



## **Tower General Contractors to Refurbish USC Student Center**

*Project is Latest in Long List of Historic Renovations for Tower*

**Los Angeles Ca.** Tower General Contractors has begun renovation of the University of Southern California's historic Gwynne Wilson Student Union. The refurbishment will take approximately six months and will focus on the brick and terra cotta facades that decorate the building..

The Gwynn Wilson Student Union is located in the heart of USC's campus. This landmark building houses the Student Senate, USC ticket office, the Bookstore, numerous restaurants and convenience shops, and even the occasional art exhibition. Constructed in 1927 in a North Italian Renaissance style, the exterior still features the original architects' terra cotta carvings. Each carving uniquely represents an aspect of USC life - with carvings ranging from students in scholarly pursuits, to athletic activities, to portraits of past Chancellors. The Student Union occupies an important space in the history of USC and in the daily life of USC students.

Since the Company's founding in 1985, Tower General Contractors has been involved in a number of historical renovations in California. These projects have included:

- **The LAX Theme Building** – Designed and built in 1961 and designated a cultural and historical monument in 1992, Tower was hired to upgrade and modernize this landmark. Tower's renovations, to be completed on April 1, 2010, will include the installation of a state of the art Tuned Mass Damper to minimize movement in the event of an earthquake and the reopening of the observation platform.
- **Allen Hancock Foundation Building at The University of Southern California** – Constructed in 1918, the elements of historic significance were the exterior finishes, molding, windows and doors. Tower developed methods that allowed a complete renovation of the building without compromising its historical elements.
- **UCLA Knudsen Hall** – Constructed in 1963. The 10,000-square-foot renovation included upgrading the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and other prime utility systems while preserving the architectural integrity of the building. Renovation was completed during summer break.
- **The Arroyo Seco Building in Old Town Pasadena** – This historic Pasadena landmark underwent a complete construction of a new core and shell including the design and installation of new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems while maintaining the historical features of the building.
- **Cheesecake Factory Building in Old Town Pasadena** – This 71-year old office building underwent a complete remodeling to preserve the interior of the building and its unique facade. The bottom floor is still home to a Cheesecake Factory restaurant.
- **The Villa Maria at St. John of God** – Built in 1908 by William Ramsey, a Chicago lumber baron, the interior of the building is adorned in Jamaican mahogany, a tree that no longer exists. Tower was hired for its expertise in preserving and bringing back the original splendor of the building. Tower also installed new modern electrical and mechanical systems to the 100-year old building.
- **The Beverly Hills City Hall** – Designed and built in 1932, Tower's renovation includes restoring the historic architectural details and interior design of the building and will upgrade its electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.