

DESERT ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DESERT DESIGN

Both day- and night-time activities will lead children and their families to experience and appreciate the desert environment, most especially the stunning night skies. The entire campus is intended to be an ongoing demonstration of sustainability in the desert. The Observatory buildings themselves will teach responsible design, employing ancient and very low-tech strategies alongside the most current high-tech methods to make maximum use of renewable energy and maintain minimum dependence on non-renewable energy.

Southwestern design, historically, evolved in immediate response to the environment: it takes into account the heat, cold, sun, and wind of an arid climate, and it uses native materials. Hence you find massive exterior walls, deeply-recessed openings for doors and windows, and plenty of shade structures and overhanging eaves.