

# Providing for Today and Tomorrow: The New Silicon Graphics Campus

*It promises to be a unique work environment that promotes creative innovation.*

**I**n the past two years the number of Silicon Graphics employees in Mountain View has increased by 42%. To accommodate this surge in growth, additional buildings in the North Bayshore area were quickly brought under "temporary" leases while the longer-term strategic plan was being implemented—the construction of a new Silicon Graphics site down the street from the Shoreline campus.

That future plan is today's construction. Silicon Graphics now has over 3,750 employees and 700 additional workers located throughout the North Bayshore area. And with SGI's temporary building leases due to expire, employees will begin to move into the new campus starting with the first of the buildings in December.

**ABOVE** The model of the new campus.

**BELOW** An aerial photograph of the new campus in progress.



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HAWKEYE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The new campus will have 4 buildings with 500,000 sq. ft., capable of accommodating office space for 1,600 employees. It will have covered parking for 1,000 cars, surface parking for 600 more and an adjacent 5 acre city park, being developed in conjunction with the campus.

## AN INNOVATIVE CAMPUS FOR INNOVATIVE EMPLOYEES

"When designing the new campus, we studied how communities of people work within a community of buildings," says **David Kalb**, Corporate Manager for Architecture and Planning, "and how communities of offices can enhance communication and a sense of place."

The result is a stunning new campus designed with public and private spaces that will promote effective workplace communications.

"A lot of work gets done outside the office," says **Kalb**. "How the offices relate to each other and relate to the whole community within a building is very important to the success of each employee's project."

Each building on the campus will be divided into several different groupings or 'neighborhoods' and will open onto a courtyard with a 'town square feel.' Putting a podium over the top of the parking, and

constructing the buildings on top of that podium, allows a dense development to offer the amenities of pedestrian open space courtyards and unique outdoor gathering places without the visual intrusion of an open grade-level parking lot.

The pedestrian only 'main street' will begin at the new adjoining park and flow through the center of the entire campus, with specialty spaces scattered throughout: a company store, coffee bar, reference library, school house (a modern learning center with an entertainment company style screening room), fitness center, and a sit-down wait-person serviced restaurant. The cafe will create an exciting place to gather around a meal with both inside seating for 500 and outside umbrella plaza dining for up to 200 more. The new campus will also have a multi-purpose presentation center for holding trade shows, product announcements, and community events that will accommodate up to 150 seated people.

Employees will be able to discuss new marketing strategies while sweating on a Stairmaster, research a particular algorithm in the library, and learn the minute details of GL in the school house.

Creative planning and landscaping will also let employees do more business outdoors; holding meetings and strengthening business relationships in the many park-like spaces, outdoor conferencing sites, and decks throughout the campus. And an occasional game on the volleyball or bocce courts will provide a refreshing break from staring at a 'tube.'

## GETTING INTO A CREATIVE ZONE

"The new campus is innovative and creative," says **Jair Lynch**, Assistant Project Manager, "which helps people to get into a zone that allows them to do what they do best—create the best computers in the world."

What will the new 'zone' feel like? Light, airy, open, refreshing, like a loft. A myriad of textures and colors will be sprinkled throughout the interior and exterior. Brick. Corrugated steel. Wood. Concrete. Glass. Massive 25 foot ceilings and huge windows and sky lights will make the buildings feel open and bring natural light inside. Yet, individual office spaces, hard-walled offices and systems furniture offices, provide comfortable and personal places to work while architectural landmarks will aid in direction finding.

"The new campus architecture is a metaphor for the technology of building things," says **Kalb**. "We've used volume, light, color and building textures creatively to symbolize innovative design. Silicon Graphics is a visual company and this is going to be a high-impact visual campus that will speak to who we are as a company."

According to **Kalb**, the buildings on the new campus will be much like that of Building 20, which won a Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects expressing what goes on inside of the building to the community and to the world.

"It's very important for us to be creative, expressive, and playful with the architecture while achieving buildings that support the creative work and the culture of Silicon Graphics as it goes about its business," says **Kalb**. "People will identify these buildings with Silicon Graphics and the people that work in them."