SITE

PROVIDE SHADE

"Trees and vegetation lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration. Shaded surfaces, for example, may be 20–45°F (11–25°C) cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials. Evapotranspiration, alone or in combination with shading, can help reduce peak summer temperatures by 2–9°F (1–5°C)."

EPA, Heat Island Mitigation

(Image: Marcus Springer)

STRATEGIES

- **Shade building with woody trees**
  - Shelter Eastern and Western windows and walls with woody trees.
  - Prune branches high enough to provide shade while maintaining views and breezes around the windows.
  - Prune branches to a height that allows winter sun through (in cooler latitudes)
  - Plant trees at least 5 to 10 feet but no more than 30 to 50 feet away from the building.
- **Shade air conditioner condenser units and other building cooling equipment with trees, vines, or shrubbery.**
- **Shade parking lots.**

Reducing Urban Heat Islands P 12[1]

- **Use bushes, shrubs, or vines to shade windows and walls** in places where trees do not fit.

Green Building and Climate Adaptation Strategies[2]

Quote: Climate Adaption Strategies- Implementation Plans. City of Chula Vista. 2011. Page 8. Last Accessed 7/8/2013 http://www.chulavistaca.gov/clean/conservation/Climate/documents/ClimateAdaptationStrategiesPlans_FINAL_000.pdf

1 Reducing Urban Heat Islands: Compendium of Strategies, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency . Online resource accessed 7/8/2013. http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/resources/pdf/GreenRoofsCompendium.pdf

2 Larsen et al. "Green Building and Climate Resilience: Understanding Impacts and Preparing for Changing Conditions." University of Michigan; U.S. Green Building Council, 2011.