

Dear City Council, my name is Max Dyson, and I'm a senior at Sequoyah High School in Pasadena. I go to school and spend most of my time in this community, which means the decisions made through the 710 Vision Plan will directly shape my daily life for years to come. My specific request is this: dedicate a significant portion of the Vision Plan's streetscape and plaza design budget to tree canopy and cooling features.

The 710 Vision Plan acknowledges that Pasadena's "heat stress" days could triple by 2080, and that the area's existing asphalt-heavy, low-canopy environment already intensifies the urban heat island effect. As heat stress increases, so will electrical demand, making cooling strategies essential (Vision Plan p. 161).

This connects directly to the Vision Plan's Organizing Concept of Community repair, and health and well being as well as Sustainability, climate, and resilience,

I believe shade and cooling infrastructure are central to achieving that goal.

Research consistently shows that urban tree canopy reduces surface temperatures by up to 45°F and lowers ambient air temperatures by 2–9°F (EPA Urban Heat Island Effect data). Shade must be treated as foundational infrastructure, not an afterthought. This means prioritizing large canopy trees along every street and public space to create continuous shade coverage. Additionally, I hope to see the integration of shade structures, pergolas with climbing vines, shade sails, trellises, and green walls throughout plazas and pedestrian areas.

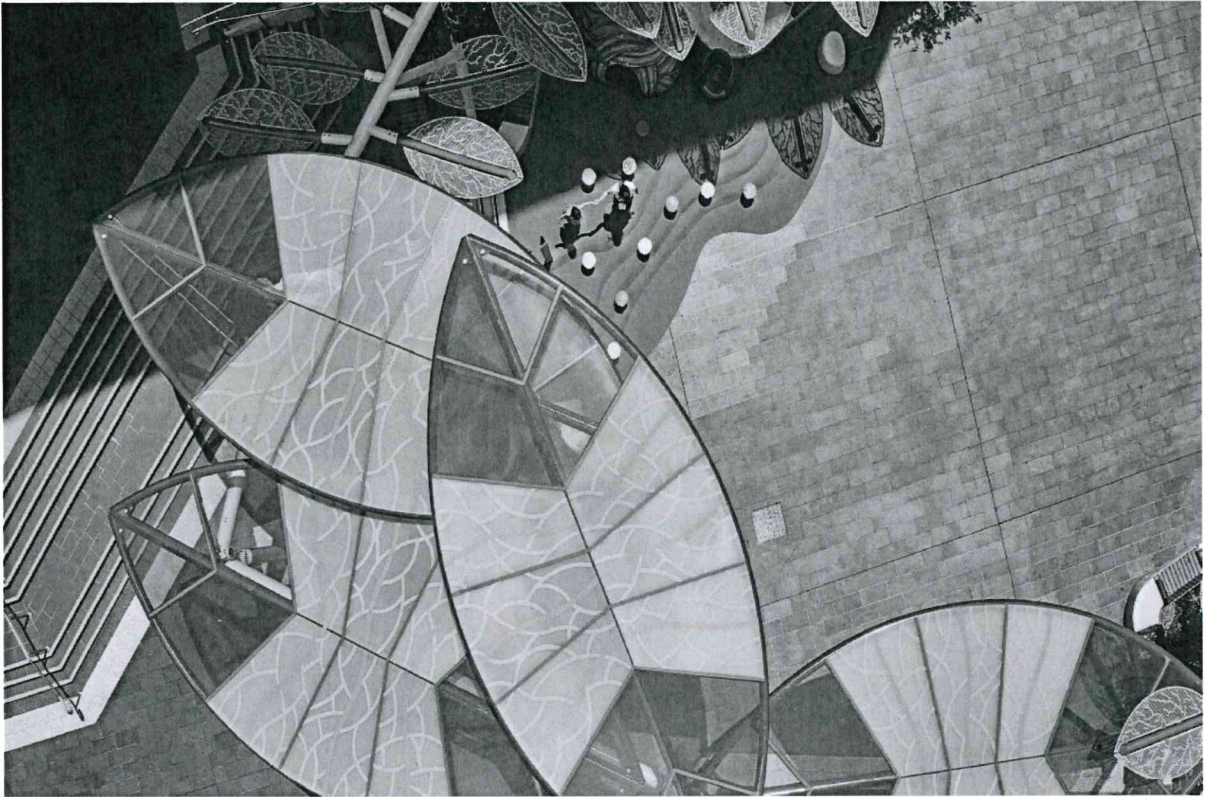
I also encourage the group to consider water features as an additional cooling strategy. Research shows that fountains and other "blue spaces" considerably reduce heat stress and improve public mental health and social well-being.

I'll leave you with this question to carry forward: If shade and cooling are truly a priority, how will this plan make sure they actually get built, and don't get cut when budgets get tight?

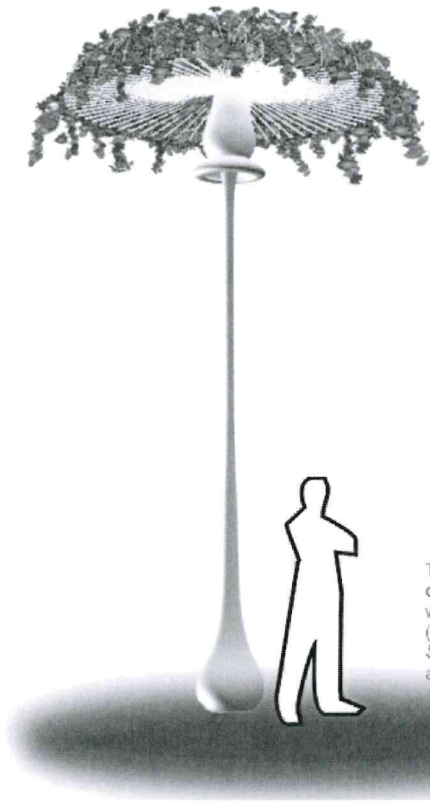
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FIGURE 3.3 Cooling water mister, Shanghai Expo Park, China. Source: Jiapeng Sheng.



UrbanShade



UrbanShade is a structure that contains vines plants that climbs and grows over the structure and creates a shade by blocking direct sunshine.

Shade is an important issue in temperate and tropical zones for providing cooling and shelter from the sun. Providing certain configurations of shading is an important passive solar technique, it also has been shown that the shade from a natural tree can be several degrees cooler than that provided by artificial structures or umbrellas.

This configuration of shades would help to reduce heat and airborne contamination in heavily urbanized zones that doesn't have dedicated areas to place conventional trees.

This structure also has the function to be low consumption street lamp that has the capacity to work with energy provided by the plant itself (according to a recent publication wrote by David Strik, "Green electricity production with living plants and bacteria in a fuel cell", 2008)

