Organized around a south-facing court to maximize daylight access, the project consists of multiple residential buildings linked together by cross-ventilated, single-loaded residential “bridges.” This mix of typologies creates a hybrid building strategy, dubbed ‘Breeze Block.’ The buildings vary in height and mass, taking advantage of wind exposure to drive the natural ventilation strategies. Buildings touch the ground lightly, creating vibrant and transparent ground floor amenity spaces within proximity of multiple pedestrian and campus shuttle routes. Large breezeways at the residential bridges also enhance connectivity to the UCSF campus and support the university’s bicycle culture.

The tower blocks are defined by a hybrid of stack-ventilated and cross-ventilated unit configurations. At the main blocks, a pinwheel design allows for cross-ventilation of corridors and common spaces while inviting daylight deeper into the building. Common areas are located at the glazed core which, as an extension of the solar chimney at the roof level, displays both community and sustainability. The solar chimney induces stack-effect ventilation for the common areas and units around the pinwheel.

Exterior circulation at the “bridges” which are oriented to minimize western exposure, coupled with exterior stairways, reduce the need for conditioned space and artificial lighting. Efficiency is further aided by a unit design that consolidates wet cores into a stackable module, permitting utilities and ventilation shafts to stack while allowing a flexible façade configuration that can respond to each unique solar orientation.