The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art completes the ring of buildings around Vanderhoef Square. It acts as a gateway to campus for all visitors approaching from Old Davis Road. With innovative facilities that extend beyond exhibition to arts education and creation, the museum provides an exciting new destination to this relatively remote part of campus.

The Grand Canopy, with its triangular perforated aluminum beams, is truly unique. Metaphorically, it suggests that the building is a man-made extension of the Central Valley landscape (Figure 1-2). Just as agriculture nurtures crops, the museum nurtures students (Figure 4). This connection to nature and context is also apparent in the dynamic shadows cast by the perforated beams, an ever-changing exhibition that responds to the path of the sun and change of the seasons. This building celebrates and symbolizes growth through access to the arts and learning.

The Shrem Museum is not only for exhibitions (Figure 3). It includes classrooms and art studios—a living experiment in teaching fabricating and interacting with art. Each quarter, it presents the work of famous artists and designers, as well as the thesis projects of graduate students in the visual arts. Due to its broad recognition in the popular and architectural press, this new museum brings more presence to UC Davis on a national scale.