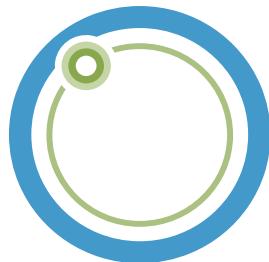


landscape architecture portfolio



aidan  
stofka





## aidan anakin stofka

astofka@calpoly.edu  
(818) 731-3443  
Northridge, CA

Hello! What you will hopefully see in this portfolio and from me as a designer is my passion for creating immersive environments that offer a form of **productive escapism** where people can enjoy a taste of adventure while discovering something meaningful about the world and their place in it.

In my personal life, my favorite things to do are going to theme parks and studying themed entertainment design, discovering great restaurants, drawing, writing, watching film/tv, playing games, and playing music!

## contents

- one      **Rekindling Harmony | Midpines Community Park**  
Cultural Environments Focus Studio
- two      **Neighbors of Nature | Merced River Trail**  
Natural Environments Focus Studio
- three     **The Fields | Fillmore, CA**  
Project Design / Implementation Focus Studio
- four      **Redcliff Residence**  
Internship Project at Balian Architects
- five      **Personal Work**  
Illustrations and Models

one

## Rekindling Harmony | Midpines Community Park

Midpines, CA

Cultural Environments Focus Studio  
Project Type: Design

### story:

As an **evolution** from the town's historical progression from sustainable to **unsustainable resource practices**, this park offers immersive and tactile encounters with the natural environment to help the people of Midpines grow their **compassion, confidence, and capability to protect** their natural land and resources. This guiding principle behind this design was to instill ideals of **independence, gratitude, and community** to provide a space that would bring this town closer to each other and their natural environment.

### skills + involvement:

- story, concept, + presentation leader
- playground, parcourses, + exploration design
- master planning with team
- research, writing, + diagramming
- concept sketching + photoshop rendering
- rhino modeling

### team members:

Tammy Chao & Brett Hanson

**perspective:**  
forest explorers' nature play area

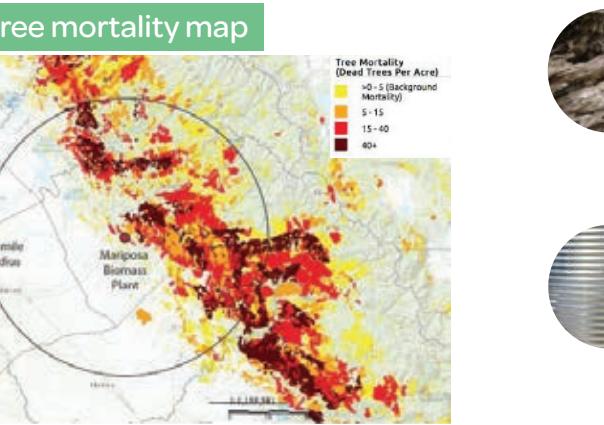
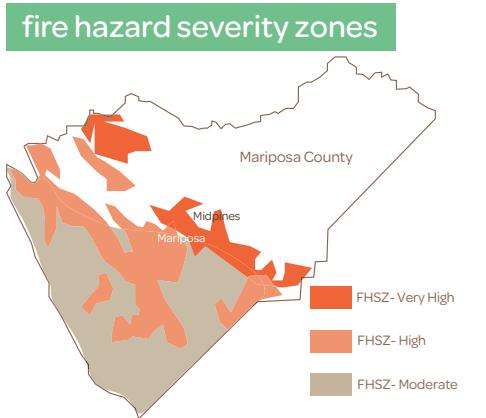


## site analysis + master planning

### ecologic needs:

#### wildfire resilience:

- **Climate change, human negligence**, and **bark beetles** can incite wildfires, so the park design must implement strategies and materials to protect the land from burning



### cultural needs:

- a **cultural progression** beyond miwuk and mining history
- **outdoor recreation** for seniors and kids
- better **access + connection** to Bear Creek Trail + YARTS transit

share Miwuk values:  
inspire compassion for nature

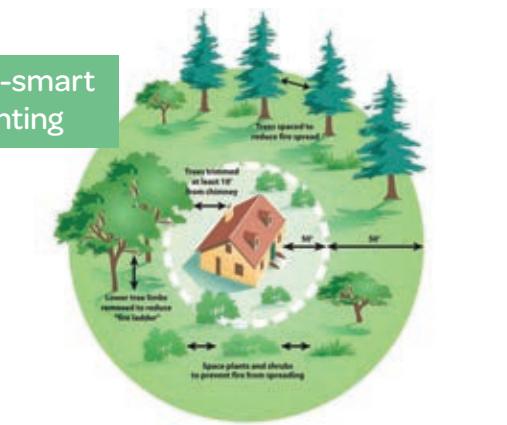
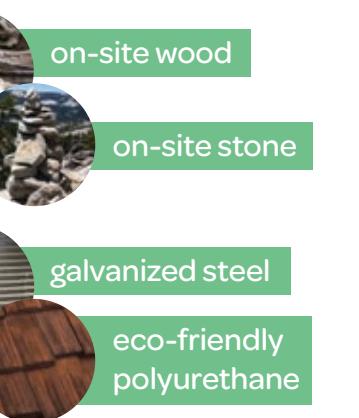


mature from mining history:  
collect and use resources sustainably



### ecologic opportunities:

- reuse dead wood and rocks from site, introduce new **resilient materials**
- space out plants and trim tree branches to **reduce fire spread**
- help public better understand wildfires through **entertaining teaching methods**



### cultural opportunities:

- don't just copy Miwuk or mining history, **pass on miwuk values** and use natural **resources to support** the environment
- foster an **inclusive community** through outdoor recreation
- **prepare** people for **true natural adventures** within Mariposa county

connect the community:  
foster interactions with nature and others

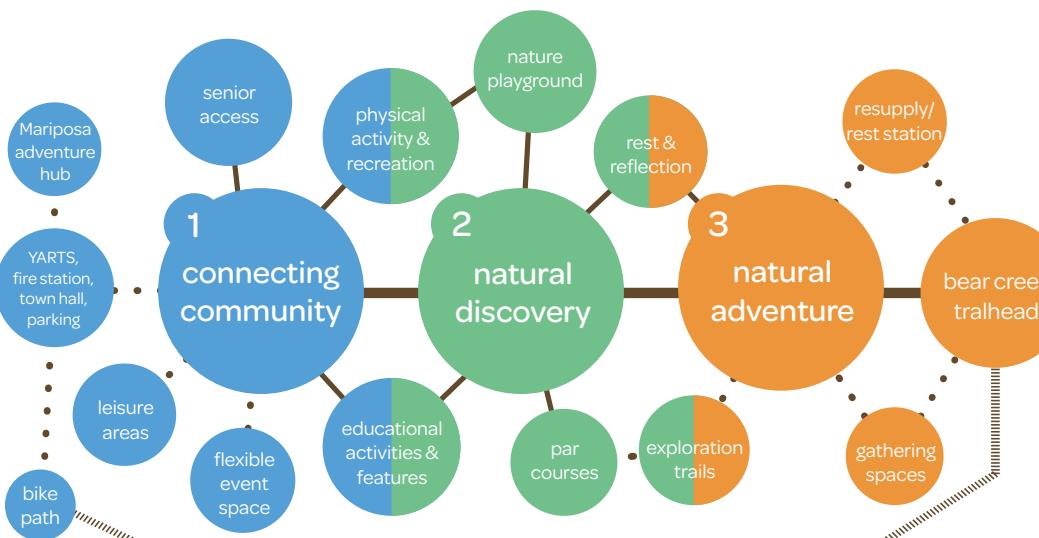


a new generation of growth:  
help kids grow to love their land



### concept diagram for park flow:

the journey to wilderness exploration



## rekindling harmony | midpines park

### midpines park master plan

team product

0' 120' 240'



### plan legend

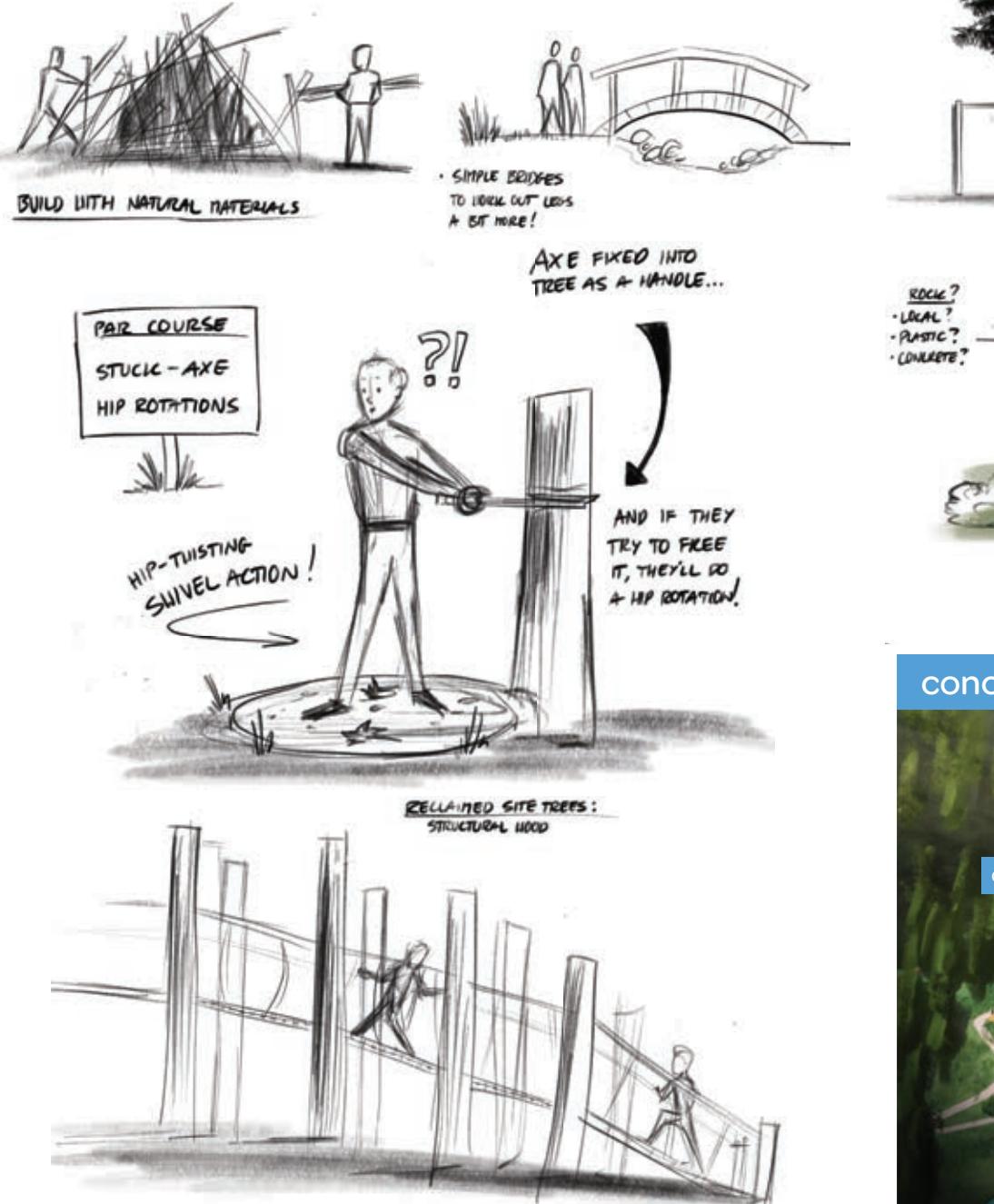
individual focus area



## forest explorers' nature play area + challenge trails

### concept sketches: inspiring 'natural discovery'

Surprise visitors with fun ways to exercise and learn about their environment through hands-on experiences with natural materials.



Stone seating walls are **acoustic mirrors** that amplify the sounds of nature to encourage guests to follow Miwuk values of listening and communicating with the land.

## rekindling harmony | midpines park

two

## Neighbors of Nature | Merced River Trail

Mariposa County, CA

Natural Environments Focus Studio  
Project Type: Research + System Development

### story:

*Neighbors of Nature* is a collection of analyses and system developments that proposes **guidelines** for ethical ecological and cultural design decisions for the Merced Wild & Scenic River Trail with the intention of developing the distinct **character and brand identity** of Mariposa County as a place that **celebrates life at the edge of the wild**.

### skills + involvement:

- story, concept, + presentation leader
- wilderness enlivenment system development
- ecology + wildlife research + analysis
- map + layout design (ArcGIS + Illustrator)

### team members:

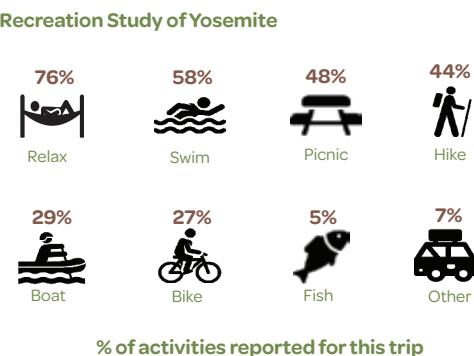
Regile Abbey Catig, Tammy Chao,  
Sumundar Khan, Scott Macias, +  
Gabriel Zepeda

illustration: "a stroll in the neighborhood"  
Merced Wild and Scenic River Trail



## county need: diversify recreation opportunities and establish a stronger identity for Mariposa County

Merced River Trail offers almost all the same activities as Yosemite but has a **distinctly intimate natural experience**. It could be supported to **stimulate** the economy and natural environment, **reduce tourist congestion** in Yosemite, and **enhance the value of the county** as a place to live amongst the wild.



**Analysis**  
The trail provides the opportunity for **camping, hiking, biking, camping, swimming, whitewater rafting, and fishing** as a way to experience living with nature.

Merced River Trail is **not as crowded** as Yosemite, thus providing visitors the ability to have a more **personal, intimate experience** with the landscape **without the stress from overcrowding and vehicular use**.

credit: Regile Abbey Catig

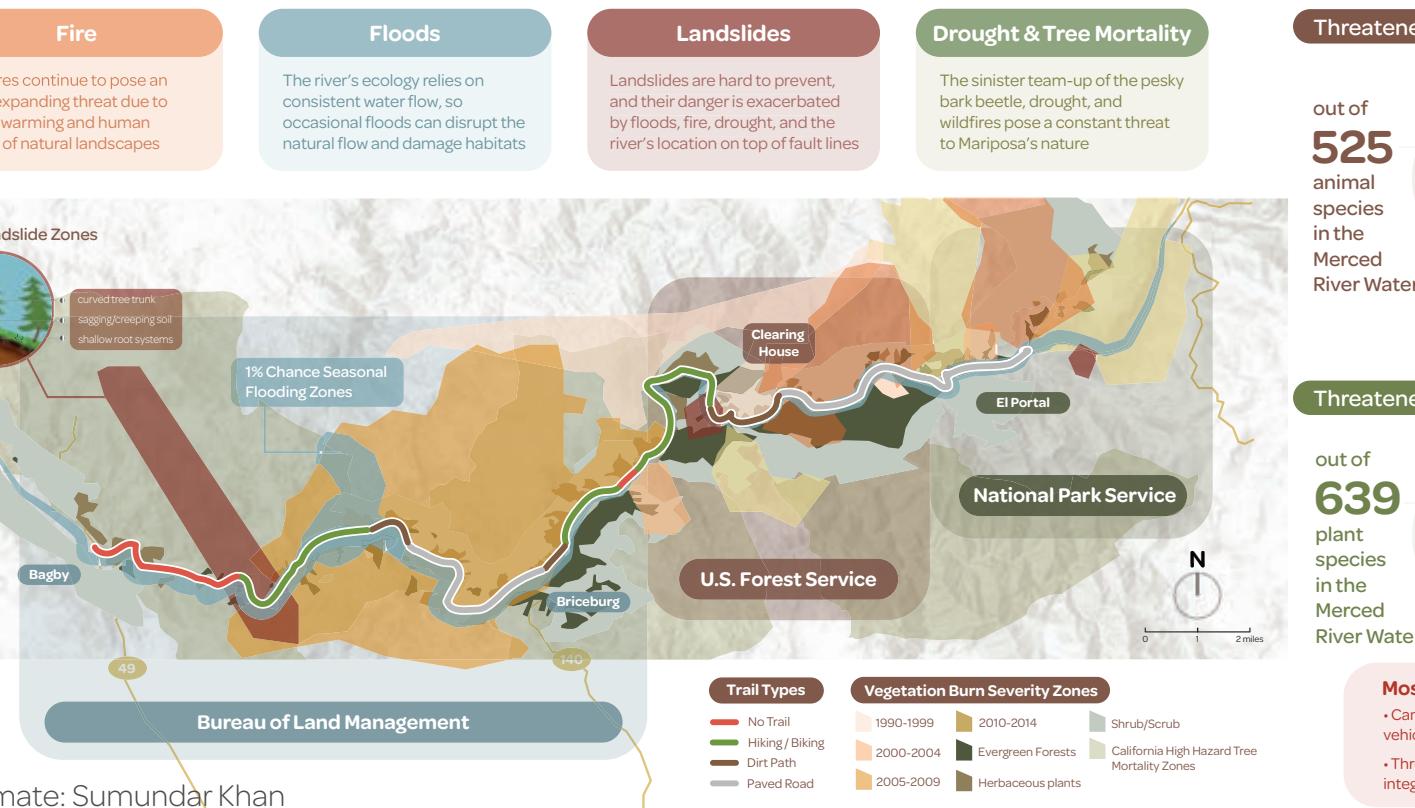


## ecologic hazards:

With **ArcGIS**, we were able to identify the main threats and hazard locations within Merced River's environment.

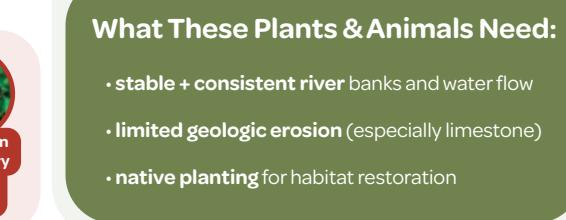
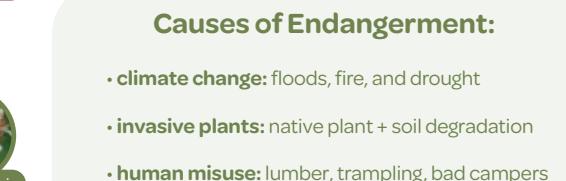
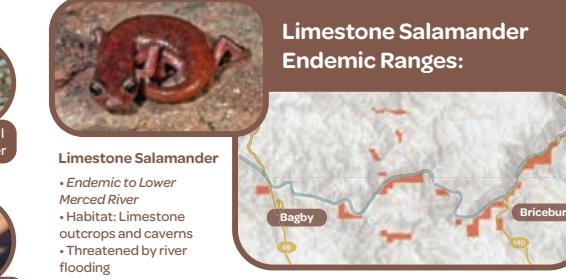
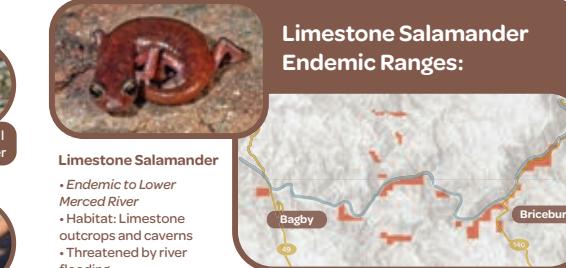
## intervention limits:

The Merced River deserves to **remain extremely natural**. Preservation strategies should only occur in a few select areas.



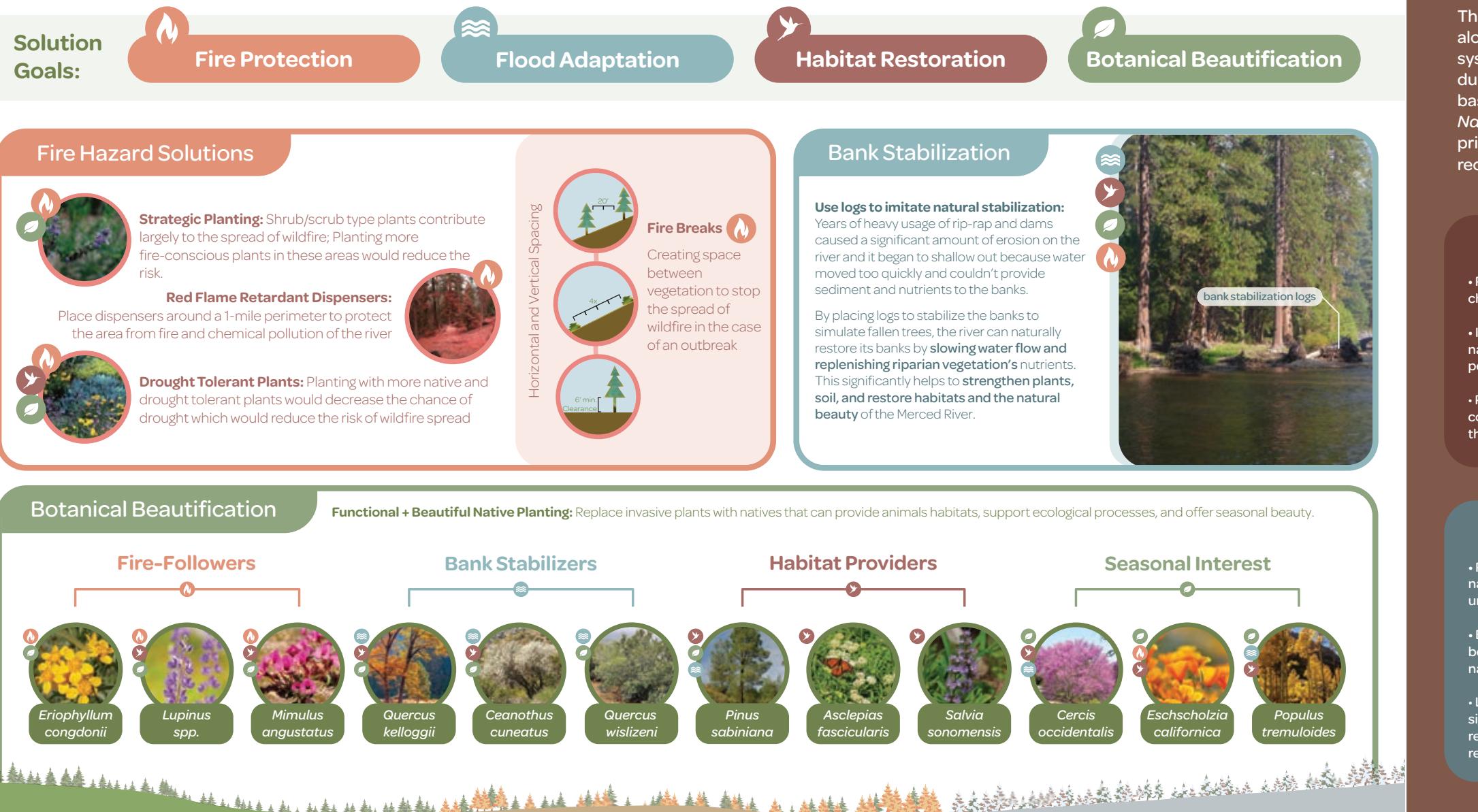
## natural characters worth protecting: iconic and unique wildlife

The plants and animals found along the Merced River are what make it feel so unique and intimate. These are the stars of the show and **should be protected** so that the river can retain its **significant ecosystem**.



## protect and promote the natural character

The river is beautifully wild and should be allowed to thrive and struggle however life intends, but ecologic restoration methods could be applied in order to preserve and enhance specific sections of the river so that tourists can value the river's iconic natural features any time of the year.



## proposed plan

This plan designates areas along the trail that solution systems could be applied during the design phase based on the *Neighbors of Nature* vision, goals, principles, guidelines, and recommendations.

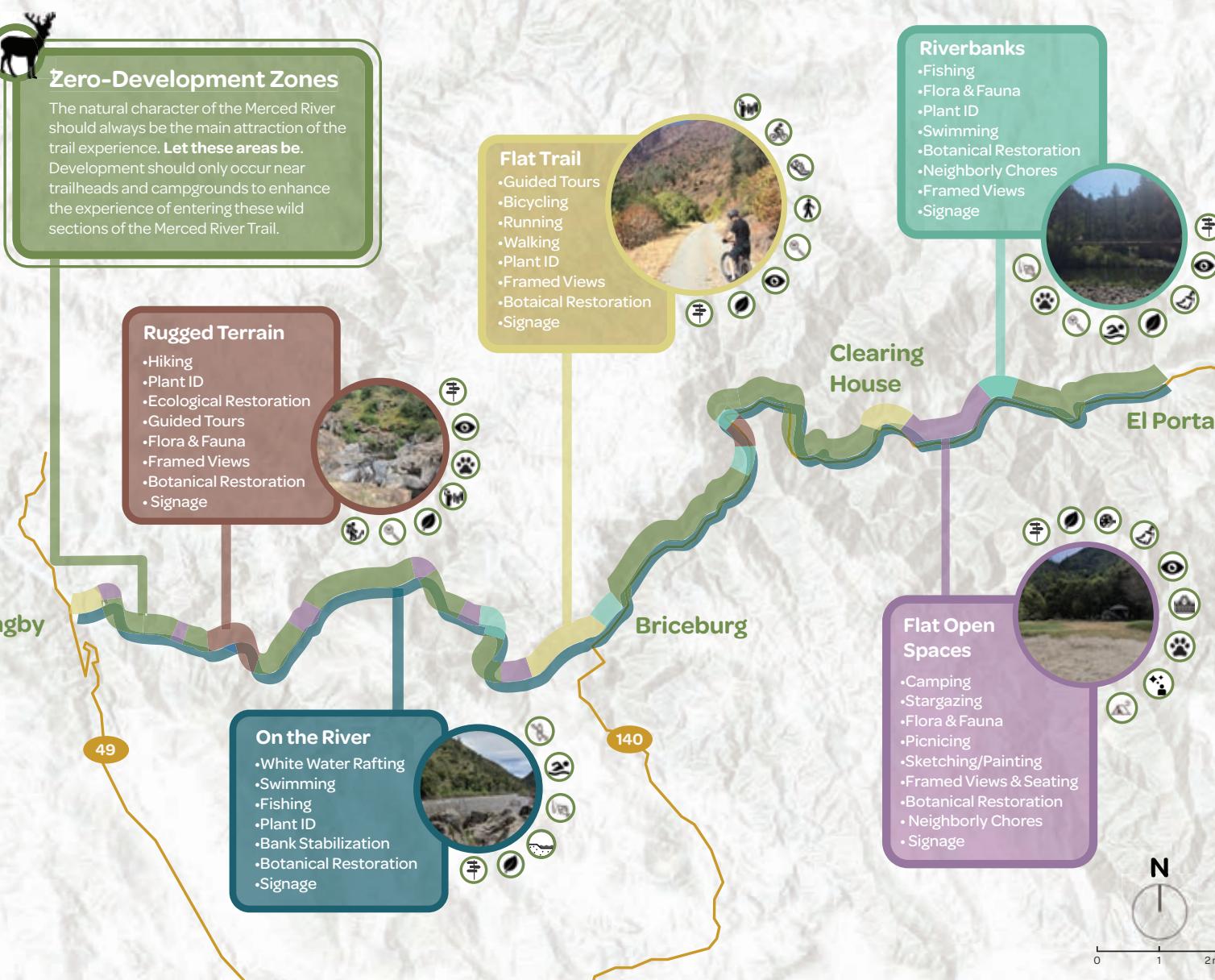
### Principles

- Preserve natural wilderness character of the trail
- Inspire visitors to value the natural environment at a personal level
- Promote stronger connectivity and engagement throughout the trail

### Guidelines

- Replace invasive plants with natives and remove sensitive understory areas
- Built implementations should be discreet and/or made with natural materials
- Limit development to signage, accessibility, natural restoration, and appropriate recreation

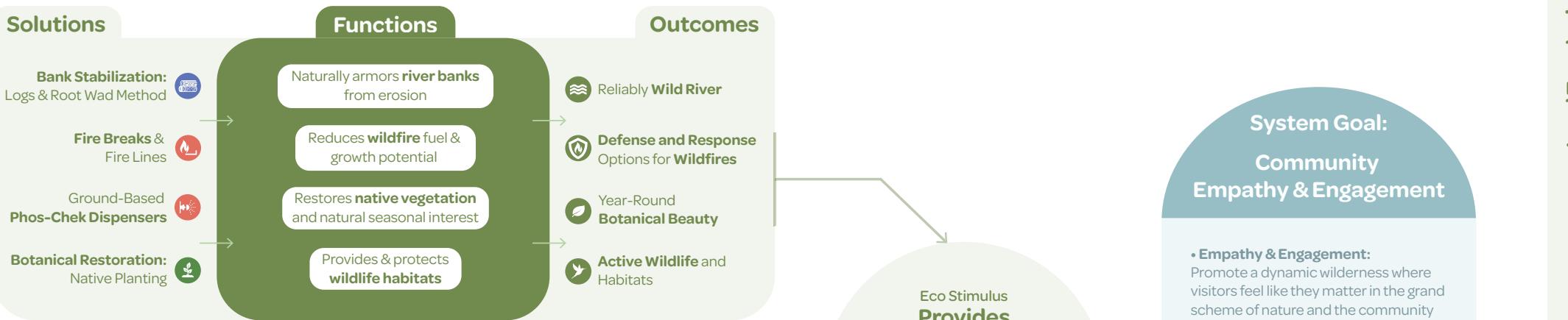
## Merced River Trail | Solution Areas



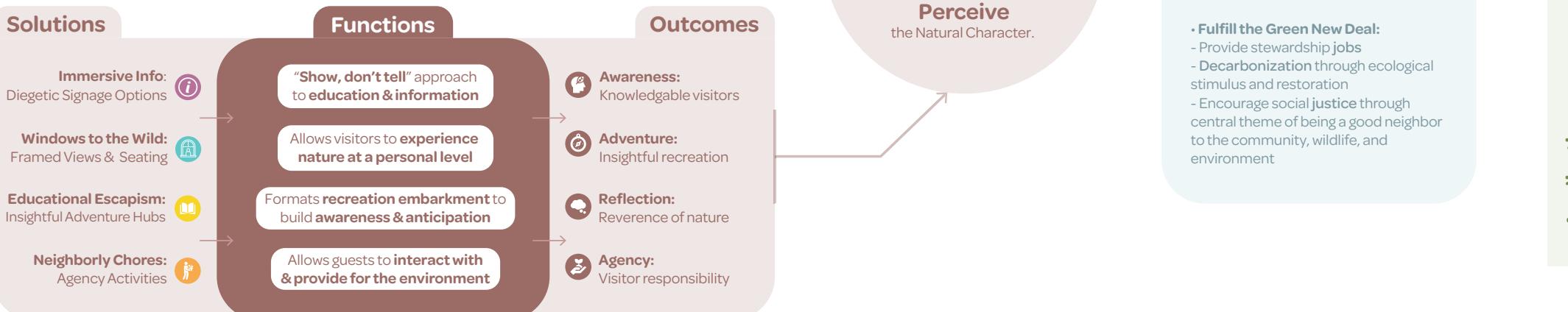
## 'wilderness enlivenment system' process diagram:

The Wilderness Enlivenment System is structured to preserve the naturally wild ecology of the Merced River while simultaneously improving how its natural stories are told to tourists to help them appreciate this place at the same depth as the locals.

## ecological stimulus natural restoration subsystem:



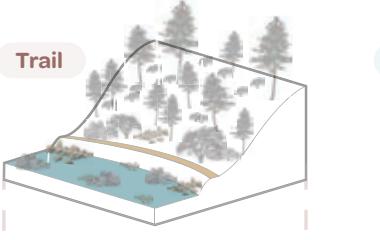
## ecological narrative environmental storytelling subsystem:



## system applications:

These typology models show potential ways to coordinate ecological restoration strategies while providing creative, memorable recreation and education opportunities for visitors.

## Land Typologies



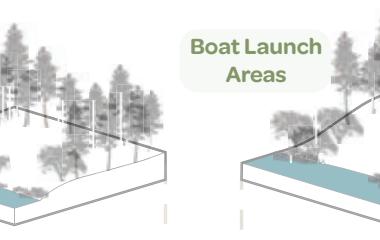
+

- Botanical Restoration: Seasonal Beauty Plants
- Immersive Info: Natural Sound Tunnel
- Windows to the Wild: Thematic Rest Stops



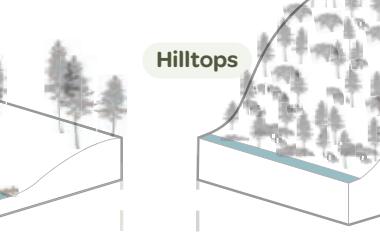
+

- Bank Stabilization: Replace rip-rap with logs & root wads
- Neighboring Chores: Water-pump & trash cans
- Botanical Restoration: Fire-smart planting
- Windows to the Wild: Thematic Picnic Areas
- Immersive Info: "Campfire Stories" Info
- Neighboring Chores: Maintenance Equipment
- Windows to the Wild: Fire Watchtower Overlook



+

- Educational Escapism: Rafting Launch & Shelter
- Botanical Restoration: Beauty & Habitat Plants
- Immersive Info: Wildlife Scene Carvings
- Neighboring Chores: Rafting Launch & Shelter
- Windows to the Wild: Fire Watchtower Overlook



+

- Fire Breaks & Fire Lines
- Ground-Based Phos-Chek Dispensers
- Botanical Restoration: Fire-smart planting
- Immersive Info: Fishing Recreation & Info
- Neighboring Chores: Maintenance Equipment
- Windows to the Wild: Fire Watchtower Overlook

## Hilltops

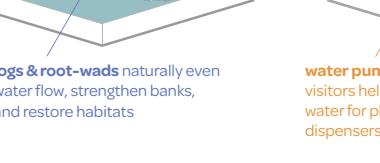
+

- Logs / Root-Wad Method for Bank Stabilization

## Applications



- thematic seating with natural materials can imply area backstory
- natural sound tunnel can tune water flow, strengthen banks, and restore habitats



- water pump lets visitors help store water for phos-check dispensers
- discreet phos-check dispensers to stop camper-caused fires



- wildlife wood carvings can show natural stories rather than tell through signage
- rafting hub & overlook tower allow for reflection alongside recreational adventures



- fire-following native planting for post-fire beauty
- uphill fire breaks to stop interior fires
- discreet phos-cheek dispensers will spray on other side of hill to prevent chemical river pollution

three

## The Fields | Fillmore, CA

Project Design / Implementation Focus Studio

### story:

On the site of an abandoned wastewater treatment plant, The Fields at Fillmore is an **adaptive reuse design** that transforms the space into a retail, dining, & entertainment destination that **celebrates the milestones we reach over the course of our lives**.

Inspired by the town's strong history with trains, this design draws upon the **spirit of rail transportation** and forward movement to inspire guests to ponder **where they've been and where they might be headed**.

### skills + involvement:

- AutoCAD construction document drafting
- story + concept development
- concept sketching + illustrations
- developed creative solutions to respond to major client change requests mid-design

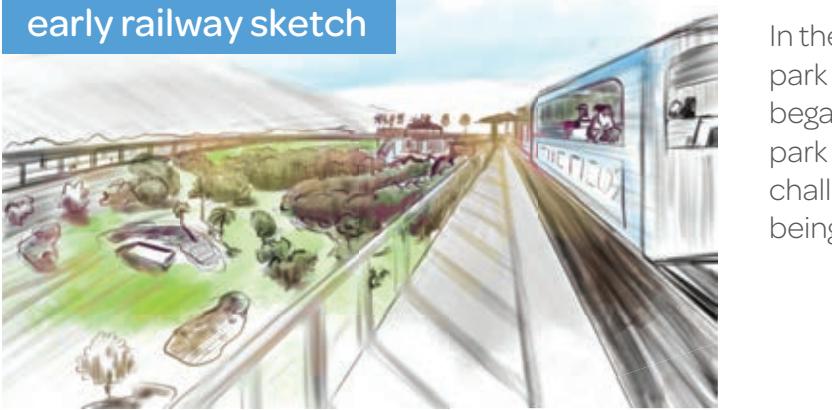
concept illustration:  
central biergarten and railway station



# construction documents

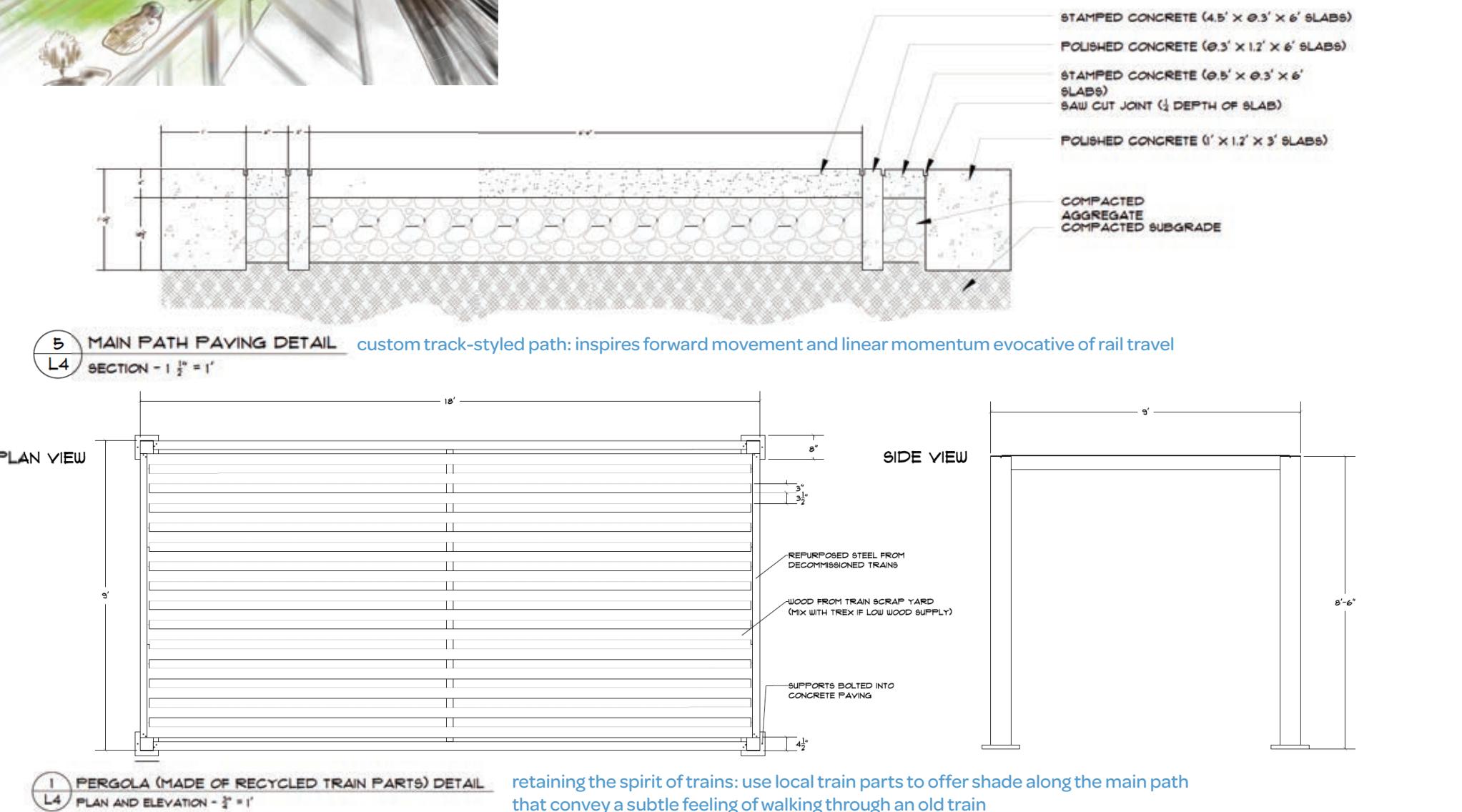
# the fields | fillmore, ca

## early railway sketch

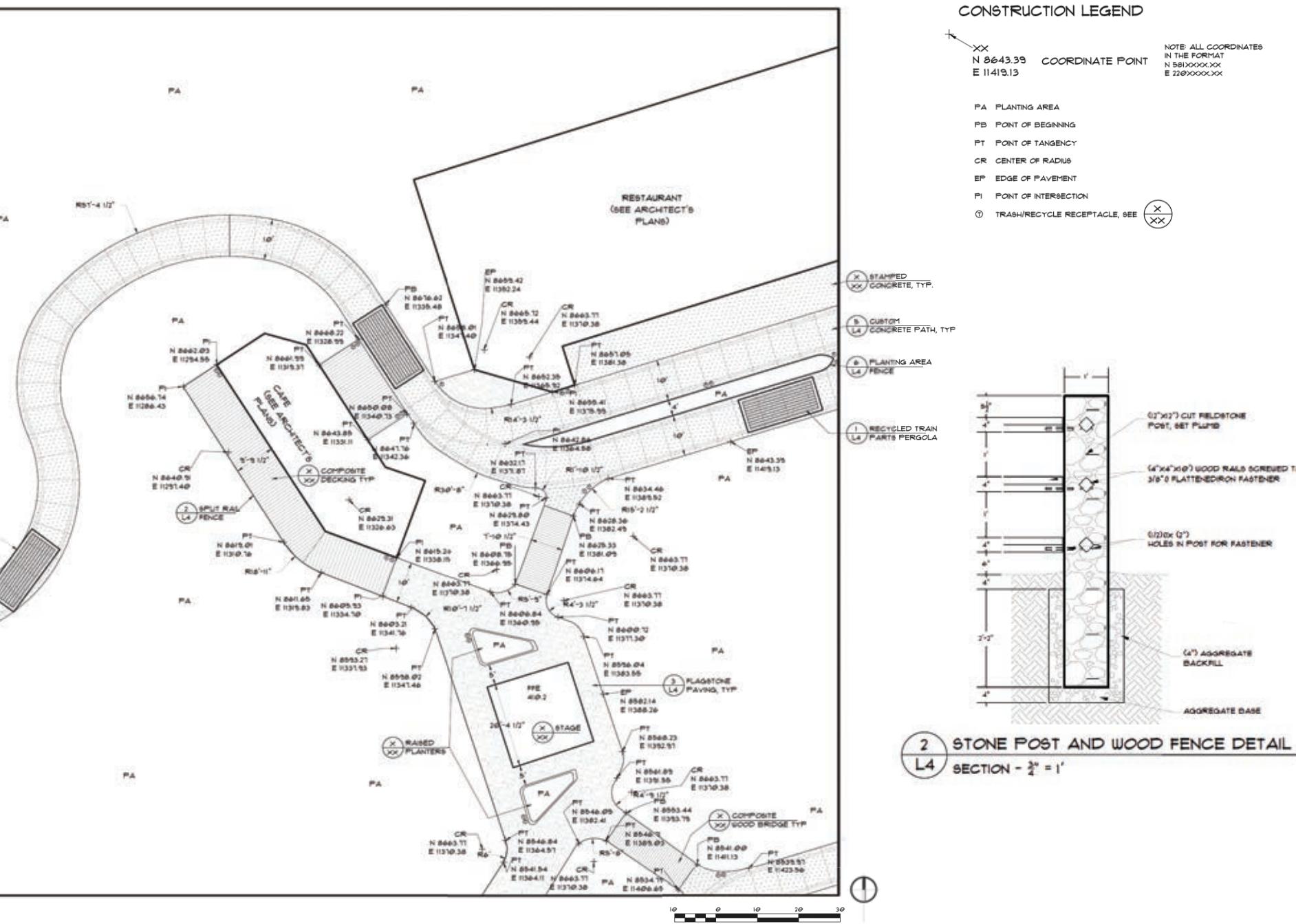


## switching tracks: responding to client's change of interest

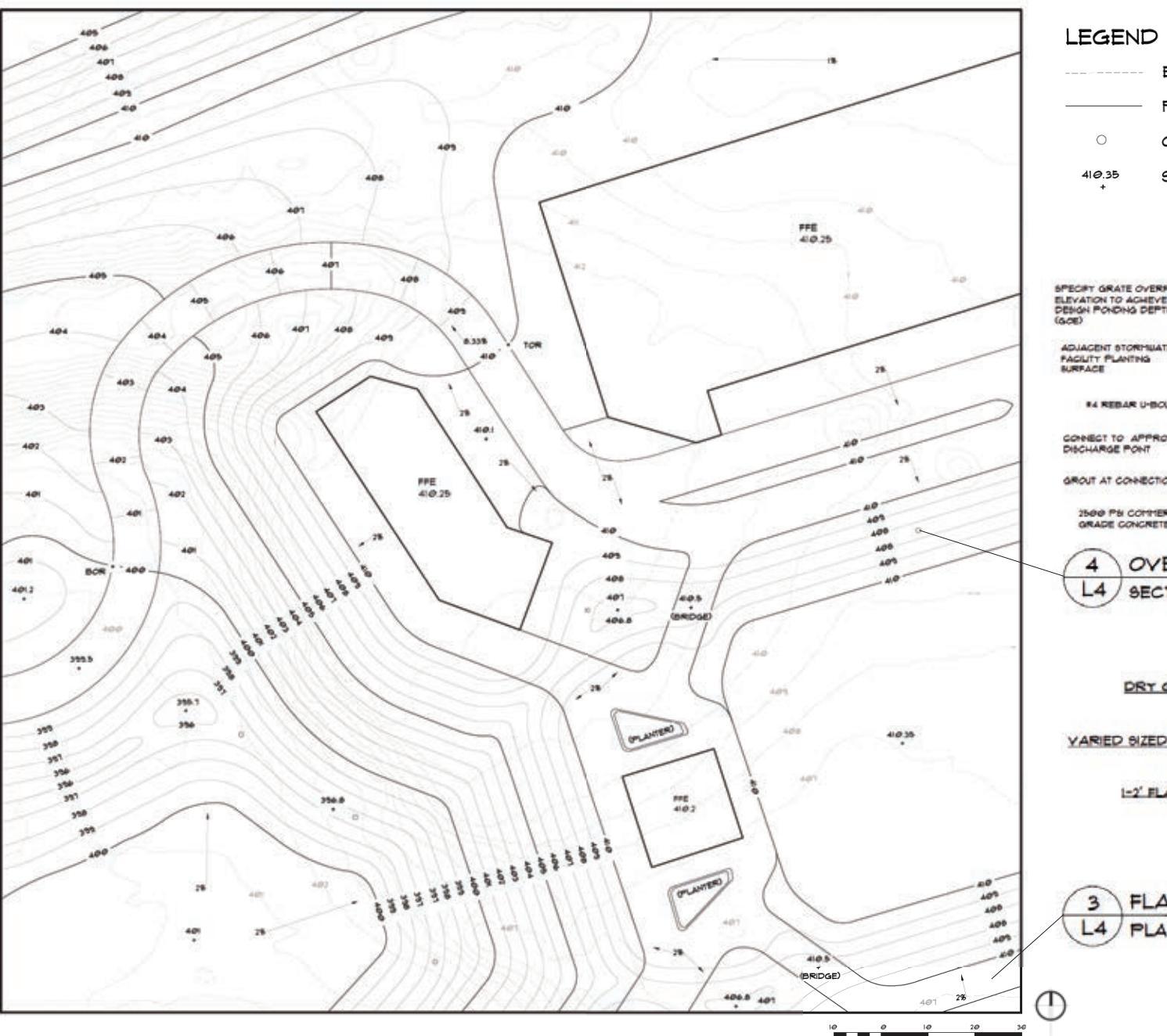
In the first half of the design phase, the city representatives of Fillmore expressed interest in park designs that honored their history of trains. Once the construction documentation phase began, however, they requested us to **shift away from trains**. The original design for this park was wholly centered on trains and even featured an elevated railway, so this was a great challenge and opportunity to **retain the story of trains** and reaching destinations in life while being **more subtle** with its implementation.



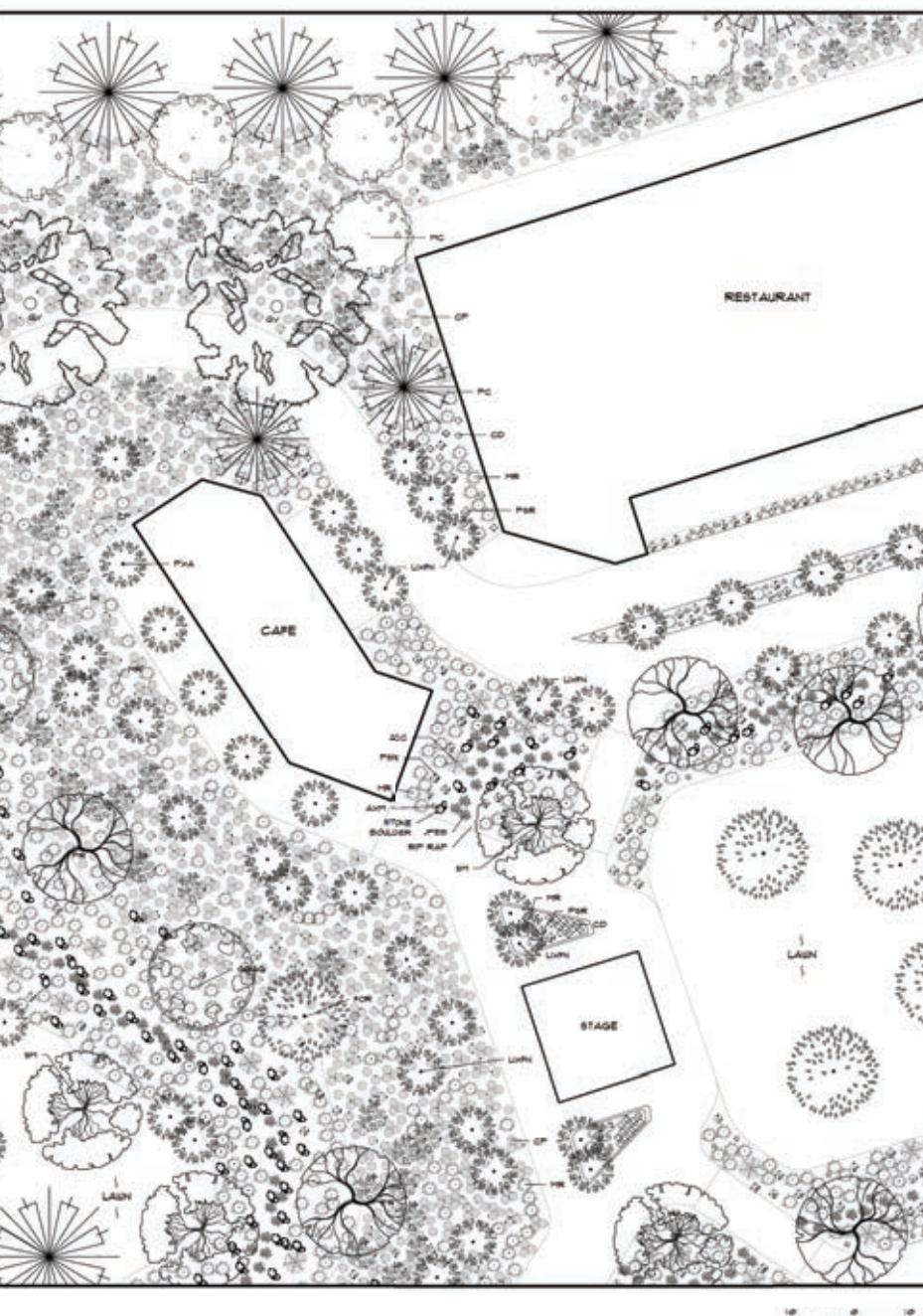
## layout plan



## grading plan

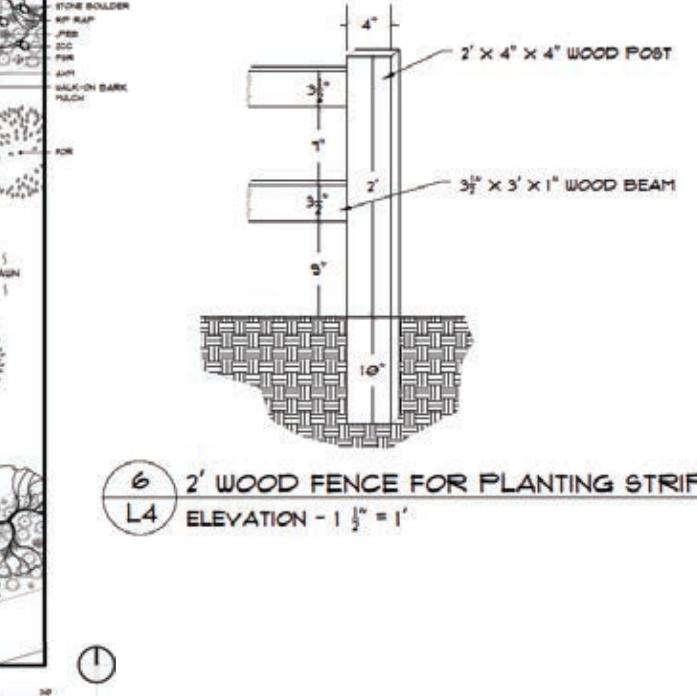


## planting plan



PLANT LIST		COPION	QUANT	SIZE	
TREES	SYMBOL	BOTANICAL			
	FOR	PRUNUS OXYCARPA	RAYWOOD ASH	8	16 G
	GRAD	RAITZOODA	AUTUMN GOLD GINKGO	4	16 G
	GRAD	AUTUMN GOLD	LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA X KAUFER HATCHET	48	16 G
	PC	PLATANUS RACEMOSA	HATCHET GRAPE HYDRANGEA	8	16 G
	PR	QUERCUS VIRGINIANA	WESTERN STYCARIS	4	16 G
	SV	SCHINUS TERRICOLA	SOUTHERN LIVE OAK	5	16 G
SHRUBS/GRASSES/GROUND COVERS	ADM	ACHILLEA X PROSTRATA	CALIFORNIA PEPPER TREE	5	16 G
	GD	CAREX DIVULSA	POONSHINE YARROW	64	1 G
	GP	CAREX PANNA	BERKELEY HEDGE	69	1 G
	H	IVY HAYESIANA	CALIFORNIA MEADOW HEDGE	2641	1 G
	JPEB	ANNUUS PATENS ELK BLUE	SAN DIEGO POVERTYWEED	78	1 G
	HC	HYPERICUM CALIFORNICUM	ELK BLUE CALIFORNIA GRAY	121	1 G
	HR	HALIMOSPERMA RIGIDUM	FACRO SAX HYDRANGEA	5	1 G
	PBR	PENNISETUM SETACEUM	DEER GRASS	60	1 G
	PSB	RUBUS	PURPLE FOUNTAIN GRASS	163	1 G
ZCC	ZAUSCHNERIA CALIFORNICA	CATALINA CALYCERA PUSCHIA	CATALINA CALYCERA PUSCHIA	33	1 G

LAWN 4786 SQ. FT.  
PUSH SEAL ON BARK 2412 SQ. FT.  
RIP RAP 1955 SQ. FT.



# four

# Redcliff Residence

Los Angeles, CA

# Internship Project at Balian Architects



story:

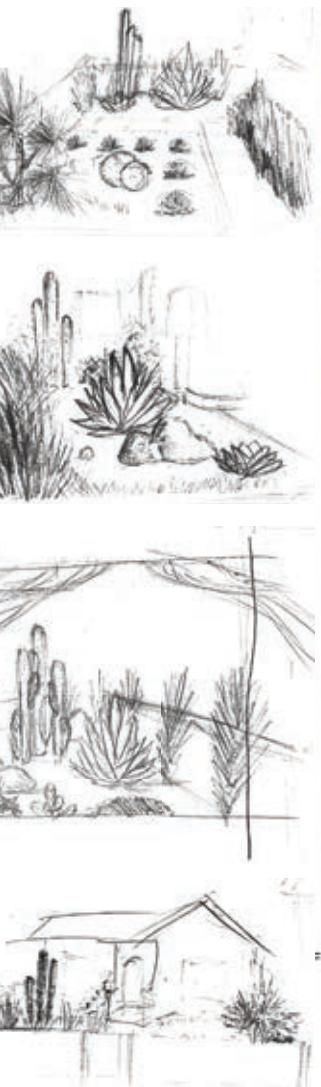
The focus of this design was to give the owners' a **desert yard** that would provide nice views from inside the house. The **right side of the yard is modern and linear** to coincide with their sleek dining room, and the **left side arranges a natural 'desert campfire'** scene as an expression of gathering to complement their living room.

- plan
- conc
- resp
- comm
- contrac

ment:

- evit)  
nes  
client feedback  
n with landscape

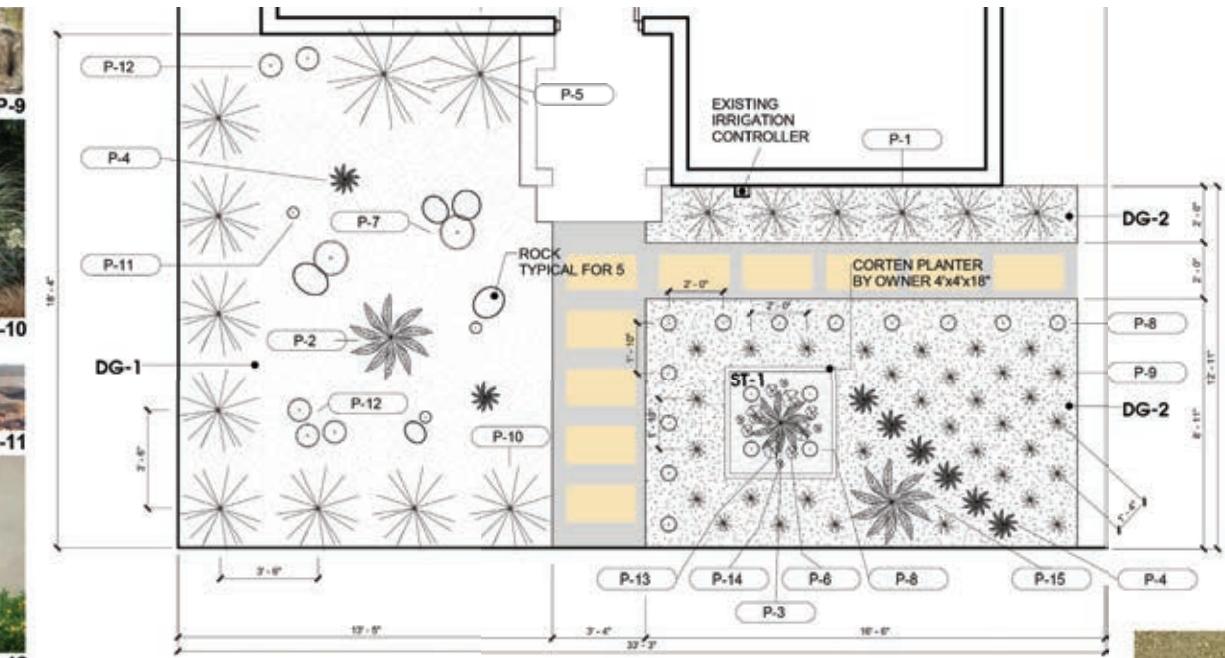
# cept sketches



## Plant palette



planting p



MARK	Type	Planting Schedule	
		Count	Description
P-1	Agastache 'Desert Sunrise' - Desert Sunrise hyssop	6	Cut to leave it at 3 ft. tall (to not block window), 2 ft. wide
P-2	Agave 'Blue Glow'	1	1.5-2 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide
P-3	Agave parryi - Artichoke Agave	1	1.2 ft. tall, 2 ft. wide
P-4	Agave victoriae-reginae - Queen Victoria Agave	8	1 ft. tall & wide
P-5	Anigozanthos Kangaroo Paw "Orange Cross"	2	Cut to leave it at 3 ft. tall (to not block window), 1-3 ft. wide
P-6	Echeveria elegans - Mexican Snowball	4	8 in. tall, 12 in. wide (inside corten)
P-7	Echinocactus grusonii - Golden Barrel Cactus (Big)	2	12-15 in. tall & wide
P-8	Echinocactus grusonii - Golden Barrel Cactus (Small)	16	6-8 in. tall & wide
P-9	Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue' (Blue Fescue)	33	8 in. tall & wide
P-10	Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light' (Maiden Grass)	8	4-5 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide
P-11	Opuntia basilaris - Beaver Tail Cactus	3	< 1 ft. tall, < 1 ft. wide
P-12	Pachycereus Marginatus - Mexican Fencepost Cactus	5	7-10 ft. tall, 10 in. wide
P-13	Sedum alfredii - Golden Sedum	4	6-10 in. tall, spread 18-24 in. wide (inside corten)
P-14	Sempervivum 'Red Ruby' - Hens & Chicks	4	3-4 in. tall, 6-8 in. wide (inside corten)
P-15	Yucca gloriosa 'Variegata'	1	3-4 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide



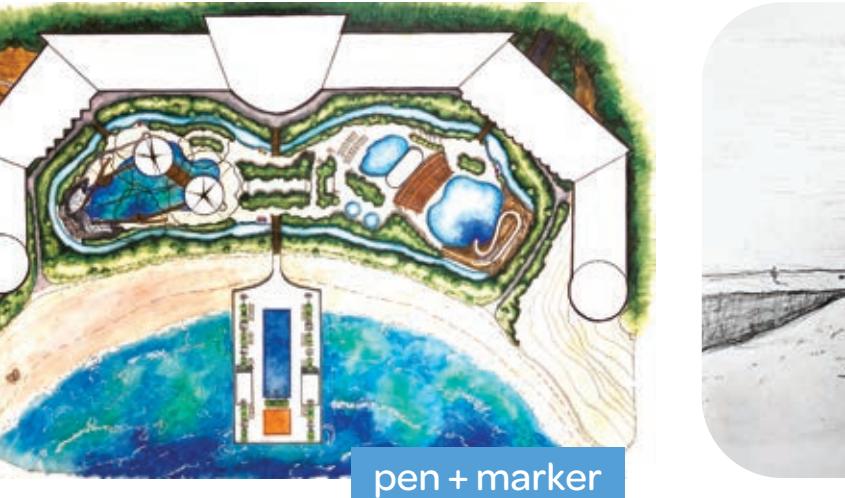
## personal work

six

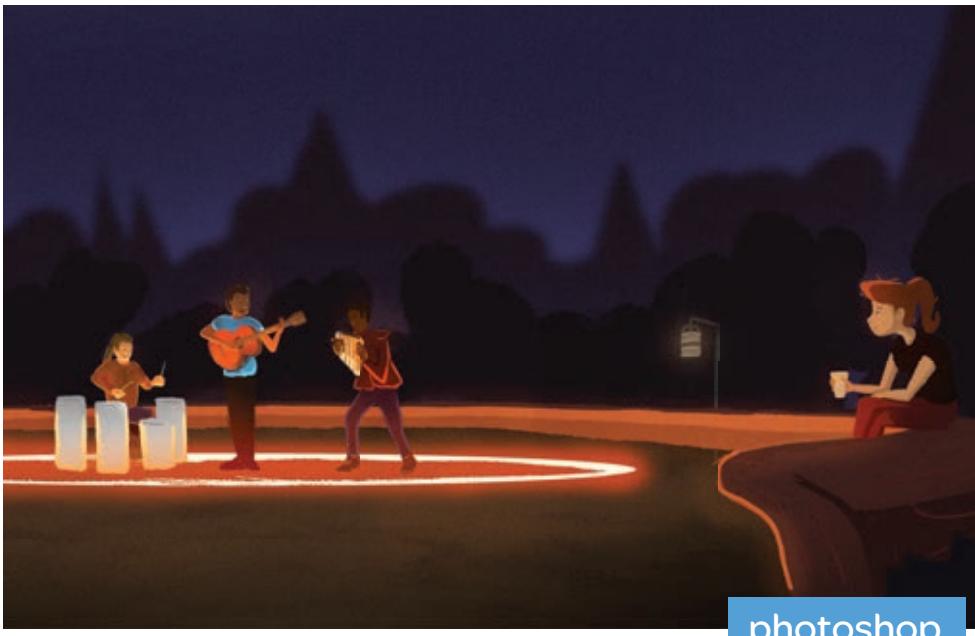
### Personal Work

Illustrations and Models

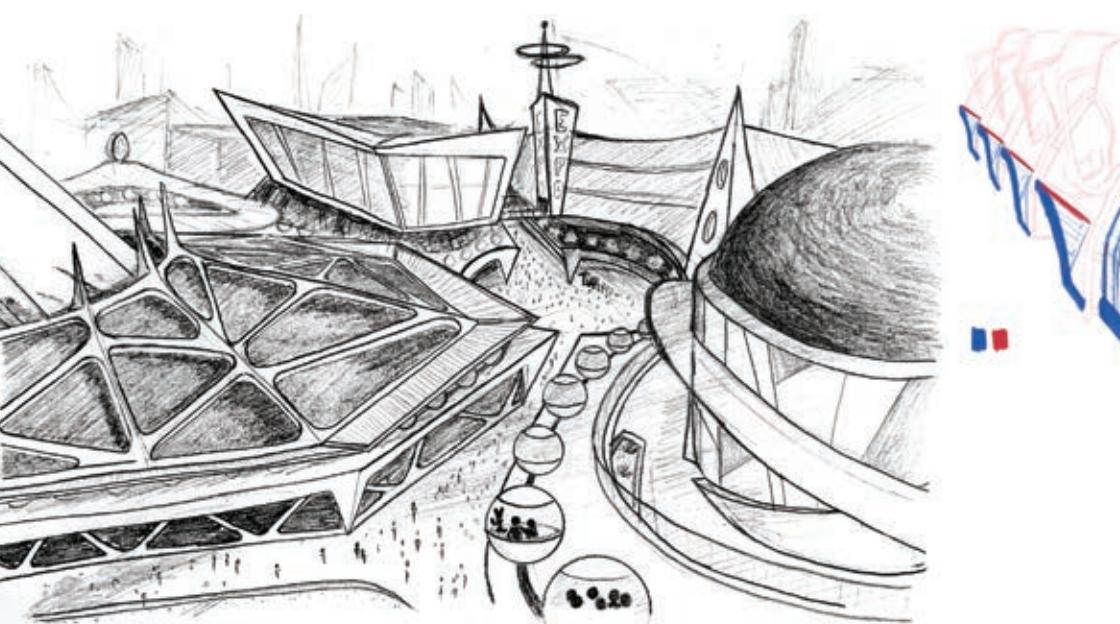
traditional art



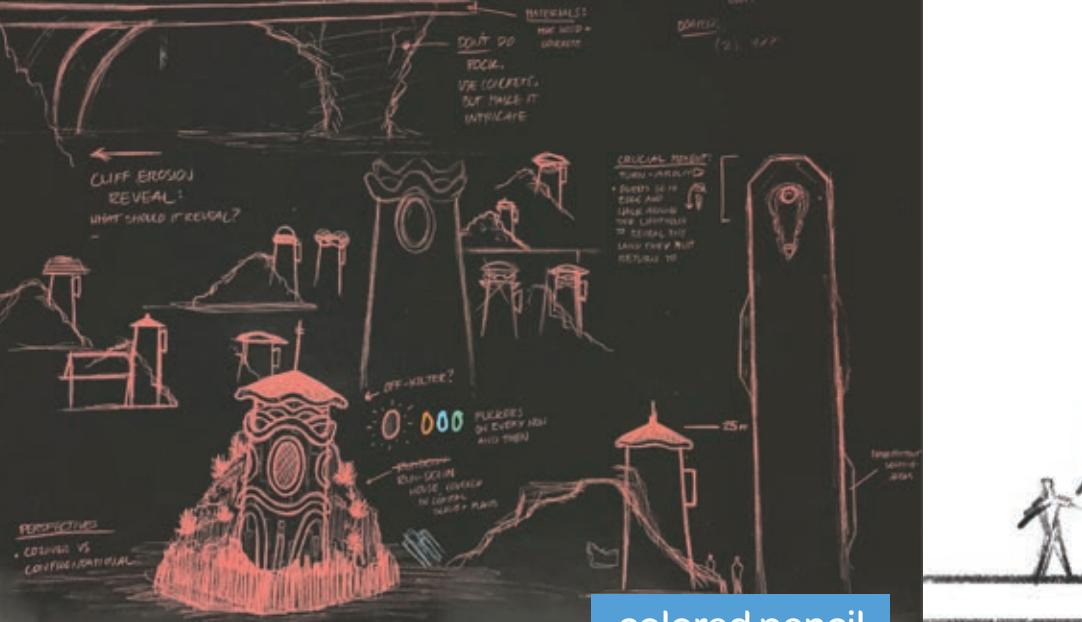
### digital art



## concept sketching



graphite pencil



colored pencil

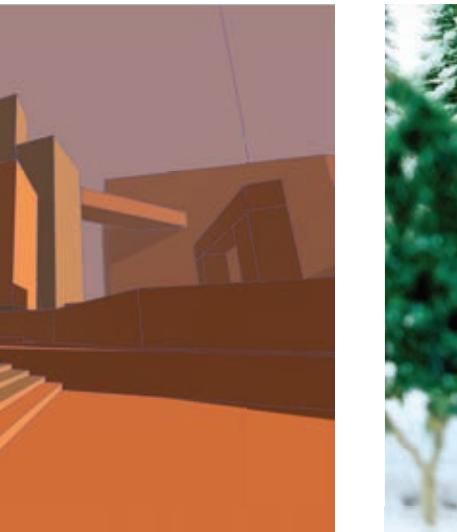


procreate



photoshop

## modeling



## personal work



photoshop





The background features abstract graphic elements. On the left, a large cluster of overlapping circles in various shades of blue is positioned. To the right of this cluster, there are two distinct horizontal bands of color: a thin band of light green and a thicker band of medium green. The medium green band contains the contact information.

(818) 731-3443  
[astofka@calpoly.edu](mailto:astofka@calpoly.edu)