



The Government Canyon Visitor Center by Lake|Flato Architects, An AIA/COTE Top Ten Green Project in 2007, floats in a field of native grasses and restored oaks at the mouth of the canyon, forming a gateway to the 8,600-acre Government Canyon State Natural Area , located in Bexar County outside of San Antonio, Texas.

The architects opted for an ecological approach for the project, distancing themselves from the convenient car-friendly concepts for natural parks. They designed their project that would have a minimal impact on the environment. That is particularly important for this site, since it borders the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, the only source of drinking water for the city of San Antonio. The design also demonstrates sustainable design water use practices by conserving water, collecting rainwater, minimizing run-off and contaminants, and reducing the use of ground water.

All Photographs courtesy of [Chris Cooper](#) Photography



LEGEND

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|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Exhibition | 5. Office | 9. Water Tower |
| 2. Gift Shop | 6. Wastroom | 10. Cistern |
| 3. Exterior Terrace | 7. Storage | |
| 4. Classroom | 8. Outdoor Classroom | |

SITE PLAN /



Site Plan Courtesy of Lake|Flato Architects



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