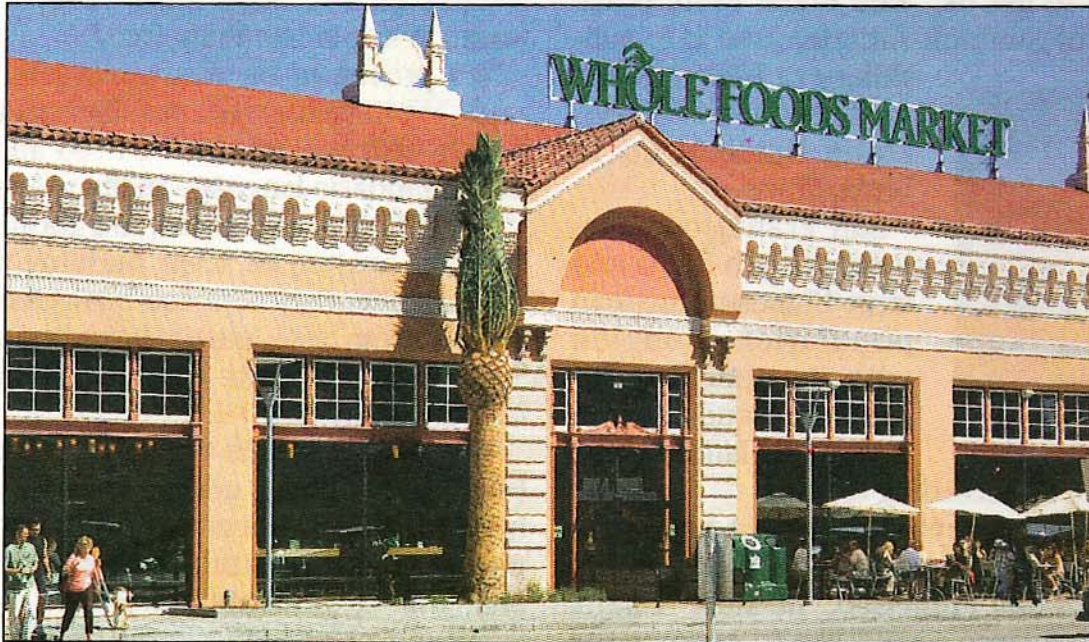


COMMUNITY IMPACT / INNER EAST BAY



FINALIST: Whole Foods, Oakland

Whole Foods Market swung open its doors downtown in September, the first grocery store to open in the city's core in two decades.

The store is a much-needed boost to Oakland's efforts to attract and keep residents downtown, but the deal was not without challenges. The building housing the store, the site of the Piedmont Cable Car Co. in the 1890s and later the Cox Cadillac dealer, was a designated historic property whose façade had to be restored. In addition, the site required extensive environmental remediation and a complex drainage system to combat flooding. The development took more than five years, with 10 different engineering firms working on the project.

Because the building is smaller than a typical Whole Foods store, the company had to create an innovative store layout. The company used recycled materials to create the store, which includes a bistro and coffee bar.

— Amanda Bishop ■

OAKLAND WHOLE FOODS

Location: 230 Bay Place, Oakland.

Size: 55,000 square feet.

Estimated value: \$50 million.

Developer: Bond Companies.

Architect: Lowney Architecture.

Seller: Avalon Bay Communities.

Broker: Matthew Holmes, Retail West Inc.

Contractor: Charles Pankow Builders Ltd.

Engineers: Sandis Inc.