

Jessica Kwok
McCoppin Square
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Rainbow Montessori front bed



I. Planning Objectives:

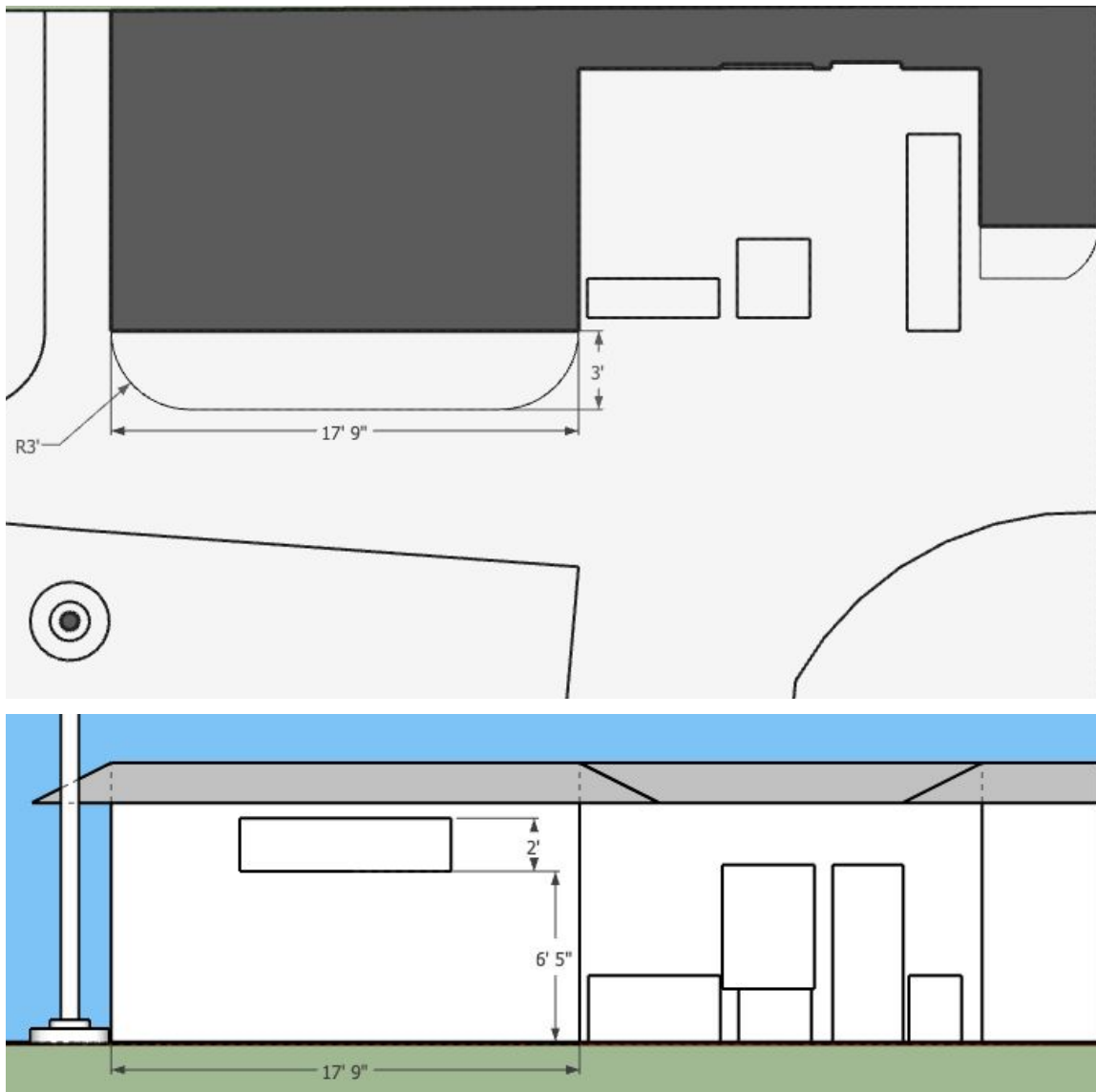
- fill in an empty bed in front of Rainbow Montessori preschool
- add color and interest and appeal via planting

II. Site Analysis



- Located in Parkside (Sunset)
- Front facade of the preschool, against a wall.
- South-facing
- Exposure: full sun
- Irrigation present (currently popups)
- Wind: none, bed is shielded by building
- Pests: weeds only. no animal pests

III. Description



- This bed measures 3' deep and 17'9" wide, with rounded (quarter-circle) corners
- It is in front of a wall of the building that is blank except for a 2' sign that reads "Rainbow Montessori."
- It is on the ground (not a raised bed).
- There is a narrow path (30" wide) on one side of the bed, and on the other side is the entrance to the preschool.

IV. Users

- This area is seen by all parents and children and employees of preschool. It is highly visible.

V. Development Concept

- This area should call attention to the "Rainbow Montessori" sign.
- Theme is "rainbow." Firstly, because that's the name of the school. Secondly, it is against a plain beige wall. Thirdly, because children like colors. There should be much color as possible. Nothing short of color vomit.

- Rough planting idea/shape:

- two taller (3-5') shrubs on either side
- three short (1-3') shrubs in between, maybe with tall inflorescences for ephemeral interest
- soft perennials/ground cover dispersed in the remaining space
- include something Asteraceae because the inflorescence shape is familiar/approachable, as well as a different type of inflorescence
- evergreen plants. deadheading is ok.

VI. Plant Ideas

- [RED AND TALL]

- *Salvia elegans* - prefer the one with yellow-green foliage for more contrast between the foliage and red flowers, as well as the between the foliage and all other things. Also the bright yellow-green alludes to the nearby *Pittosporum eugenioides* hedges. Also chosen for its eventual height and lushness, as well as its fragrance, and soft (slightly tomentose) foliage

- *Salvia confertiflora* - it's an upright shape that children might find interesting.

- [FINE TEXTURED AND BLUE/PURPLE]

- options: *Salvia chamaedryoides*? *Salvia nemorosa*? *Nepeta*? *Felicia amelloides*

- there's a nearby *Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips' with fine-textured foliage

- [SOFT/PERENNIAL AND YELLOW/ORANGE]

- options: *Achillea*? *Gaillardia*? *Rudbeckia*?

- [WHITE OR PINK]

- options: shasta daisy?

VII. Plants (pick only three)

- Tall shrub



- *Salvia elegans*

- Foliage: soft, medium green (or yellow-green)
- Inflorescence: bright red
- Height: 3-4'
- Width: 3-4'
- Sun: full sun
- Water: occasional
- Growth Rate: fast
- Approximate Bloom Time: late summer to fall



- *Salvia confertiflora*

- Foliage: large tongue-shaped, medium green
- Inflorescence: red and tall
- Height: 4-6'
- Width: 4-6'
- Sun: full sun
- Water: medium

- Growth Rate: ? prune in late winter
- Approximate Bloom Time: fall

- Medium/short shrub/perennial



- *Salvia chamaedryoides*
 - Foliage: small, grayish-green
 - Inflorescence: blue
 - Height: 1-2'
 - Width: 2-3'
 - Sun: full sun
 - Water: moderate, drought tolerant once established
 - Growth Rate: ? compact
 - Approximate Bloom Time: spring



- *Salvia nemorosa*
 - Foliage: basal, medium green
 - Inflorescence: purple and tall spike
 - Height: 1-2'
 - Width: 1-2'
 - Sun: full sun
 - Water: dry to medium
 - Growth Rate: ? deadhead
 - Approximate Bloom Time: summer to fall



- *Nepeta racemosa*

- Foliage: grayish-green, small and soft-looking
- Inflorescence: soft purple spike
- Height: 2-2.5'
- Width: 2.5-3'
- Sun: full sun to part shade
- Water: dry to medium, thrives in dry soils
- Growth Rate: ?
- Approximate Bloom Time: spring to fall



- *Felicia amelloides*

- Foliage: green, small
- Inflorescence: blue petals, yellow center. ray-and-disc flower (Asteraceae)
- Height: 1-2'
- Width: 1-2'
- Sun: full sun
- Water: medium. no wet soils
- Growth Rate: ? compact
- Approximate Bloom Time: summer



- *Achillea millefolium* 'Terracotta' / 'Paprika'
 - Foliage: green, feathery
 - Inflorescence: umbel of orange/pink/red (fades over bloomtime)
 - Height: 1-2'
 - Width: 1-2'
 - Sun: full sun
 - Water: dry to medium
 - Growth Rate: fast. deadhead
 - Approximate Bloom Time: summer to fall



- *Gaillardia x grandiflora*
 - Foliage: green
 - Inflorescence: yellow and orange Asteraceae
 - Height: 2-3'
 - Width: 1-2'
 - Sun: full sun
 - Water: dry to medium
 - Growth Rate: deadheading can encourage second bloom
 - Approximate Bloom Time: summer to fall



- *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'
 - Foliage: green
 - Inflorescence: yellow with black center Asteraceae
 - Height: 2-3'
 - Width: 1-2'
 - Sun: full sun
 - Water: dry to medium
 - Growth Rate: deadhead can encourage blooming
 - Approximate Bloom Time: summer to fall



- *Leucanthemum* × *superbum*
 - Foliage: green
 - Inflorescence: white with yellow center Asteraceae
 - Height: 2-3'
 - Width: 2-3'
 - Sun: full sun
 - Water: dry to medium
 - Growth Rate: fast, deadhead can encourage blooming
 - Approximate Bloom Time: summer to fall

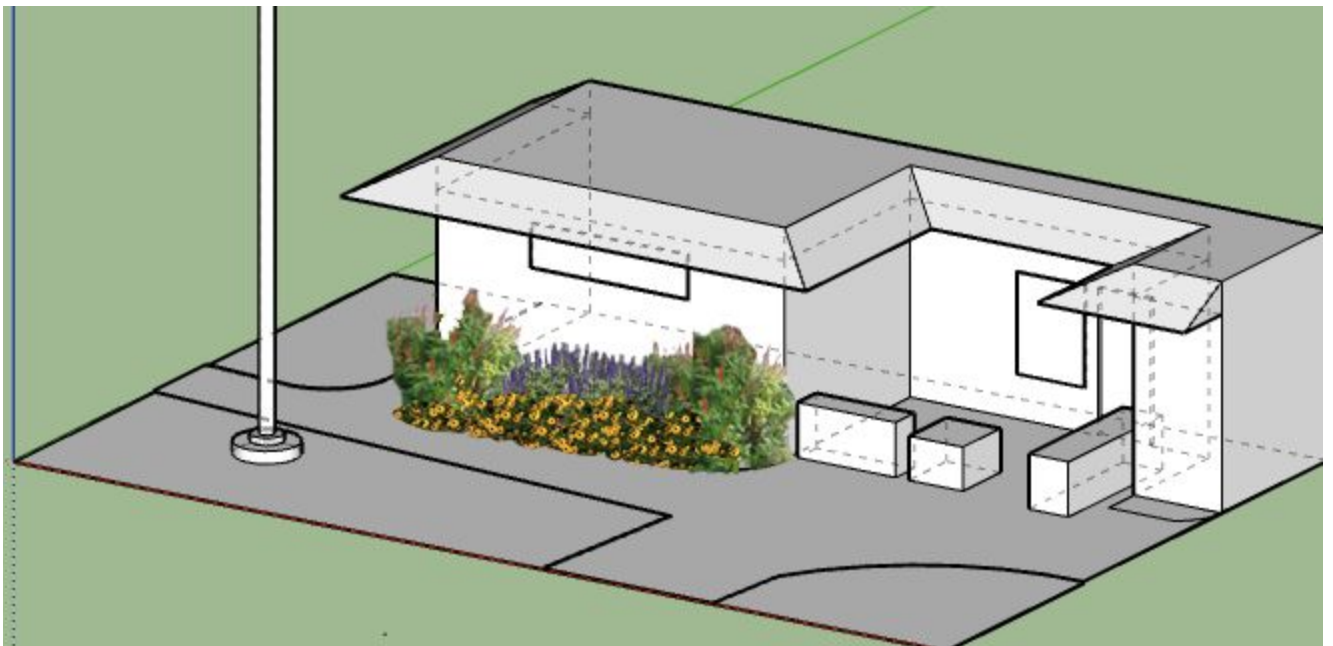


- *Geranium* × *cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo'
 - Foliage: green palmate
 - Inflorescence: white with pink accent
 - Height: 10"
 - Width: 3'
 - Sun: part sun to full sun
 - Water: dry to medium
 - Growth Rate: moderate
 - Approximate Bloom Time: early spring to summer

VIII. Sample Drawings



- *Salvia elegans*, *Achillea millefolium* 'Terracotta', *Felicia amelloides*



- *Salvia confertiflora*, *Salvia nemorosa*, *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'