

ecopolis

Ecopolis is an environmental agora inhabiting Arena Green at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. It is an emerald vision of an urban oasis that consists of four core experiences: 1) *hand house*, 2) *gaia gardens*, 3) *out reach* and 4) *climate watch*. Individually and in concert, these iconic elements reinforce the main message of a future that's within our collective grasp, emphasizing the transformative power of stewardship and hope.

Hand house is an iconic amphitheater designed and built according to the highest levels of durability, equitability and sustainability according to net-zero standards. Conceived as a pair of protective hands keeping a flame alive and framing the sky, it will contain an array of interchangeable components, modules and displays that can be swapped out as technologies evolve. Features include a multi-layered 'skin' comprised of a photovoltaic grid, LCD mosaic image screens, amphitheater seating and an *oracle* stage with dynamic illumination and projections.

Gaia gardens raise multi-sensory consciousness within the visitor while instilling a rooted sense of place, drawing attention to the area's flora and fauna. Using xeriscaping and stomata patterning, the landscape functions as an extension of *hand house*, serving as an outdoor classroom and informal gathering place. Slicing through this *fingerprint plaza* is a *fault line path* that signifies a cataclysmic change in consciousness that defines the edge of the riparian zone. An adjacent *core sample colonnade* marbled with intricate strata functions as luminaria while *carbon footprints* in the path depict emission comparisons.

Out reach embodies interactive education, a local-to-global community development process that engages diverse communities in collective problem solving. Using *ecopolis* as an inspirational resource center, participants in *out reach* will co-invent solutions relevant to issues of their time and place. Scenarios could include events, workshops, mobile units, and other programs coordinated with museums, universities and research institutions throughout the world as an *international climatology exchange*.

Climate watch is envisioned as a product-development collaboration involving Silicon Valley companies that perceive the value in promoting green consciousness. The conceptual outline includes *gas gauges* that monitor and modify behavior through a biofeedback loop driven by a global technology matrix that fits on your wrist. The idea is to personalize *ecopolis* as a portable experience that helps reprogram an inundated world citizen with simple but effective reminders to live in the BIG HERE and the LONG NOW.