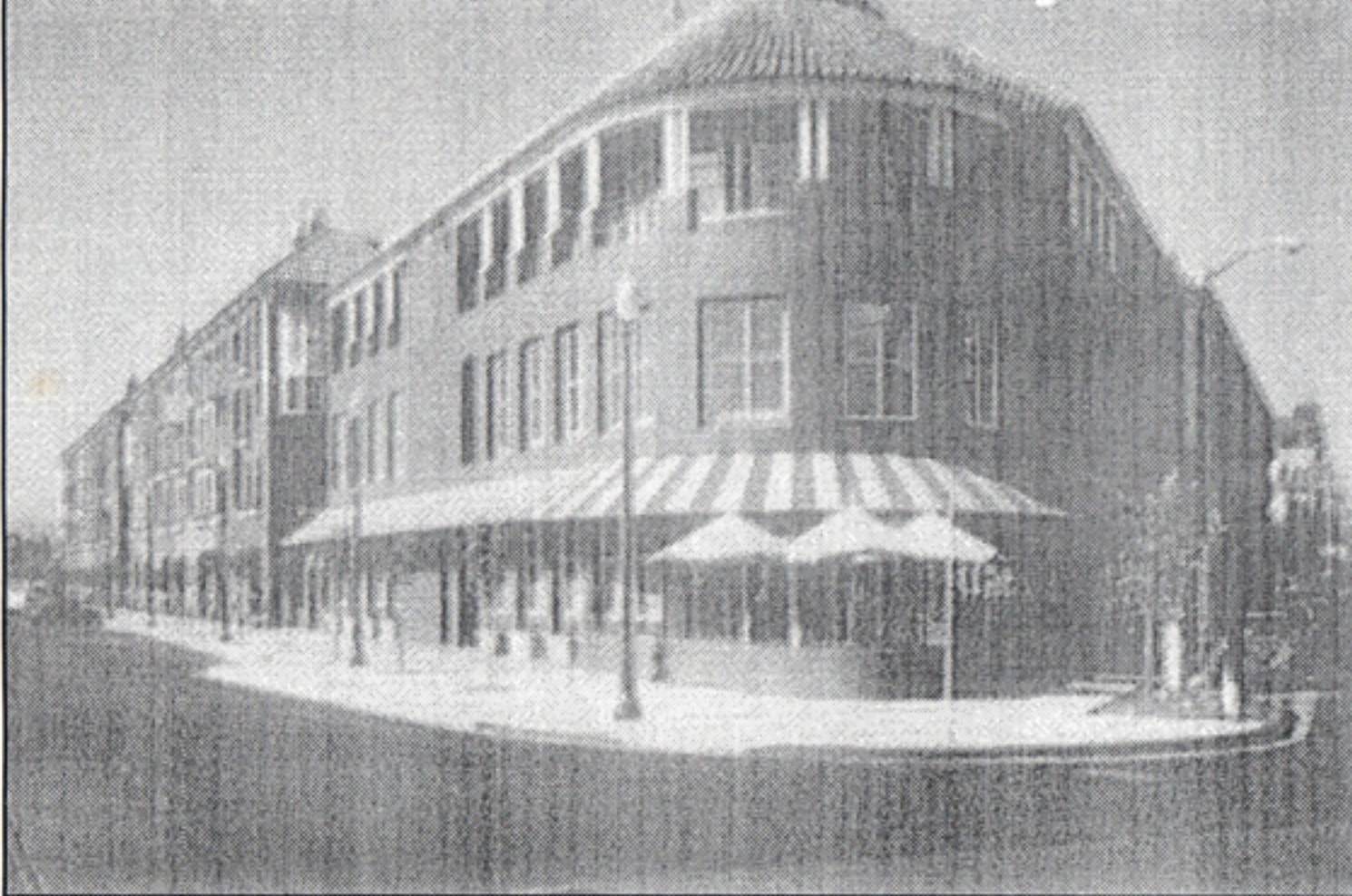


By Bruno Giberti
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

the jury bestowed
just five awards

AIA Honors: Delancey Street



Backen Arrigoni & Ross's Delancey Street Foundation headquarters: Good design may prove an antidote to NIMBY fever

The Delancey Street headquarters building, designed by Backen Arrigoni & Ross for a successful drug-rehabilitation program, is already well-known and admired, so it is no surprise that the building caught the jury's attention.

Above the conventional

Located on a triangular site along The Embarcadero, in a South of Market neighborhood that is rapidly being redeveloped for yuppie housing, this 325,000-square-foot, mixed-use project was a cause for concern when first proposed. By the time it was completed in August 1990, Delancey Street had put its more conventional neighbors to shame.

As a type, Delancey Street is not unlike its neighbors, with 177 units of communal housing raised on top of a parking podium. It differs in the quality of its design, which evokes a Mediterranean vernacular of red and ochre-colored stucco, arched openings, loggias, bracketed eaves and a clay-tile roof.

If good design is any kind of antidote for NIMBY fever, then Delancey Street could well serve as a prototype for similar kinds of projects in the future.

The jury, which met for three days in early October, included two architects, Barton Myers of Los Angeles and Adle Naud Santos of San Diego, until recently head UC-San Diego's architecture school, which has been closed. The third member was Paul V. Turner, professor of art at Stanford University. An exhibition of the winning projects continues until Nov. 30, at the AIA chapter office, 130 Sutter St.

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