

# 101 California

San Francisco, CA

*The revamped plaza will provide a welcoming and accessible public gathering space with clear pathways for pedestrians as well as dining options.*

101 California is a prominent 48-story skyscraper located in San Francisco’s Financial District. At the foot of the building is one of the city’s most beloved and historically significant plazas. OJB was engaged to redesign the 1982 landmark’s plaza and surrounding public realm, creating an updated and enhanced plaza experience, while respecting the grid and pure geometries laid out by the original designers, Philip Johnson and Bill Callaway. The new design also incorporates 20% more planting, creating more greenery downtown and assisting with a reduction in the urban heat island.

The existing plaza had 10’ high “ziggurats” and 6’ diameter pots for perimeter security, which created barriers and an unwelcoming pedestrian experience. While security is essential for the high-rise building, OJB was able to design an inviting plaza and lively streetscape that still provided plenty of perimeter security. Seat height planter walls and bollards around the perimeter increase visibility into the plaza. The planters mound up to 4’ high to tiered seating at the center of the plaza, creating depth for tree planting, while sloped lawns give additional seating options at the center. The plaza also sits on an existing parking structure and OJB had to carefully design the planting to work with the technical constraints that come with building on structure, including minimal depths for planting below the finished surface of the plaza.

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## Client

Hines

## Size

26,300 SF Plaza

## Dates

2017 - present

## Cost

Confidential

## Team

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson  
MKA  
Meyers+Engineers  
Francis Krahe & Associates  
Eckersley O’Callaghan  
HMA Consulting  
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger  
Cerami & Associates  
KPFF  
Fluidity Design Consultants

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