

## *Institute of Sino-American International Dialogue, Denver, CO*



Landscape Plan



Existing building

**T**he Institute facility is an addition to the existing Ben Cherrington Hall on the University of Denver campus. In keeping with the Chinese inspired architecture, the proposed landscape for the courtyards takes its cues from Asian precedents. The addition was seeking LEED certification, so particular attention was paid to the selection of plant and hardscape materials, stormwater systems and the irrigation design.

The East courtyard is bound by a dry stack sandstone wall. On this side of the building the steeper grade change instigated the design of a series of swales and drainage channels which guide roof run-off around the building and the plantings respond to this hydrology.

The West courtyard, also enclosed with a dry stack wall is flatter and fully accessible, inviting users to stroll through a small, private oasis. Wrapped in the center of the building is an atrium space which is viewed through a wall height window from a conference room. Sculptural rocks and minimal plantings create a meditative space.

The LEED requirements resulted in the use of recycled concrete for the crusher fines path, light colored stone for the walls and rock mulches to reduce the heat island effect, and a drip irrigation system for efficient use of water.