,” says Nemirovsky, a graduate of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

The generous giving for USC Village is part of the Campaign for USC, an unprecedented fundraising effort to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. When launched in 2011, the campaign had the largest fundraising goal ever announced in higher education—$6 billion. After exceeding its goal nearly 18 months ahead of schedule, the campaign continues to draw unparalleled support for the university’s mission and has been extended through 2021.

A PLACE FOR GENERATIONS

Surrounding the residential colleges is a scenic network of walkways and plazas where USC Village’s students and visitors can take breaks and stop for coffee. Trustees, alumni and friends have supported these outdoor spaces, as well as other resources for students. These are just a sample:

- **Fernow and McMaster Way** is a wide, tree-lined paseo that starts at Jefferson Boulevard and leads past Irani and Priam residential colleges to the shaded benches at Fernow and McMaster Plaza. Made possible with support from Dennis Fernow ’63, a real estate agent, and Thomas McMaster, former owner of an electric contracting firm, the walkway and plaza are part of a gift that also endowed the Dennis Fernow and Thomas McMaster Fund for Psychiatry.

- A serene 60-foot-long reflecting pool and fountain in USC Village’s main plaza was funded through a gift from USC Trustee Daniel Tsai, chairman of Fubon Financial, and his wife, Irene MA ’83, both longtime supporters of the university. The 8,500-gallon Fubon Fountain features 24 water jets and is illuminated with LED lights.

- **Freeberg Bridge**, spanning between Cowlings Residential College and McCarthy Honors College, was named through support from the Don and Lorraine Freeberg Foundation. The foundation—overseen by the couple’s son Daniel MBA ’76—also created the Freeberg Scholars Endowment Fund, which provides financial assistance to students in the Master of Business for Veterans program at USC Marshall.

- Just to the south of McCarthy Honors College runs Holoman Way, supported by Eric Holoman ’83, operating partner for Magic Johnson Enterprises, and his wife, Terri. They’ve also generously given to scholarship programs at USC Marshall and the USC Black Alumni Association.

- Supporters have endowed spaces exclusively for students, as well. Undergraduates can study in a lounge named by the Wayne L. Rogers Family at Cale Residential College, for example. The Rogers family’s gift also supports the USC Dornsife Dean’s Endowed Fund for Excellence.

QUADS

With so many floor plans and more than 2,500 beds at USC Village, residents have plenty of room configurations to choose from. Some suites accommodate two people, while others fit as many as eight. One common option is a four-person unit, which has several floor plan options throughout the residential colleges, including suites with two rooms or four rooms, floor-level or lofted beds, and other variations. Curious? Explore students’ options at housing.usc.edu.

RETAILERS

New shops and stores offer more than 100,000 square feet of retail space and choices for USC students and South L.A., with plenty of parking. Here’s a sampling (and check out the latest full listing online at usc-village.com): Target, Trader Joe’s (a first in the neighborhood), Bank of America, Starbucks and Village Cobbler—a shop that returned from University Village.
“USC Village will no longer be adjacent to campus. It will be the campus.” So said USC President C. L. Max Nikias at its groundbreaking. USC Village’s construction logistics and materials alone made the sheer scale of the project unprecedented in the university’s history. Here are a few of the numbers:

- 1,124 days: USC Village project duration (June 2, 2014 – July 1, 2017)
- 1.4 million: Bricks used
- 896 days: Construction duration
- 110,000 cubic yards: Concrete poured
- 1.2 million: Miles of wire used

USC Village is just one of the ways USC has elevated student life. Undergrads today find residential colleges that have been reinvented. They aren’t just places to live—they’re learning communities. There’s more to do, more ways to make friends, more ways to feel connected, and more traditions to bind Trojans together.

Take the Residential College Cup. The year-long competition, started in 2016, pits residential colleges for first-year students against each other in activities like intramural sports and trivia nights. Birnkrant took home the first Residential College Cup. This fall, the six original colleges face even stiffer competition as USC Village’s McCarthy Honors College joins in.

Playing games, whether they involve wiggling through hula-hoops or shooting free throws while blindfolded, is a big part of the competition. Other activities that help students develop a sense of belonging involve intellectual pursuits and community service.

The effort grew out of two years of extensive research by USC staffers who aim to boost all aspects of student life.

“We have taken the best practices from colleges in the U.S.,” says Ainsley Carry, vice president of student affairs, “and intend to build the cutting-edge residential college experience.”

Eight new residential colleges are housed within five of USC Village’s six buildings, creating not only a new home, but also new ways to learn for more than 2,500 undergraduates. McCarthy Honors College is the only building to house freshmen.

The first new campus housing complex in a decade, USC Village holds 663 residential college units: 518 suites with kitchens and another 145 without them. Also onsite is a substation of USC’s Department of Public Safety, which is staffed 24 hours a day.

The addition of USC Village expands undergraduate housing across USC by 24 percent. About 9,200 students, both undergraduate and graduate, can now live in USC housing. Space at other USC housing facilities was reconfigured to accommodate many more graduate students and students with families, spreading the benefits of USC Village beyond Trojan undergraduates.
Hundreds of USC Village construction workers gathered to celebrate after the USC football team’s 2016 win over UCLA. With help from coach Clay Helton, workers jumped at the chance to ring the Victory Bell. “I really felt the Trojan spirit,” said construction worker Ruben Ortiz at the time. “I've always been a Trojan fan. It was great for the head coach to come out here and support our work.”

USC Village’s broad paseos converge at the tree-lined Central Plaza at the core of the complex. The patterned red bricks and concrete paving in the plaza, which cover almost the area of a football field, echo the design of the space’s sister site, Hahn Plaza.

The park-like environment offers up decisions: walk awhile, or sip a cup of coffee? As visitors stroll from Fernow and McMaster Plaza down Holoman Way, they’ll look up at USC Village’s facades through a leafy filter. About 390 trees now grow at USC Village, including a 30-foot-tall California live oak that provides a serene backdrop for the plaza’s sculpture of Hecuba. The complex’s camphor trees are a member of the laurel family, so they have pungent-smelling leaves. Its Arbutus marina, or strawberry, trees display a reddish-hued bark. The trees can survive with relatively little water. Landscaping meets California’s green building codes, with weather stations and flow sensors to irrigate efficiently. An anemometer mounted on a lamp post near Fubon Fountain measures wind speed and automatically adjusts the height of the fountain’s jets to conserve water, keeping it from spraying outside the fountain—or onto pedestrians.

Along Jefferson Boulevard, walkers will now find added signal lights. They’ll also encounter scramble crosswalks at the intersections of Jefferson Boulevard and Hoover Street and Jefferson Boulevard and McClintock Street. These lights stop all vehicle traffic so pedestrians can walk across or diagonally through the intersection. Wider sidewalks accommodate the heavier foot traffic around USC Village, too.

Jefferson Boulevard street parking in front of USC Village has been eliminated and replaced with bike lanes. Bike lanes are now available on all the streets bordering the complex.
X-FACTOR
The $700 million USC Village complex increases the area of the University Park Campus by 1.25 million square feet. But beyond the numbers, its impact on the campus culture, academics and student life is a game changer—the X-factor that will shape USC in the decades ahead.

“This is by far the biggest thing USC has ever done, and probably will ever do.”

USC PRESIDENT C. L. MAX NIKIAS

YOGA
Step into the 30,000-square-foot USC Village Recreation Center and you might feel compelled to breathe deeply and stretch. The center is designed for that, with plenty of natural light and open space for those inspired to try some cardio or dance moves.

The fitness center’s clean, contemporary design serves as the backdrop for about a hundred cardio stations, including treadmills, stationary bikes and rowing machines. Resistance machines abound. So do flat-screen displays. Spacious group-fitness rooms support a full schedule of cardio, yoga, muscle conditioning and body sculpting classes.

With the new gym and renovations to the Lyon Center, the Trojan community now has more space to exercise indoors on USC’s campuses. “This will transform the way students can utilize recreation at the university,” says Justine Gilman, director of recreational sports. “It’s the biggest opportunity we’ve had to increase workout space since the Lyon Center opened in 1989.”

The USC Village gym expands signature programs offered at the Lyon Center, including personal training. Any enrolled students can use the facilities, while employees, alumni and guests can pay for membership there as well as at the Health Sciences Campus.

These stories were created by Ron Mackovich, Elisa Huang, Alicia Di Rado and Joanna Clay.