

Case Studies:

**“It ain’t easy
being green!”**



But it’s worth it!

1

And we’ll attempt to answer four questions...



What’s the best solar house?



Is passive heating in the desert reasonable?

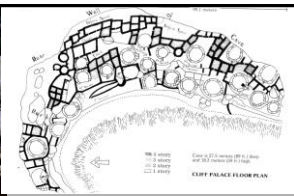
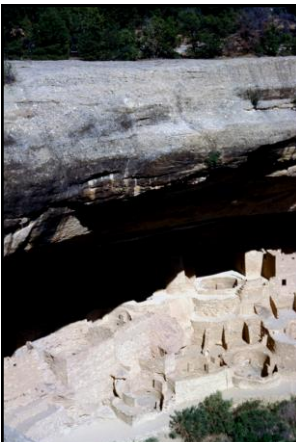


Is sustainability sustainable?



Can large American buildings be naturally ventilated?

2



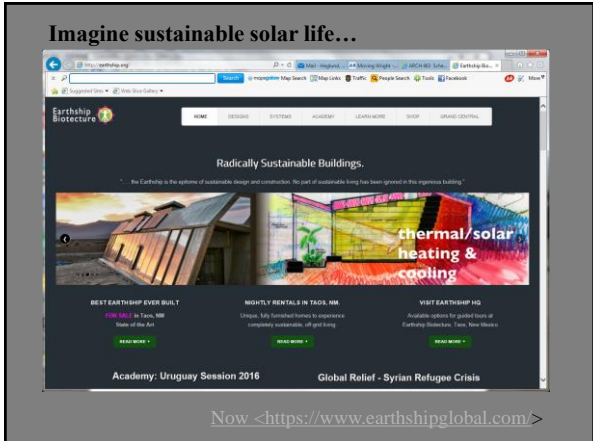
**Cliff Palace
Mesa Verde N.P.
SW Vernacular Solar...**
Oooooooooooooops!

My theory: It was an art and architecture school.

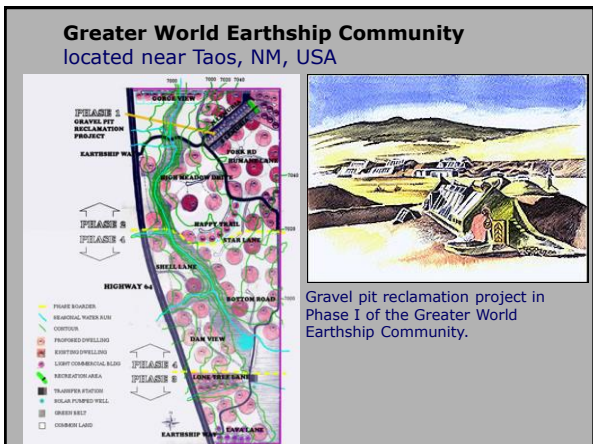
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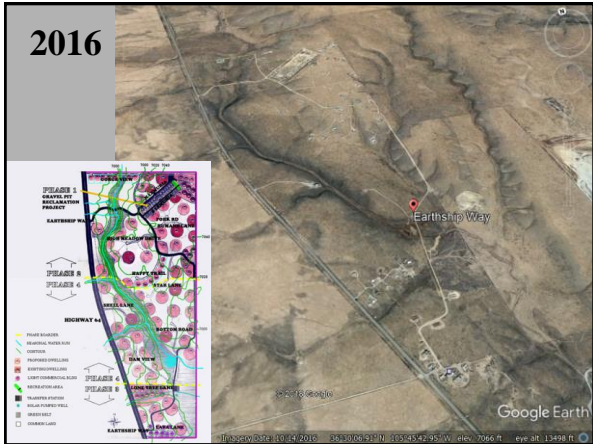
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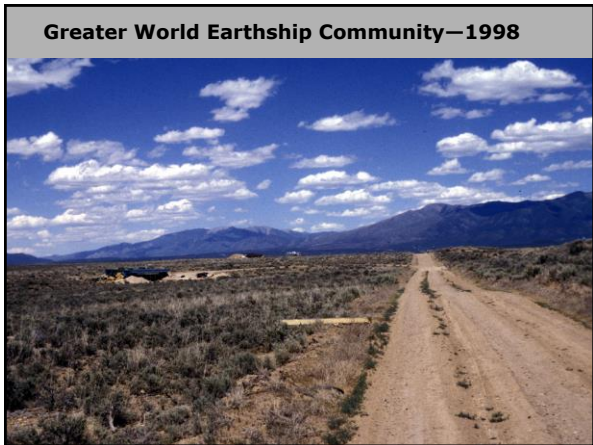
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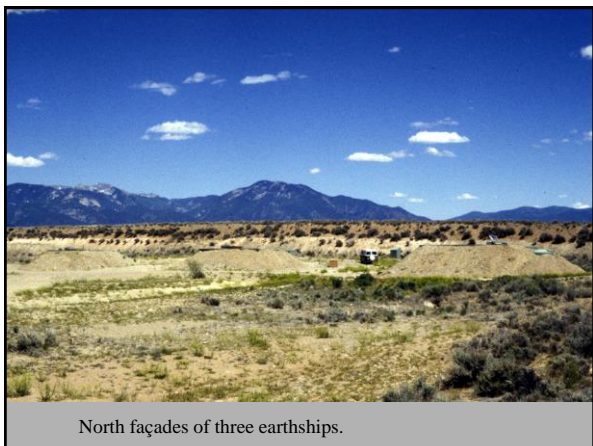
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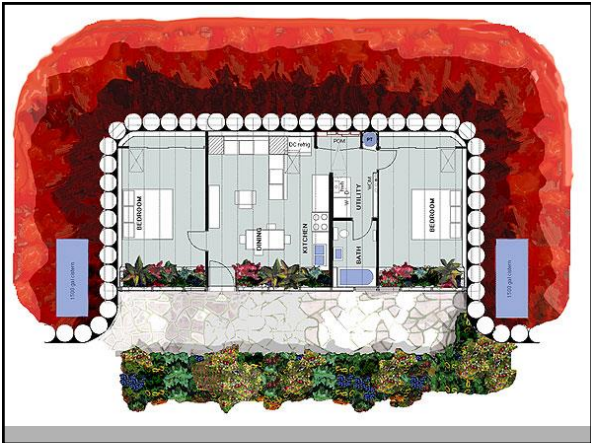
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Conventional House 457.7 kg/year Earthship - 0.0 kg/year	Conventional House 204,000 litres/year Earthship - 0.0 litres
Sewage Output	City Water use

It's about water...

- supply
- waste

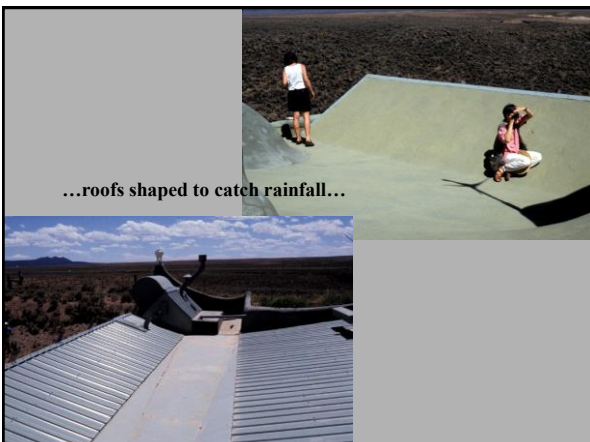
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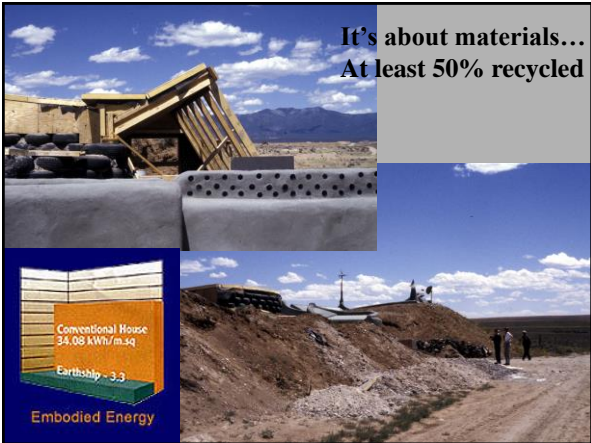
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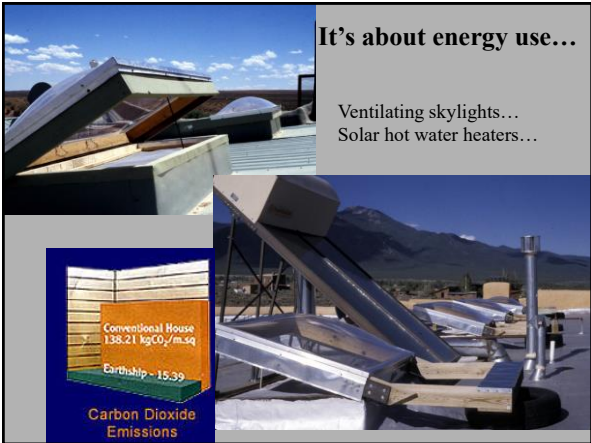
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18



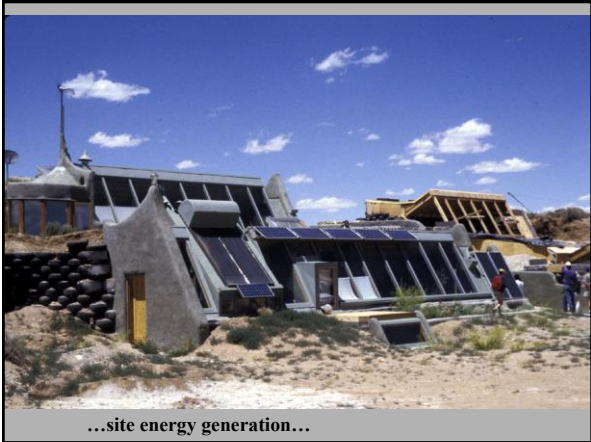
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...site energy generation...

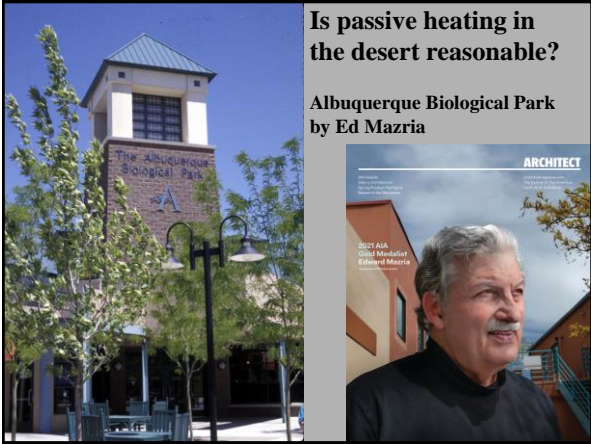
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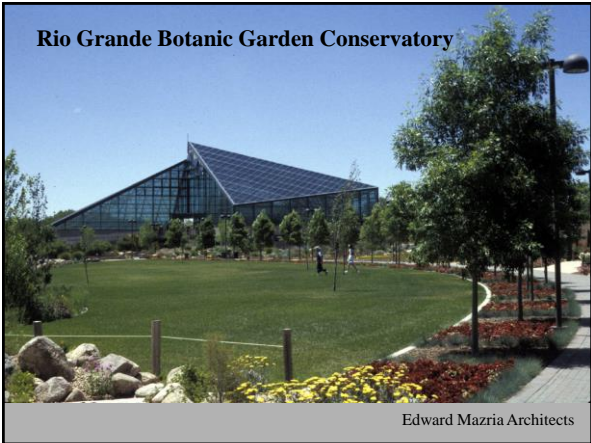
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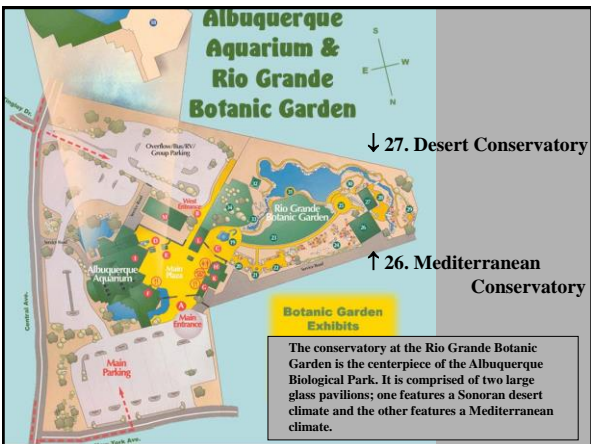
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Mediterranean—Sonoran Desert



Computer modeling determined the necessary solar and thermal properties of glazing for each side of the building to provide the proper balance of heat and light to the plants inside. Plans called for a 7,500 square foot building, but due to the efficiency and lower cost for the building's environmental control systems, a 10,000 square foot structure was provided for the same cost.

31

Solar heated and naturally ventilated...

The conservatory was open to the public and monitored for its first two years and the results are impressive. Each pavilion sustained winter temperatures 20 to 30 degrees above outdoor lows and maintains the internal conditions that are required for desert and Mediterranean plant growth with little or no outside energy input.



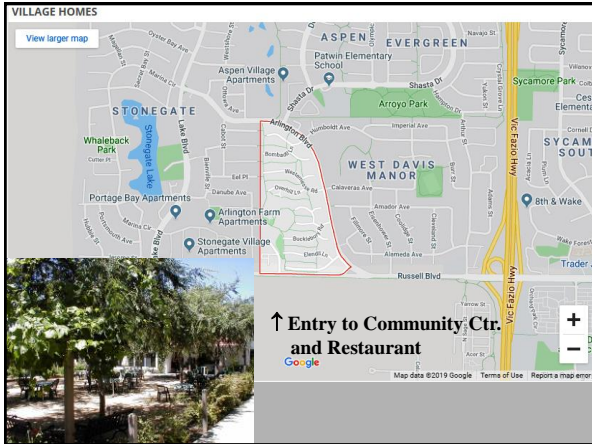
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Is sustainability sustainable?



**Village Homes
Davis, CA
Michael Corbett
1975**

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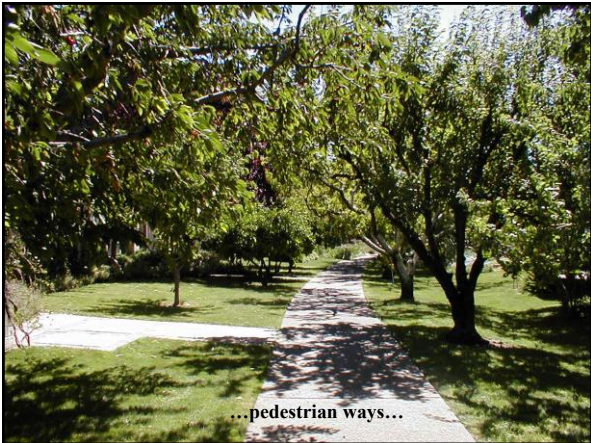
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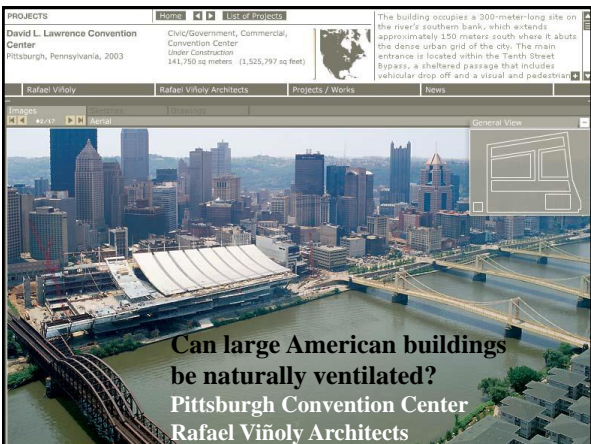
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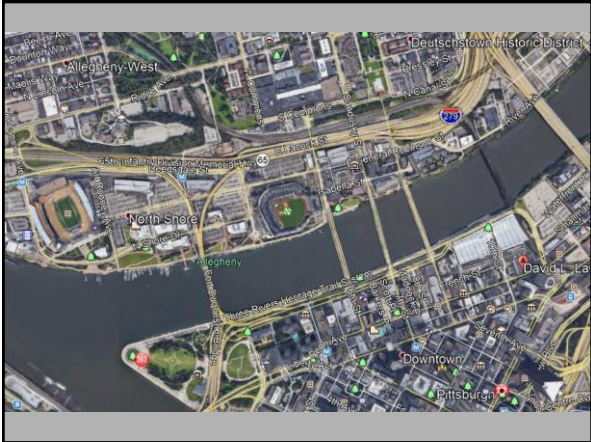
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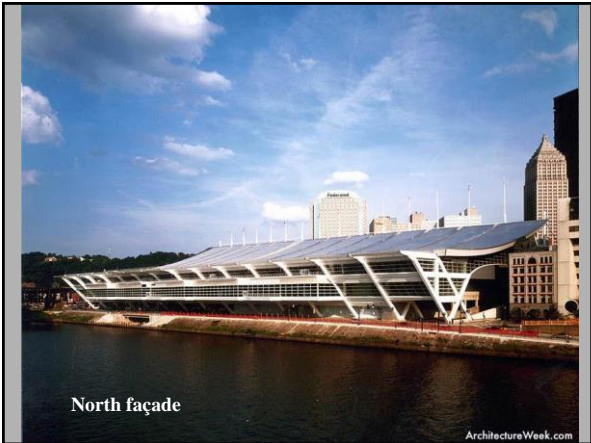
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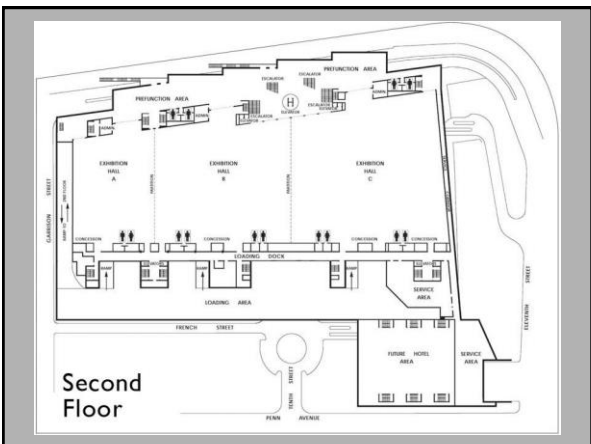
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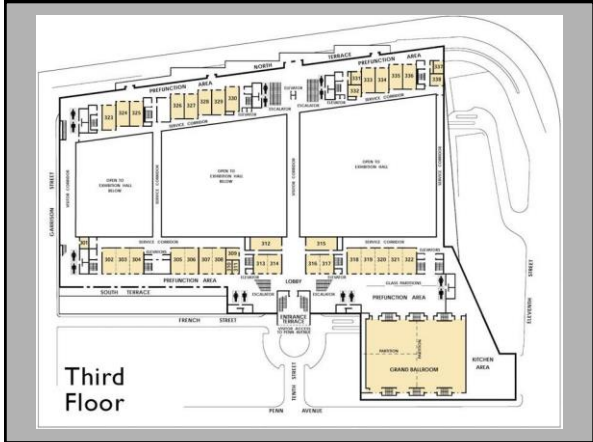
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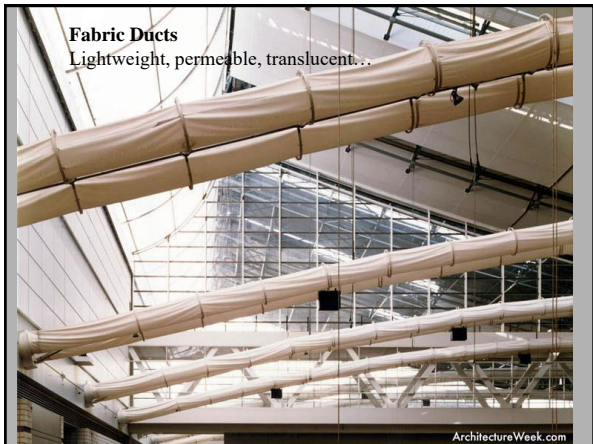
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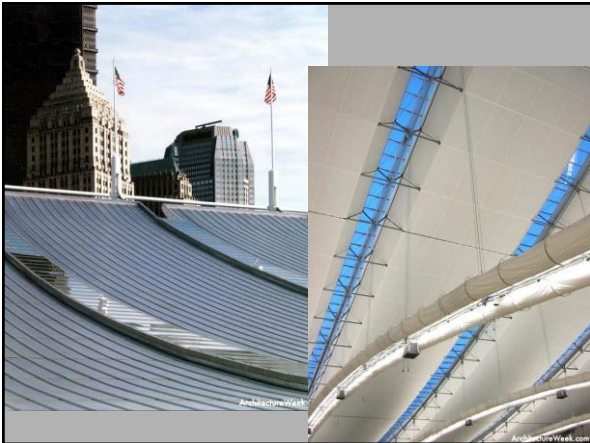
Natural Ventilation

The building has a weather station near the roof to measure air temperature, humidity, and wind speed and direction. When conditions are right, the 20 air-handling units serving the exhibit halls shut off, the vents open, and outside air flows into the exhibit area.

The convention center also uses natural ventilation to flush air from the exhibit halls at night during warmer periods, which further reduces the time during which the conventional cooling system is needed.

Natural ventilation saves 3.8 million kWh of electricity a year.

49



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Natural Lighting

Clerestory windows where the walls and roof meet and long, 6-foot- (1.8-meter) wide ribbon skylights covering 10 percent of the roof area provide daylight for 75 percent of the convention center's exhibition space.

This glazing is projected to save 9.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

Sum of two strategies:

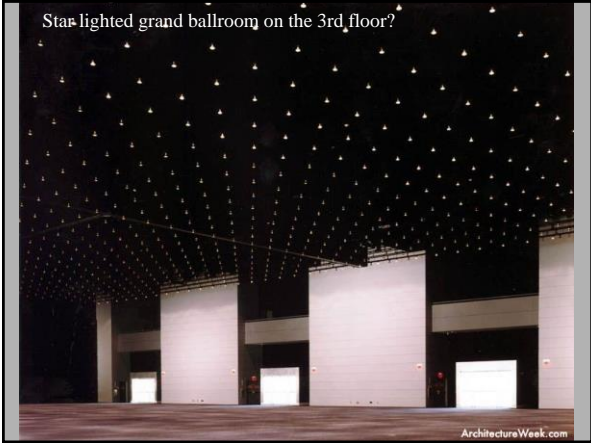
$3.8 + 9.5 = 13.3$ million kilowatt hours @15 cents/kwh =

\$2,000,000 per year

51



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