

## *Southeast Corner House*

**T**HE sophisticated environmental controls in the Southeast Corner House can be manipulated to create special conditions that support a wide range of plants. A series of exhibits highlighting fragile ecosystems is planned for this transitional space. The first of these displays features an oasis, an island of green in the midst of desert aridity.



(ABOVE)  
COTTON PALM  
(*Washingtonia filifera*).

One of several palms native to the United States, the cotton palm was given its scientific name in honor of the first president. Found in isolated desert regions, the palms are propagated with the help of coyotes, who ingest the seeds and disperse them.

(RIGHT)  
VIEW OF THE OASIS.

Stepping into the oasis after walking through the World Deserts brings a sense of relief common to parched travelers. The air is fresh and fragrant. Trickling water feeds a pool shaded by papyrus stalks. Lush vegetation, including figs, crowds the water's edge.

