

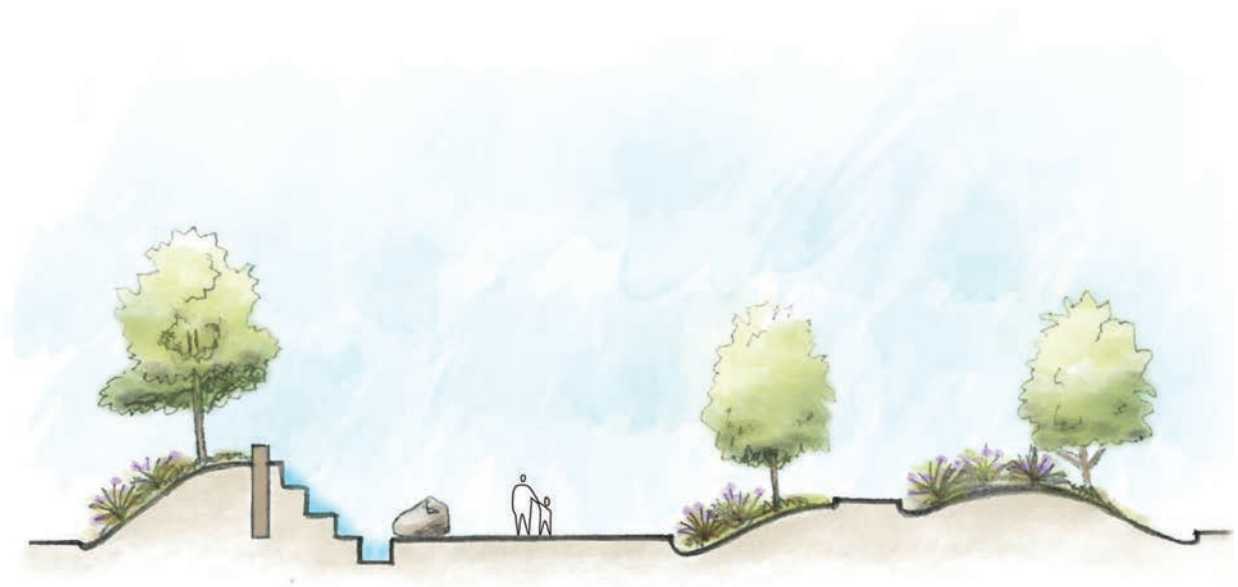


TONGVA PARK

Storytelling
through visual
communication

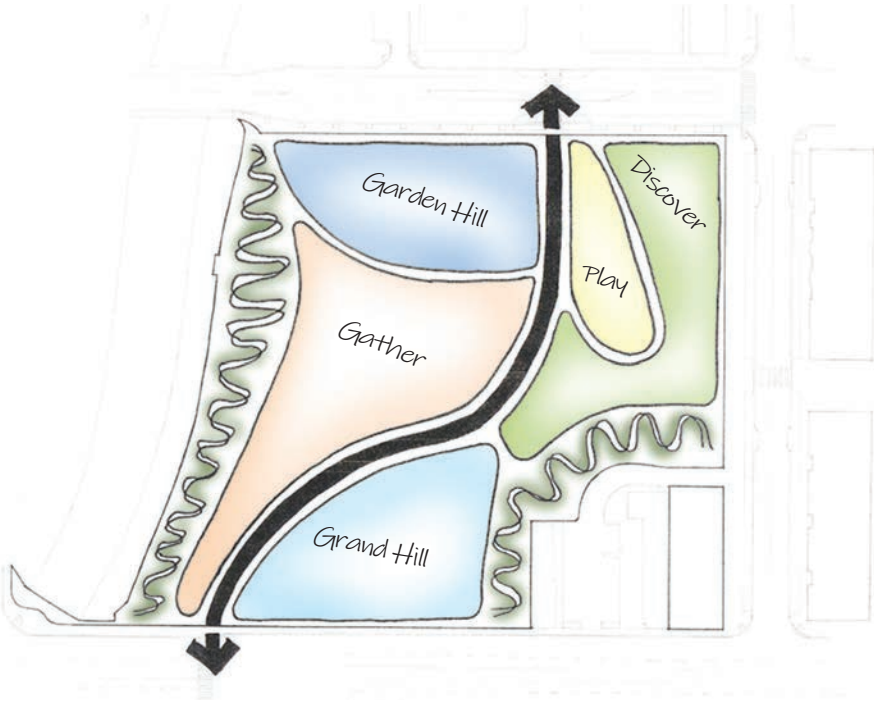
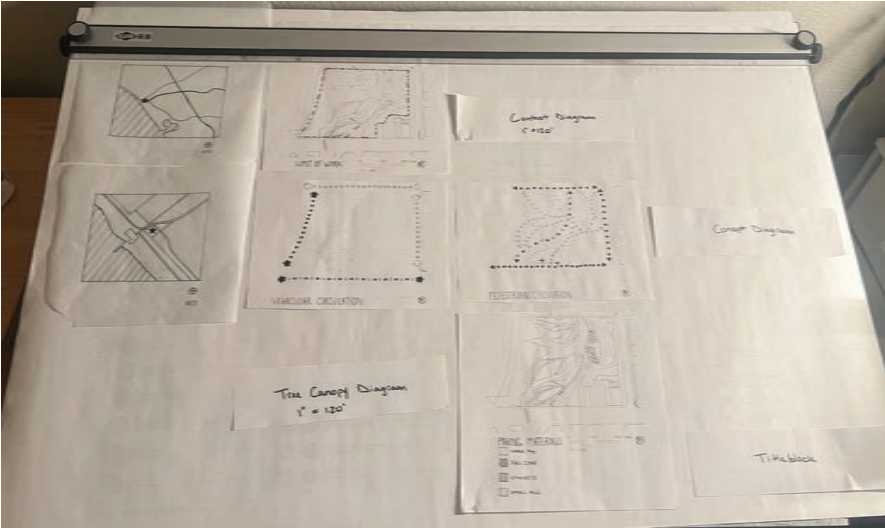
Made by Shelby Jenkins

Portfolio



From concept to creation – the process behind the vision.

Over the past nine months, UCLA Extension landscape architecture students studied Tongva Park in depth through a series of Design Graphics courses. This publication showcases their work, featuring entirely hand-drawn maps, plans, sections, diagrams, and perspective sketches. Through this process, students developed hybrid graphic techniques—combining hand rendering with digital enhancement in Photoshop to strengthen clarity, atmosphere, and visual communication.



Location	4-5
Site Analysis	6-7
Section/ Elevation	8-9
Perspective	10-11
Enlargements	12-13
Site Plan	14-15
Site Plan (Hybrid Graphics)	16-17
About	18-19
Citations	20

The concept is rooted in ripple, flow and repetition. Arced walkways radiate outward like expanding waves, shaping circulation and spatial rhythm. Mass plantings of grasses introduce softness and kinetic texture, catching wind and light to create visible movement. That sense of motion — in path, form, and planting — echoes throughout the park, unifying the experience.

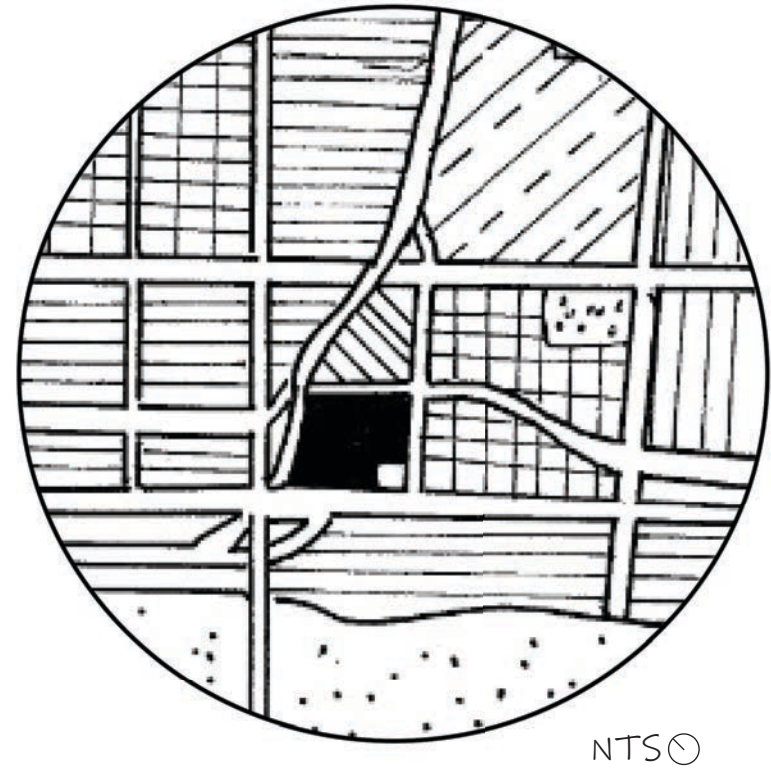
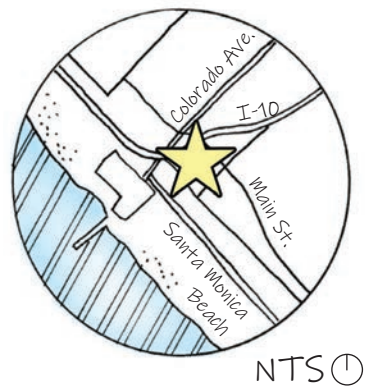
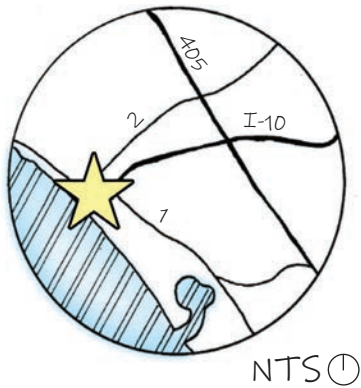


The knowledge of a place derives more deeply through experience... than through visuality alone.

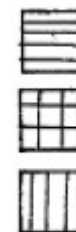
—Michael Van Valkenburgh



Tongva Park sits at the intersection of Santa Monica's urban core and its coastal landscape.



Context Diagram



Commercial

Mixed Used

Residential

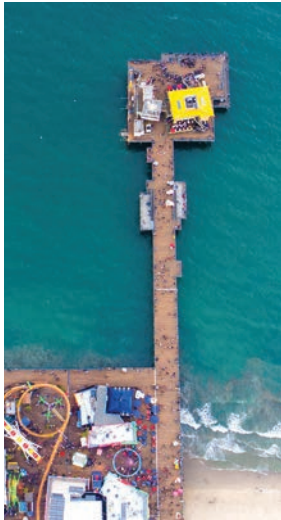


Municipal

School

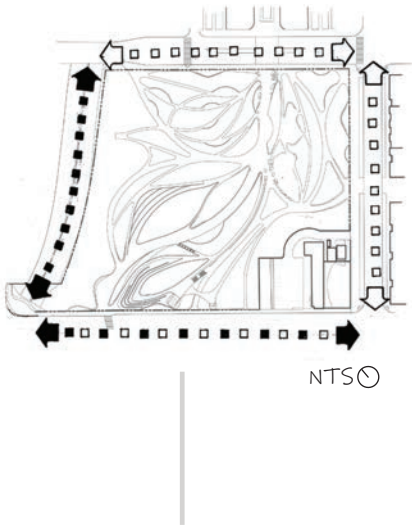
Public

Tongva Park is located in downtown Santa Monica, just south of Colorado Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Main Street. It sits directly across from Santa Monica City Hall and just inland from the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Monica Pier.



Site Analysis

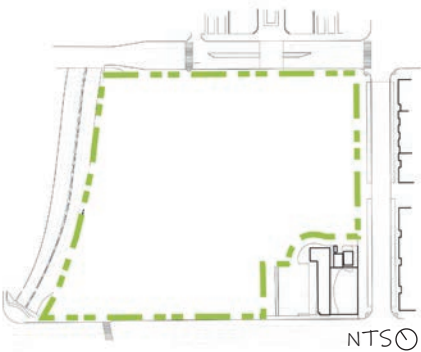
These diagrams help reveal the underlying patterns and forces that shape the landscape. By breaking down elements, these diagrams provide a clearer understanding of how a site functions and inform future design decisions.



Vehicular Traffic

Vehicular circulation frames the park with the I-10 freeway defining the NW edge and Ocean Avenue aligning the southern perimeter.

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary



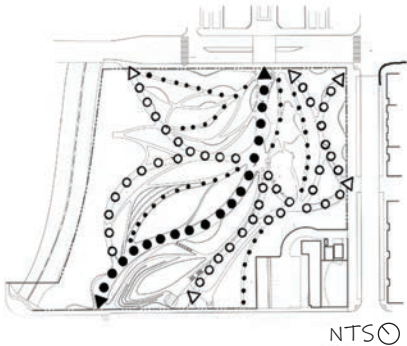
Limit of Work

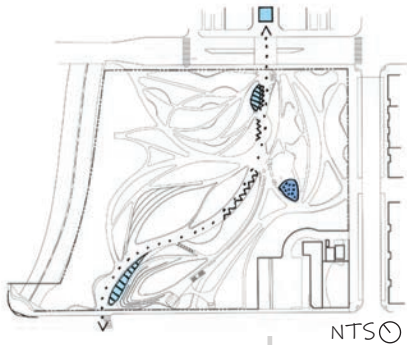
The limit of work line marks the boundary of the project area and the extent of the proposed design.

Pedestrian Traffic

A central pedestrian corridor connects Santa Monica City Hall to the Santa Monica Pier, guiding movement through the park.

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary

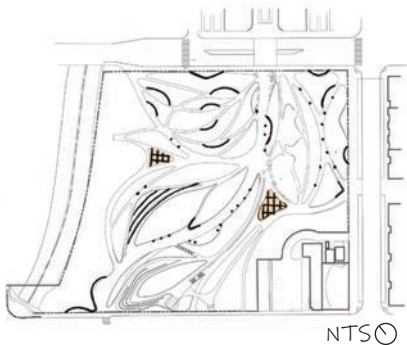




Drainage & Water Features

A series of rills and fountains carry water through the park toward the coast, accompanied by an interactive spalsh pad.

- Fountain
- Spalsh Pad
- Runnel



Seat Types

A variety of seating types are integrated throughout the park, including built-in benches along retaining walls, freestanding benches, and two designated picnic areas.

- Seatwall
- Picnic Tables
- Benches



Tree Canopy

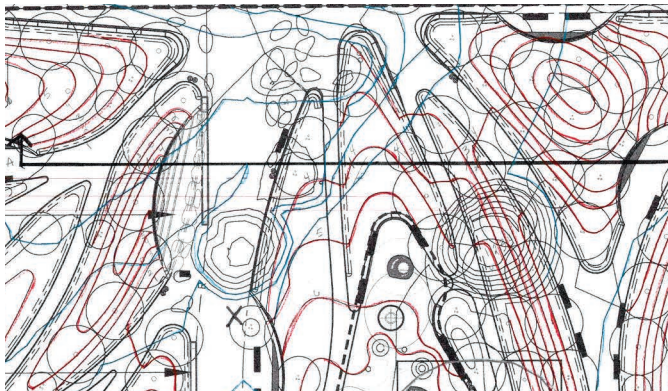
Dense tree canopy defines Garden Hill and the Discovery Garden, while the Gathering amphitheater areas is open. Palms anchor the west edge of the park.

- Pines
- Palms
- Mixed Species



Section/ Elevation

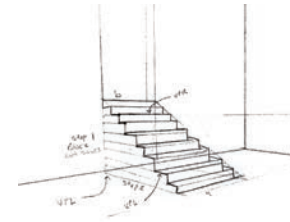
Through grading studies, we developed the ability to read and interpret grading plans, differentiating between existing and proposed contours. We translated two-dimensional information into a field-based section and elevation sketches, strengthening our understanding of slope, elevation change, and spatial relationships. Using our own body height as a measuring reference, we practiced estimating proportion and vertical scale on site.



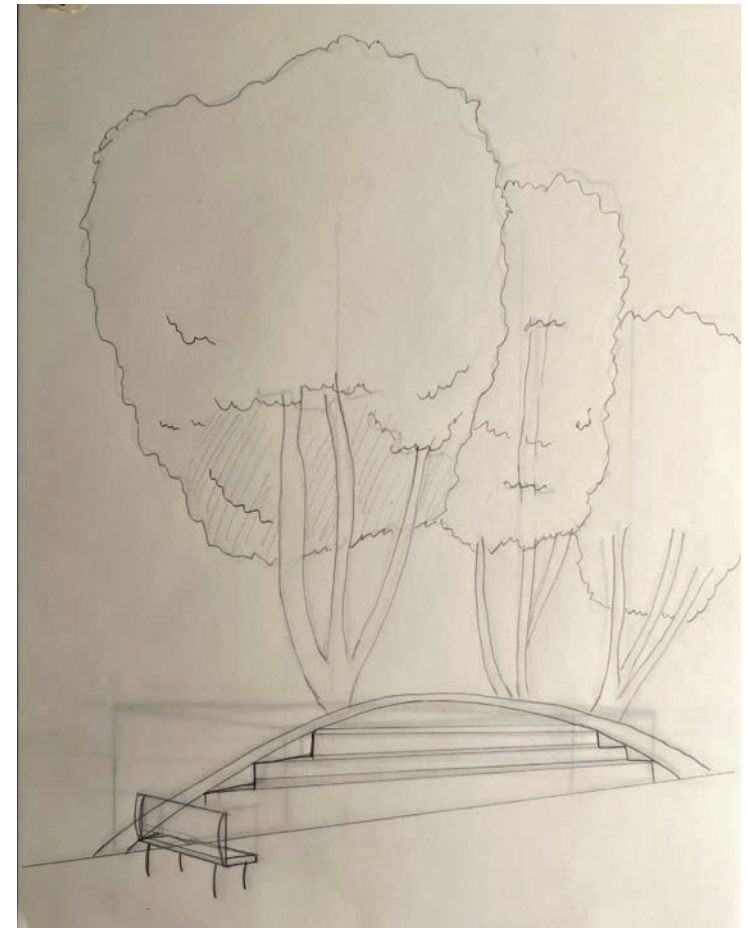


Hybrid Graphics

Adding color and texture brings a simple line drawing into a more expressive representation of the space.



2 Point Perspective
Practice Sketches

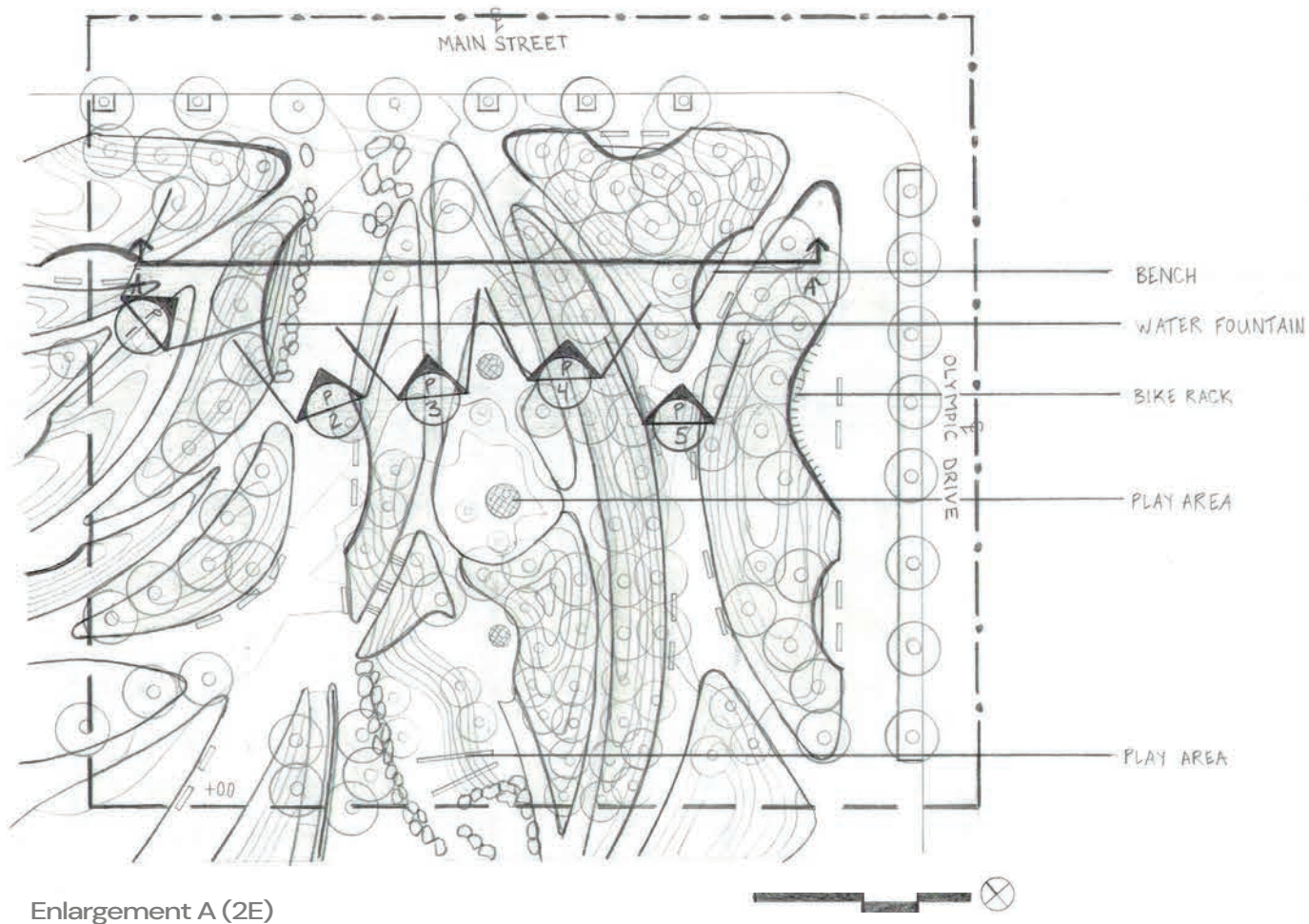


Perspective Sketches

These sketches help communicate spatial experience and depth within a design. Drawing stairs in two-point perspective was particularly challenging, as each tread and riser must align accurately with the vanishing points while maintaining consistent proportion and rhythm.

Color adds depth
and energy, bringing
the perspective
drawing to life.

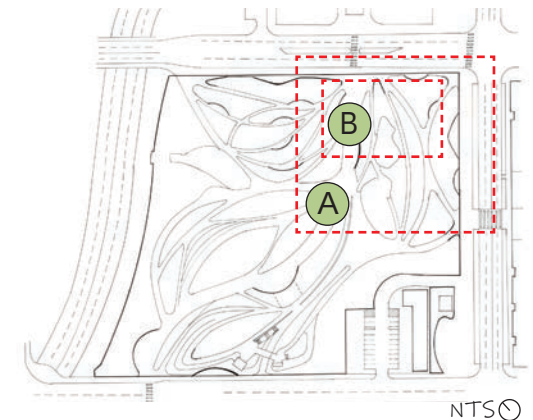
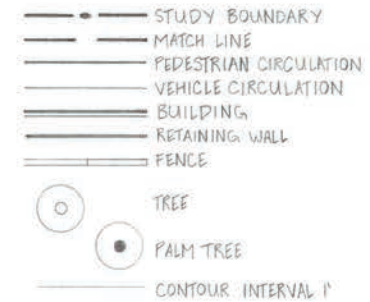




Enlargement A (2E)

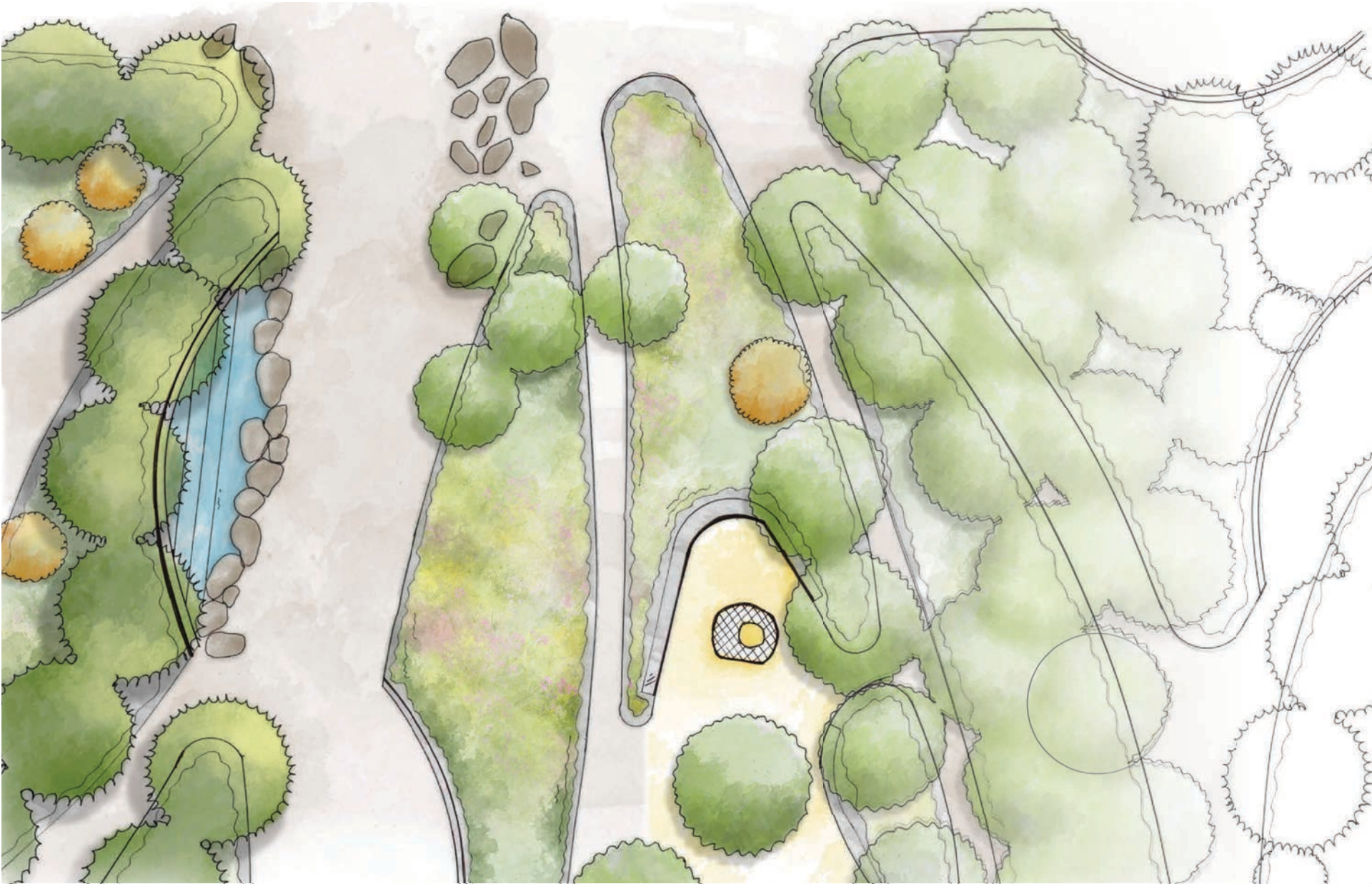
Lineweights & Lettering

Attention to small details like the lineweights improve clarity in complex drawings



NTSO

In Design Graphics I, we learned how line weights creates a hierarchy and clarity within a drawing. Varying line thickness helps differentiate elements and guides the viewer's eye.



Enlargement B (2E)



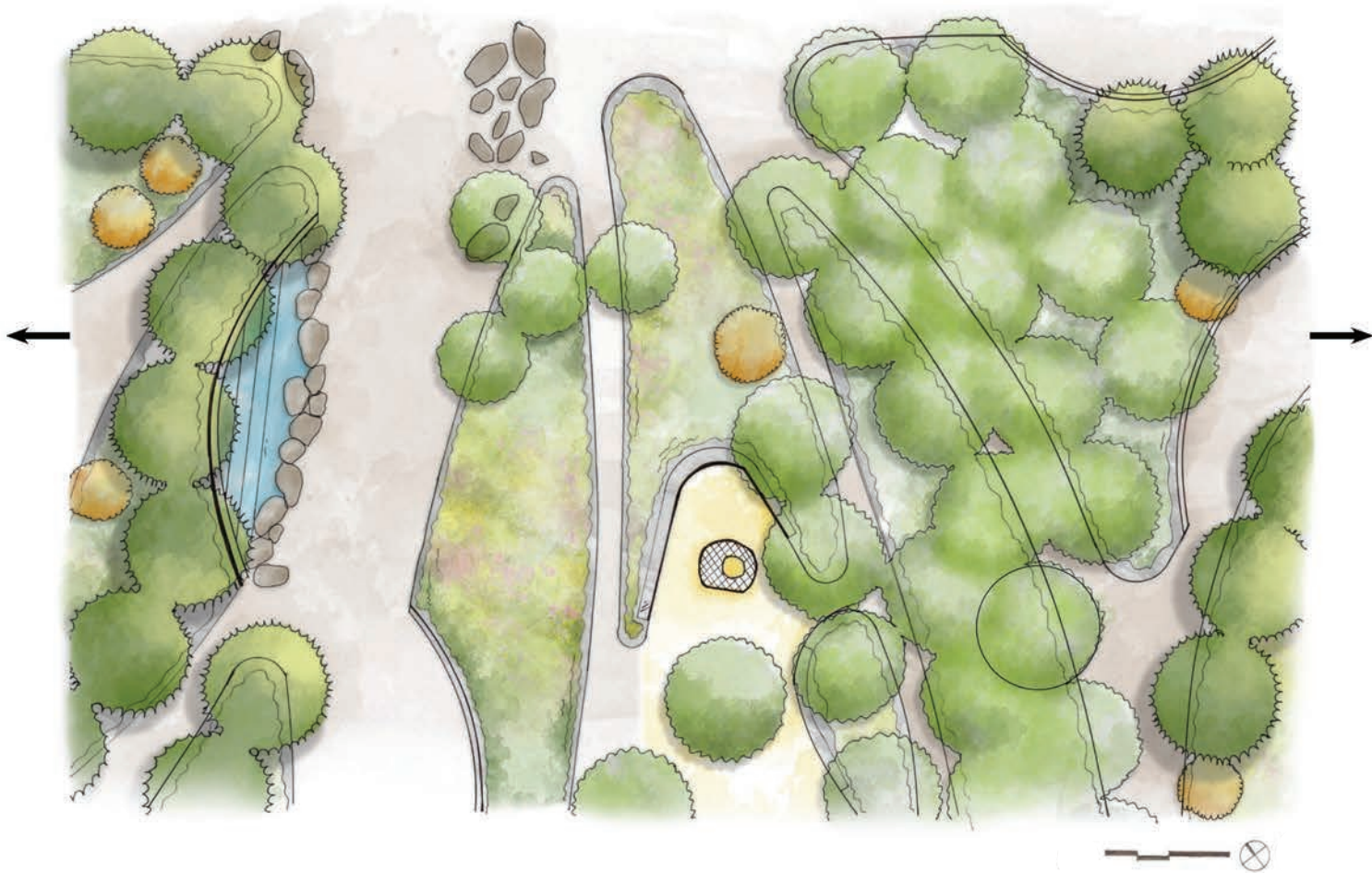
Hand Drawn
and Color
Rendered
Site Plan





Hybrid Graphics -
Hand Drawn Site
Plan and Digital
Rendering





About Me

Born in Phoenix, AZ and splitting my childhood between Nevada and Southern California – I am a desert native shaped by arid landscapes and outdoor living. My work is driven by a desire to create spaces that reconnect people with the landscape – inviting movement, gathering, and everyday interaction with the outdoors.

Fall 2022

I embarked on a professional journey with MSA Consulting, Inc., a highly esteemed engineering firm in the Coachella Valley. I was hired on as a CAD technician to support the Landscape Studio.

Fall 2025

Hungry to deepen my design knowledge, I began taking courses through UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture program while continuing to work full time. Through these courses, I am developing skills in design graphics, site analysis, and representation – expanding on my ability to communicate spatial ideas through both hand drawing and digital techniques.

Spring 2020 – Covid-19

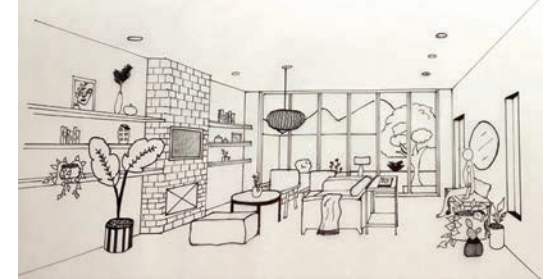
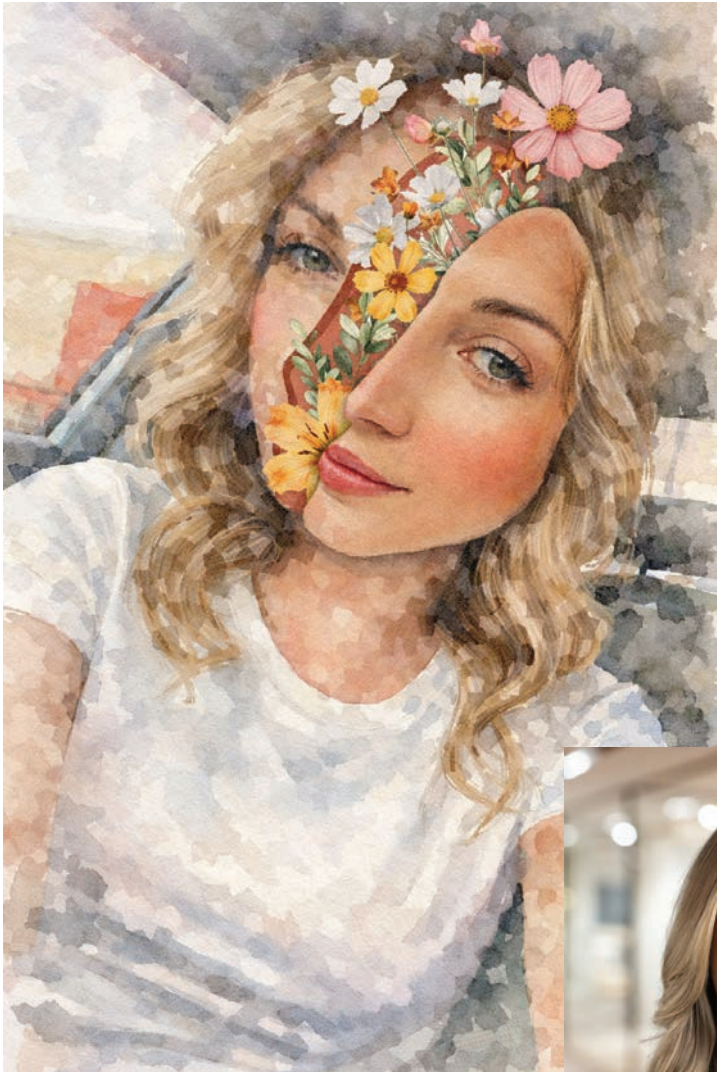
I began taking online courses at my local community college, where I studied architecture and began exploring my passion for design. Through a variety of projects, I started developing foundational skills in visual representation and design process.

Spring 2024

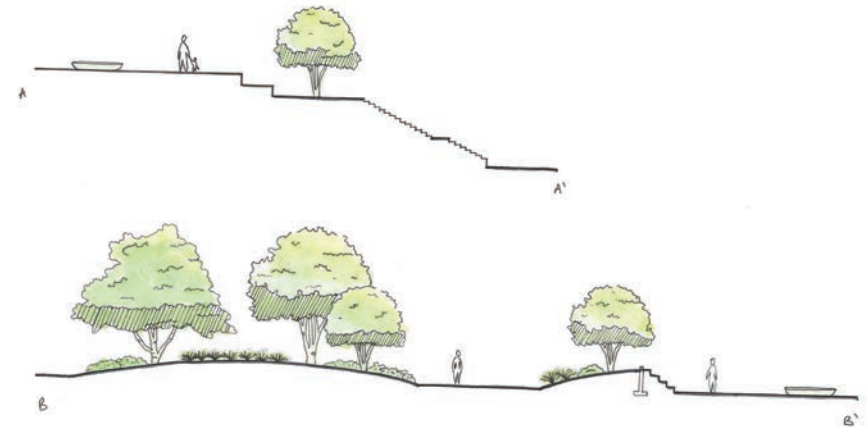
I was promoted from CAD Technician to Associate Project Manager while continuing my education at the local community college. During this time, I studied design graphics and plant identification, strengthening both my technical and design skill sets.

Spring 2026

I have been promoted from Associate Project Manager to Project Manager. In this role, I continue to grow my ability to lead complex projects, coordinate with clients and contractors and manage project delivery. At the same time, I contribute to improving office standards and elevating the quality of our design graphics.



Every project begins with an idea and develops through sketching, diagramming, and refinement. My process moves quickly from hand sketches to digital renderings, allowing concepts to grow into clear and compelling visual narratives.





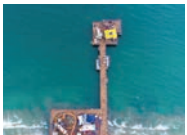
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Citations



Thank You

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my professors for their guidance and dedication in shaping my design and graphic skills. I am especially grateful for my mentors that I am lucky enough to work side by side with at MSA Consulting. I am also deeply grateful for my peers and their collaboration and constant inspiration throughout this process

