

Our proposal calls for the conversion of the Seaholm Intake Center into a branch of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, bringing the conservancy of Texas plant life to the intake building and giving the Center a home in downtown Austin. The existing buildings will be used as an educational center with the surrounding park as a garden of beautiful native Austin plantings.

Our scheme features the park and the lake, the intake building is the strong foundation for these elements. The existing building gained its position in the city as a water service, its new life also reflects its history of using water to enrich the city life of Austin. Lady Bird Lake is a rare and precious resource in the middle of the city. Our goal is to convert this building in a way which will recall the past role as a power station in this urban setting and respond to the future of the city where residents can enjoy music performances, dining, flowers, trees, gardens and shade in a natural setting.

To recall the past use and generate a current attraction, we have reintroduced the association of water with the building. Water was the working element of the power plant and it is a natural cooling element. The lakeside garden creates a waterside address and a new shallow pond at the upper level. The building is a cool dam providing inviting shade in the midst of the water gardens.

Four types of garden are proposed, the lake, the pond, the wildflower meadow, and the dry garden; each highlighting a natural environment

## SEAHOLM INTAKE - REAPPROPRIATION GARDENS

and stressing wise water management. The Re-appropriation Gardens will be exemplars of natural planting, an oasis in the city and a link back to the original use of the building.

At lake level are the water plants that will thrive in Lady Bird Lake, now visible from a floating deck system that connects kayakers, swimmers and bicyclists with rest facilities and the perfect place to gather and learn more about Austin's environment. The floating deck can also be used for music performances which can be viewed from the lake, the roof top and the surrounding banks.

The building will house an exhibition space, lecture area, and provide storage for the garden maintenance. Local volunteers will be encouraged to participate and learn about the native plants and natural environment that they thrive in. The building will also provide a shady rest stop for kayakers, canoeists, bicyclists and walkers with indoor and outdoor café seating and performance spaces. The lower level is a cool exhibition hall perfect for projecting large images and learning more about native plantings.

From the street side visitors to the center and trial users will pass through the shaded pond into the cool interior, where a series of wooden platforms inserted into the space take advantage of the height, allow direct access to the outdoors, creating café spaces and exhibition areas.









