HOTEL MARQUIS LOS CABOS

SCAP & ARCHITECTONIC
LOS CABOS, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO. 2003

A 250 room luxury Hotel located in Los Cabos, Mexico.

This hotel takes care of several sustainability issues that include: high conservation of energy, trash recycling, integration to nature, water recycling and environmental comfort.

The hotel is surrounded by desert vegetation, and all the landscape architecture is used to preserve this nature's image. The facilities take advantage of the hotel's orientation to acquire more energy and to avoid air conditioned consumption. The service areas are completely hidden from the view of the visitors, obtaining a climate of high comfort. The hotel also includes environmental sound, signaling for handicapped and security. The large pools are oriented towards the sea, obtaining a climate of total relaxation while they fuse with the deep blue from the sea. In the low area there are four small houses that reproduce a small town, offering privacy to the users.

Team's Name:	SCAP & ARCHETONIC
Country:	Mexico
University:	Universidad La Salle, Mexico
Title of the Project:	Hotel Marquis Los Cabos
Description:	A Mexican Sustainable Hotel
Author	Juan Carlos Alvear
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Location	Los Cabos, BCS, Mexico
Year of Constr.	2001-2003
Sust. Concepts	High conservation of energy, trash recycling, integration to nature, water recycling and environmental comfort.

CASAS 11 & 12

JOSE MARTIN GOMEZ TAGLE MORALES
CUERNAVACA, MORELOS, MEXICO. 2002

Cuernavaca is located almost one hour by car from Mexico City. Due to the hot weather of the region many citizens have in this area a “second house” to stay on weekends.

When I was part of the Creative Design Team of one of the biggest housing companies in Mexico, a 2,200 house unit complex was developed as a low-income housing projet, and this very complex was enriched with wide open-urban spaces and community services. Also some optional modifications to the prototypes were built in order to customize each of them.

Even the original design of the house had very good points, the owner needs to extend the house from one to two floors, joint two houses to create a bigger interior area, create communal spaces near-by the house, built upper-floor extra rooms and create a microclimate ambience by plants in the interior and exterior of the house.

The goal was to transform a typology of a vernacular house giving several solutions of bio-climatic design transforming a 60 square meters 2-rooms preliminary construction into a 220 square meters energy-saving house.

For this design we use solar passive systems protecting the interior of the house from the sunrays simply by the orientation of the house. Regarding to the high humidity of the zone the position of the open-windows and open spaced conducing naturally the air coming from the north passing through a garden that refresh this air and make a continuous traveling from the first floor, by a void space in the rear part of the house where an interior garden is, to the second floor upper window openings to let the air continue his movement out the house. The shade of the greenery and their natural changes in the different seasons, treat the interior always to fresh and we avoided with this the use of heater or cooler air conditioner.

Regarding to the electric system, the area is plenty of sun almost all the year, so, it use solar con - ductivity to avoid up to 50 percent the use of electricity. Also the water-heating is not necessary due that the warm water conductors form a series of curves in the roof catching the sun by dark colors and mirror boxes and heat the hot water pipe lines.

The main area of the house is the interior two-floors open space that creates a microclimate by its interior gardening and also joints both houses into one. Thanks of computer aided design graphic studies, the position of a 2 X 2 meter window makes the sun rays filtered by a exterior screen that depending on the position of the sun make changes of the color of the interior wall (that is white) into a wide palette of colors and controling manually the temperature of the interior of the house where also the material of the walls play an important roll to mantein it stable.