

Apple 'space-ship' campus plan clear for launch (Update)

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Apple employees arrive to work at the Apple headquarters on October 5, 2011 in Cupertino, California

Apple's plan to build a verdant new campus crowned with a shimmering flying-saucer shaped headquarters was cleared for launch late Tuesday.

Officials in the Silicon Valley city of Cupertino, which has long been home to the culture-changing technology titan, unanimously endorsed a

grand vision put in motion years ago by late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

In documents filed with the city, "Apple Campus 2" is described as a 21st Century creation designed for research, collaboration, and innovation.

"This new development will provide a serene environment reflecting Apple's brand values of innovation, ease of use and beauty," Apple said in paperwork filed for approval by the city.

Apple enlisted renowned architect Norman Foster to transform a 176-acre site dominated by asphalt and old buildings into "sustainable, state-of-the-art office, research and development facilities.

The majority of space will be greenery, but the eye-catching jewel of the campus promised to be a glimmer ring of polished metal and glass mirroring the design passion put into Apple's coveted devices.

"The entire campus, indoors and out, is intended to promote shared creativity and collaboration, and spur invention of the next several generations of Apple products," the company said in plan paperwork.

The four-story main building will have about 2.8 million square feet of space and be able to accommodate 12,000 employees, according to design specifications.

The list of campus amenities included a "striking restaurant" and a separate fitness center with about 100,000 square feet of space.

Campus plans promised "landscape design of meadows and woodlands will create an ecologically rich oak savanna reminiscent of the early Santa Clara Valley."

Apple said that it will continue to use the One Infinite Loop campus a short distance away, which is its current headquarters.

"The main objective of the project is to redevelop the site with a new, unified, secure and private Apple campus," the company said in the plan filed with the city.

Apple has a powerful presence in Cupertino, a city with a population of about 58,000 people located located near the Santa Cruz Mountains about 42 miles south of San Francisco.

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