Our Two Newest Residence Halls Focus on Community and Sustainability

In August 2011 the University of Arizona opened its two newest halls, Árbol de la Vida and Likins, offering a home to more than 1,000 students. These halls focus on community building, collaborative learning, and sustainable living.

Smart Sustainability for 21st Century Living

For students at Árbol de la Vida and Likins, sustainability is a way of life. Both halls achieved LEED Platinum certification and close to 80% of the building materials are recycled. Community features include:

**Energy Efficiency**
- 75% of the hot water is powered by roof-mounted solar panels
- When student rooms are unoccupied, “smart thermostats” adjust the temperature, occupancy sensors turn off lights, and multiple “green outlets” shut off appliances when not in use

**Water Conservation**
- Low-flow showerheads, faucets, and dual-flush toilets reduce water usage in community bathrooms
- Passive water harvesting, storm water mitigation, and drought tolerant plants in landscaping conserve water

**Indoor Environmental Quality**
- Large windows open for ventilation
- Dual window shades can create either filtered light or complete darkness
- Computer designed awnings on south side allow for optimal sunlight in winter and block it in summer

**Collaborative Learning**
- An interactive “Building Dashboard” – a custom-designed website and kiosk – lets students monitor their hall’s energy and water usage
- “Media:scape” work stations allow multiple students to access and share digital information in study rooms

**Community Spaces**
- Student rooms at Árbol de la Vida and Likins are on wide, meandering corridors interspersed with study rooms, lounge areas, and community bathrooms
Árbol de la Vida Hall, A Global Honors Community

- 719 honors students call Árbol de la Vida (Tree of Life) home
- Located on the southwest corner of campus, this hall features striking architecture, with bridges connecting five buildings that range in height from four to six stories
- In the main lobby, beautiful glass panels feature “trees” composed of poetry lines
- Group study rooms feature ABTEQ workstations, allowing students to participate in video classes and conferences with global partners
- Residents enjoy a variety of community and learning spaces, including two Great Rooms, an exercise room, recreation rooms, a two-story study bridge, a community kitchen, classrooms, and courtyards
- The hall also features an apartment available to visiting scholars and faculty

Likins Hall

- Likins is home to 369 students, and named in honor of UA President Emeritus Peter Likins
- Located in the popular Highland District, the hall consists of three interconnected buildings ranging from four to six stories, and is designed around a large hacienda-style courtyard
- Students are welcomed at the main entrance by a colorful back-lit glass wall that resembles a waterfall, a piece designed by local renowned artist Tom Philabaum
- Community spaces at Likins include a glass-enclosed Great Room, a recreation room, a community kitchen, group study rooms, and numerous lounges and gathering spaces