



## Architecture:

Lake Tahoe sits a short distance down the road from TCES, with beautiful water, mountain, and wooded area views in all directions. The exterior of the building complements its surroundings by immersing itself in nature through the use of stone and fibrous-cement siding formed to resemble redwood panels. Careful consideration of the surrounding buildings also played an important role in the design, so that TCES could be instantly recognizable as a part of Sierra Nevada College.



Due to limited land available, the building is organized into the most efficient shape possible, a square. The main entrance, which is located on the North side of the building, is covered by a building-length arcade. The arcade is composed of a truss-laden triangular canopy. Upon entering, the reception area is located to the left, and straight ahead is the main lobby. The lobby contains many walls on which research information, projects, and information about the building are to be located, making the space visually interesting and giving visitors something to look at as they gather in the lobby. Continuing to the center of the lobby you will find the atrium which is a three story daylit space with openings to all above floors, letting natural light into many of the main circulation spaces. Also inside the main lobby is the primary mode of conveyance in the building, the main stair case. In the interest of not only building sustainability but also human sustainability, the architect chose to highlight the stairs and make them prominent in the space to encourage people to walk more and rely less on the elevator. In this way, the lobby serves as one of the main circulation spaces for the building.

Off to the East, immediately after entering the building, is the Case Study classroom. This room is intended for use as a place for visiting researchers work to be reviewed by their peers, as well as for other lectures. The space consists of three rows of seating facing a wall with a projector and space to mount visual aides. A podium stands in the Southeast corner of the room for delivering lectures.



Continuing back into the lobby and up the stairs, you come to the second floor. Along the North wall are a series of chemistry laboratories. These chemistry labs are mainly for teaching classes, but research may also take place here. At the center of each room are a series of work counters and sinks. Lining the walls are cabinets and shelves holding lab equipment that is used. At the front of the room is a teaching wall with blackboards and a projection screen. Chemical storage is located in an adjacent room, with a doorway near the back.

These spaces are all united through a common theme. Much of the spaces are composed of unadorned concrete and simple painted gypsum board. Beauty in simplicity is the predominant theme, which also lends itself very well to the idea of sustainability. Excess of materials is not something found in this building. Throughout every aspect of the architecture in this building, the idea of sustainability is maintained.