Thomas Jefferson School of Law students navigate along the circular staircase during the first day of classes Tuesday at the school's new East Village campus. HOWARD LI/PN - U-T PHOTOS

New campus at a glance

San Diego's Thomas Jefferson School of Law held the first classes in its new downtown building Tuesday. Here's a rundown:

Dimensions: Eight stories and 178,000 square feet.

Occupants: 1,025 students and 150 faculty and staff.

What's inside: 12 classrooms, two learning centers, one moot courtroom — in which students simulate proceedings — two recording studios and a 40,000-square-foot library with meditation room.

Estimated cost: $90 million

School history: Founded in 1969, the law school had been on San Diego Avenue in Old Town since 1983.

Site history: The remains of an adult Columbian mammoth and of a gray whale, both about 500,000 years old, were found during digging in February 2009.

Green credentials: The school expects to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Source: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Student Michael Dykstra studies between classes Tuesday. The school says the building is designed to be welcoming.

The chevron-shaped roofline distinguishes the new eight-story building on Island Avenue.