

The need for a modern design was paramount but local Spanish colonial architectural style was also an influence for the concept. The relationship of the structure with the natural environment must have a subtle but powerful synergy. Thus the main structure was expanded into a garden plaza where events could be hosted. Additionally the main building could be the main tower for an aerial lift that could provide views and transport around the downtown park and river.

We tried to be as conservative as possible for the structure. We avoided using harmful materials such as lead, asbestos, silica and fiberglass. We focused on materials such as recycled steel, insulated concrete forms, and cool roofing. These will help insure we are not harming the environment but preserving our ecosystem. The idea for the energy source of the building was originally hydroelectricity, but due to the environmental impact on the rivers this idea was scrapped. The next was solar panels which we decided to use monocrystalline panels, these panels have the highest efficiency over other types with a 15-20 percent efficiency, as well as San Jose is normally a mild weather place meaning that the panels will not decrease in efficiency due to cold/hot weather. The monocrystalline panels also last around 25 years.