



ITECC Environmental Opportunities

The plan incorporates a 20 foot wide greenbelt around the building to buffer it from the parking. This greenbelt provides several advantages such as reducing the temperature in a space that is busy with pedestrians and serves as a visual separation between buildings and parking lots, creating a friendlier atmosphere.

The plan reduces the air conditioning load by eliminating the roof at the main corridor and courtyard, making it an exterior space. This new open space will include colonnades to help create the human scale and provide shading. Shading will also come from the surrounding building elevations and landscaping, which should include palm trees and other trees. The proposed water feature will also help cool the courtyard. The plan suggests the incorporation of “recoge-vientos” or wind catchers to bring a pleasant breeze to the pedestrian level.



Existing





ITECC Environmental Opportunities (cont.)

The resaca located north of the property functions as a storm water management system, and can become an innovative laboratory for conservation and exhibition. The intent is to limit the disruption of existing water flows. The design concept promotes infiltration by minimizing impervious surfaces, eliminating contaminants, and collecting and reusing resaca water for landscape irrigation, and possibly for custodial uses.

The resaca also provides a unique educational setting. The rendering to the left depicts a series of pavilions connected by a wood deck that extends over the resaca. Some of the pavilions are open, providing shade for outdoor lectures or demonstrations. Other pavilions may be enclosed to provide exhibits, interactive displays, and small lecture halls equipped for video presentations. Seating areas are incorporated along the deck, encouraging outdoor activities such as bird and butterfly watching, and studying of local vegetation.

Other environmental opportunities exist. For instance, the large roof surface of the building can be used for water harvesting, then the collected water can be used for irrigation. This site can also be used to further solar and wind energy study efforts. The brain trust, geographic location and manpower makes ITECC an ideal place to research, test, implement and educate people on environmental and alternative energy systems, placing the institution in a leadership role in environmental technology.

