

A GRAPHICS REVIEW OF TONGVA PARK



Design Graphics III — Laura Razo

GRACE PAN

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“Meaning is context-bound, but
context is boundless.”

—Johnathan Culler



TONGVA PARK

Design Graphics III

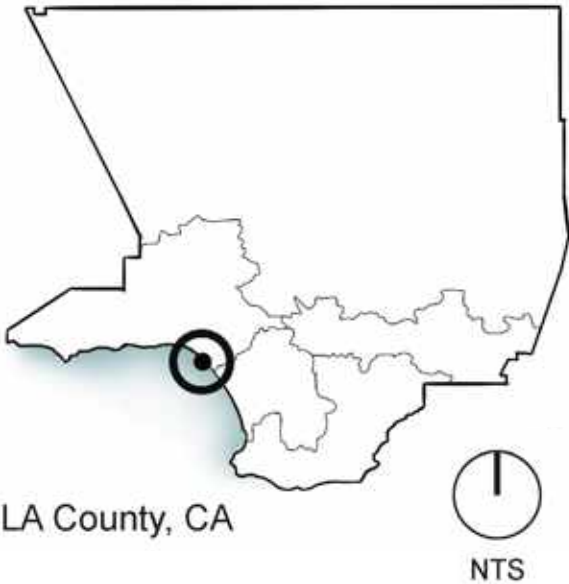
Introduction

This booklet showcases the graphic collection of works from classes Design Graphics I, II, and III. The graphics represent a thorough and comprehensive analysis of Tongva Park. The process of analyzing and utilizing various graphic techniques has proved to be very fruitful. Not only have I learned the importance of lineweights, shadows, and color, but I have also gained a deeper understanding of the numerous elements that must work together to create a successful design. Whether it's the need to pay attention to the smallest of details or the art of creating space, I have gained a better understanding of the more dynamic, conceptual components of landscape architecture.

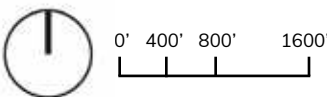
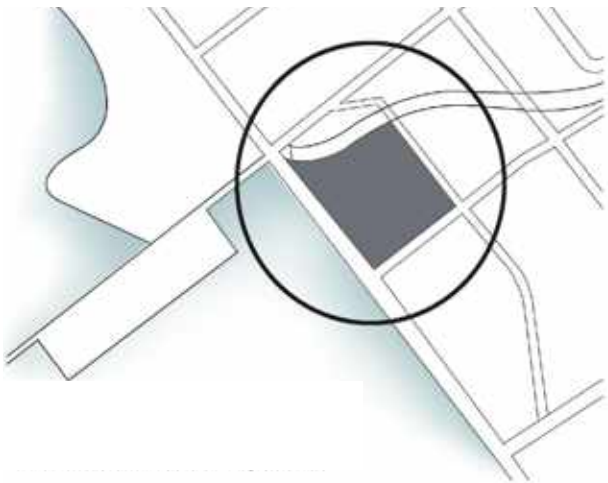
Table of Contents

Location/Context	3
Site Analysis	5
Concept Overview	6
Site Plan	7
Illustrative Plan	9
Enlargement	11
Perspectives Drawings	12
Rendered Section Elevation	13
Graphic Evolution	15
Program Overview	19
The Language of Curves	21
Paving Materials	23
Water Story	24
Planting Overview	25
Specimen Showcase	27
Acknowledgements & Credits	29
About Me	30

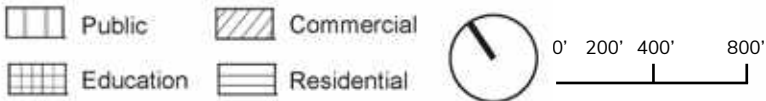
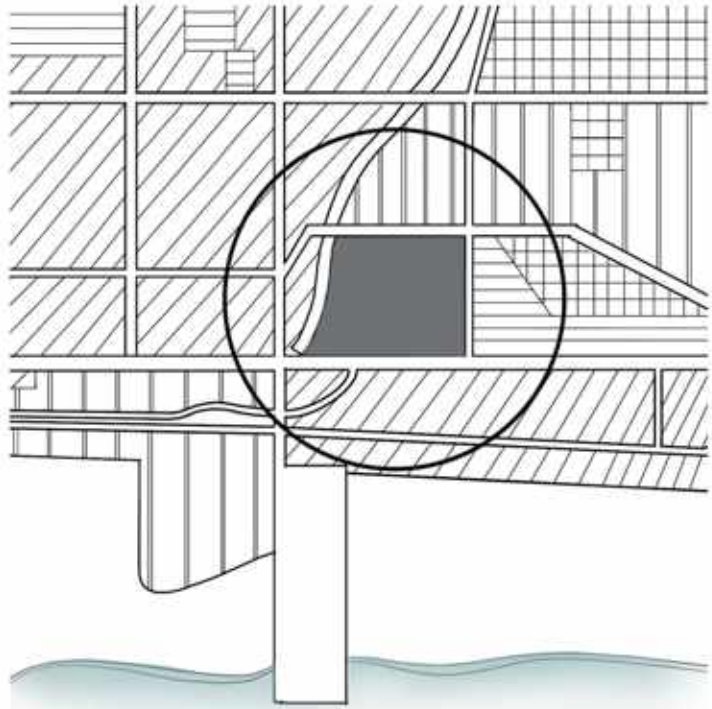
Location



LA County, CA



Tongva Park is a 6.2 acre park located in Santa Monica, which is a part of Los Angeles County in California. The park itself is merely a few blocks away from the ocean, and from the overlooks built at the Southwest End of the park, one can see the Pacific Ocean and the famous Santa Monica Pier.



CONTEXT DIAGRAM

Tongva Park is surrounded by a rich urban context that includes multiple hotels, apartment complexes, commercial and industrial buildings, and many more. This park truly fits like a perfect puzzle piece into its surroundings -- it is extremely accessible on all sides, albeit the side bordered by the freeway.



A New Greenspace for Santa Monica

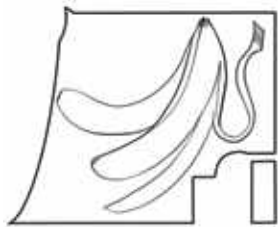
“The New Heart of Santa Monica”

Even before its dedication on October 13, 2013, Tongva Park was envisioned to be the new heart of Santa Monica -- a place where everyone can come to gather, despite all of their differences. Because the city wanted this to be a world-class park, they hired James Corner's office, Field Operations, an extremely well-respected firm, to design it. Tongva Park sits across the street from City Hall,

which indicates its significance. It is also conveniently located in a very busy part of the city. The park's edges respond beautifully to the life needs of the surrounding city. On the side of the freeway, the park is buffered to provide a sense of privacy and enclosure. All other sides comprise of multiple access points are crafted to gently guide the wayfarer into its haven of gentle, rolling hills and meandering paths.

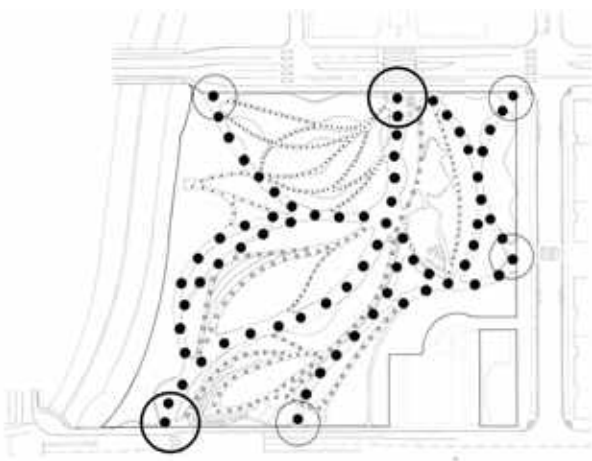
Site Analysis

ANALYSIS : peeling back the layers.



The three site analysis diagrams on this page seek to break Tongva Park down into its most fundamental elements --

peeling back the layers and revealing the bones that define this park. These diagrams seek to frame the vision that James Corner had for this site, as well as to analyze the factors that led to the design choices that he made.

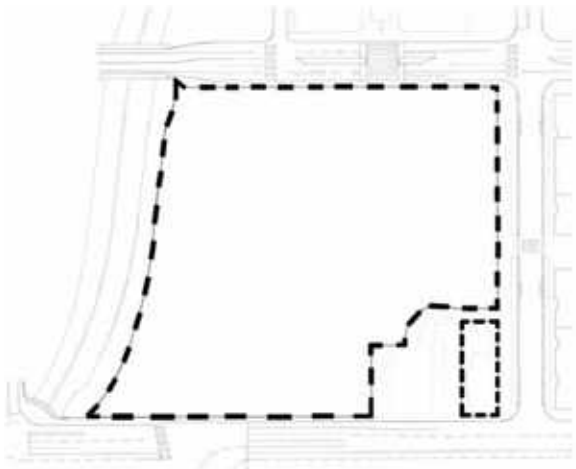


PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

03



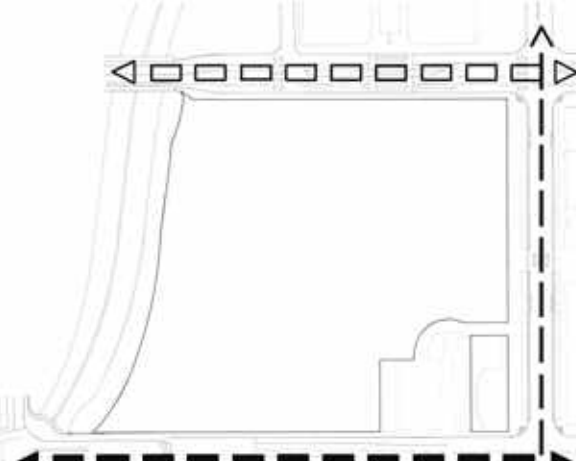
Tongva Park comprises of three main tiers of pedestrian circulation, and each of them are defined by a different paving material.



LIMIT OF WORK

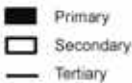
01

Tongva Park's limit of work is particularly interesting on the bottom right corner. The missing shape is another building's private parking lot.

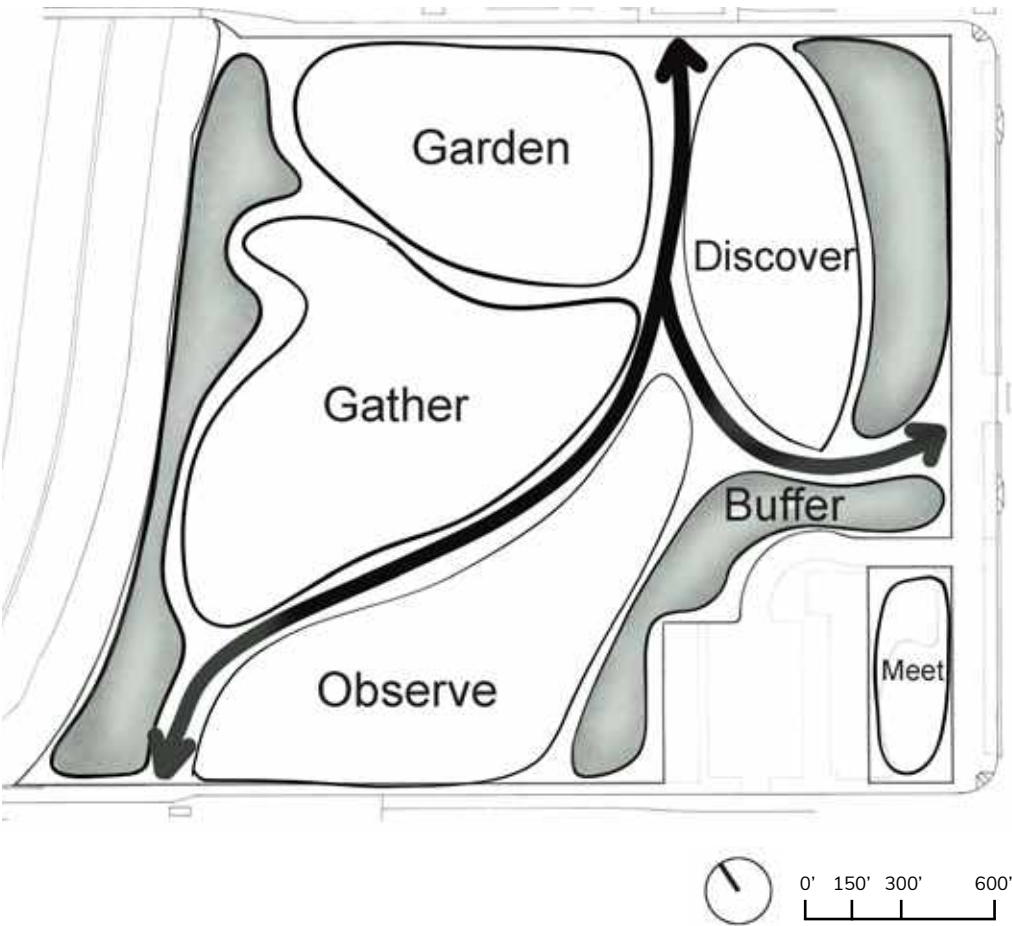


VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

02



Like the pedestrian circulation, the vehicular circulation around Tongva Park also has a 3 levels of hierarchy. The primary vehicular circulation, Ocean Avenue, is Santa Monica's iconic palm-lined, oceanfront street.



Concept Overview

This concept diagram highlights the intended primary circulation in the park. Surrounding it are four zones: Gathering Hill, Garden Hill, Discovery Hill, and Observation Hill. Each area is dedicated to a different purpose. Garden Hill is a meandering walk, where one can be completely encapsulated and separated from all city noise. The paths in this area provide a peaceful refuge away from the bustling city. Gathering Hill

consists of large, open spaces that make it perfect for large gatherings, hence its name. An open turf area flanked by amphitheater-style seating makes this area a popular place for picnics and performances. Discovery Hill is a place of wonder, complete with a splash pad and play amenities for children. Observation Hill consists of two overlooks that are strategically placed to provide the viewer with the best view of the ocean beyond.

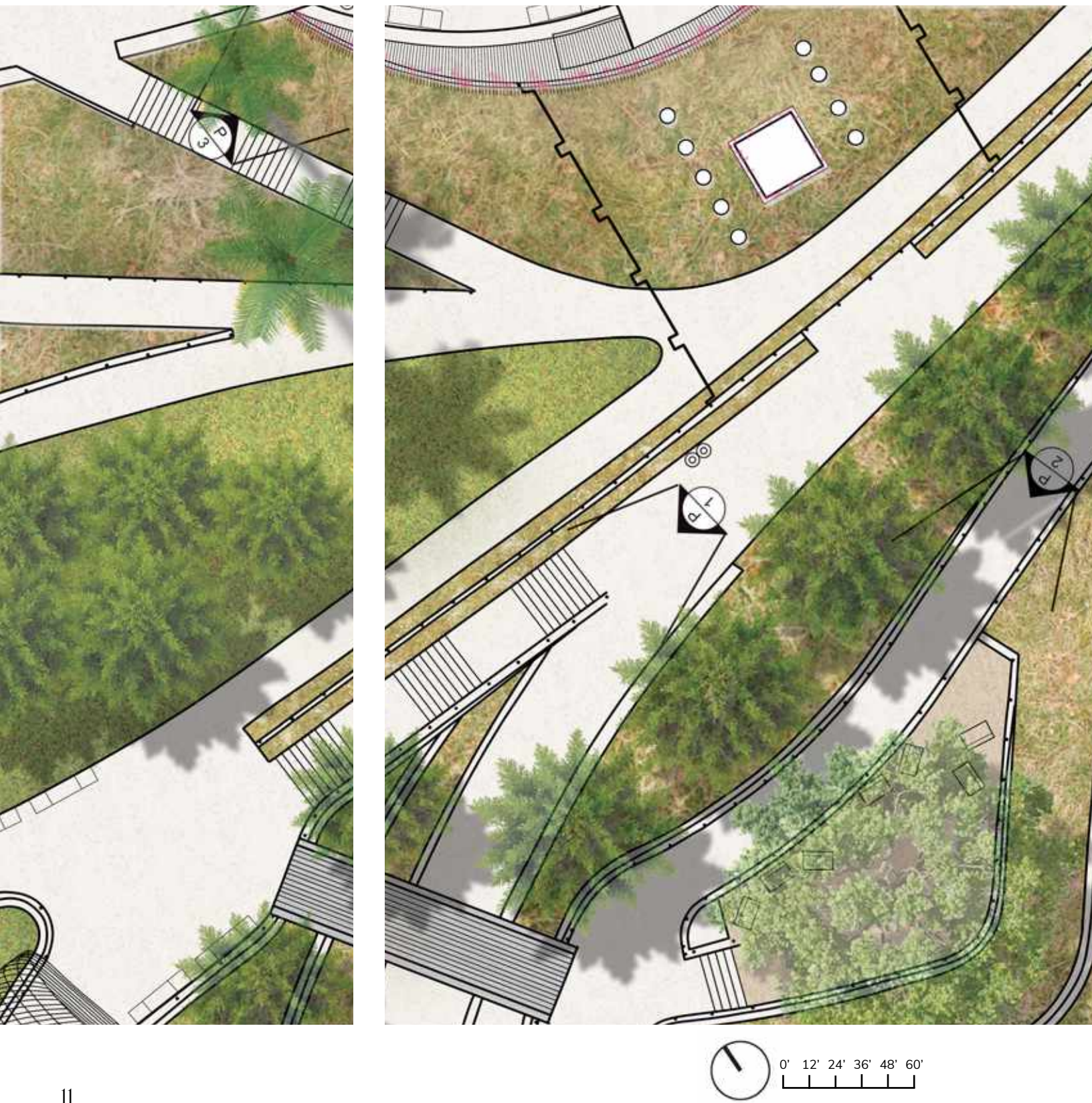
Site Plan



Illustrative Plan



Enlargement



Perspective Drawings



Rendered Section Elevation



Graphic Evolution

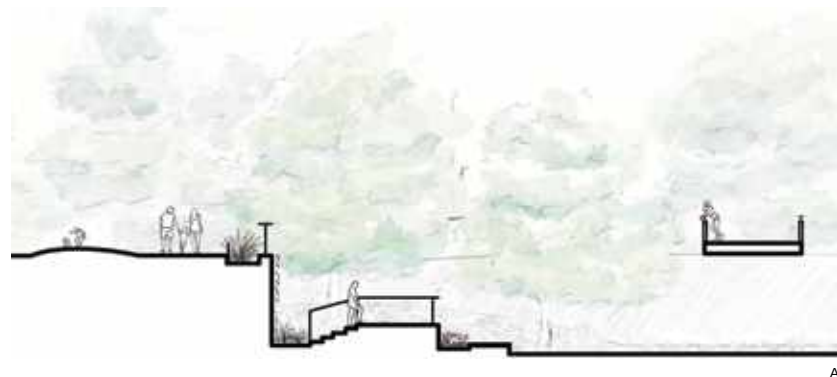
D G1

The first design graphics class in a series of three. This class was particularly challenging (and even more rewarding) in the amount of technical information learned and the attention to detail that was expected.



D G2

The use of color was finally permitted! While this was traditionally an analog drafting course, I chose to use the iPad to draft most of the elements. This gave the final products a hybrid look, which I have grown quite fond of.



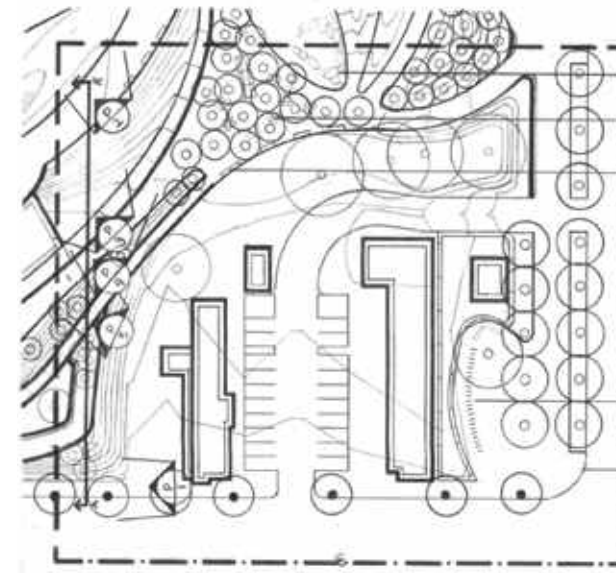
D G3

The world of digital rendering was introduced! Instead of the digital, hand-rendered watercolor technique I used in DG2, I experimented with a collage-render style that I had never tried before. It turned out to be challenging but very fun!



D G1

This image is a hand-drafted quadrant (quadrant 4S, by the privately-owned parking lot) of Tongva Park. The assignments and drafts leading up to this final product taught me the importance of lineweights, scale, and being observant!



D G2

The hand-digital hybrid technique was also used to create this site plan. DG2 really taught me the importance and value of different graphic techniques such as transparency, shadows, and color to create a sense of depth and interest.



D G3

This site plan incorporated newly-learned techniques in both the Adobe Photoshop and InDesign programs. This type of digital rendering technique comes with its own challenges, but the results are very rewarding! It also adds an additional sense of realism to the finished rendering.



D G1



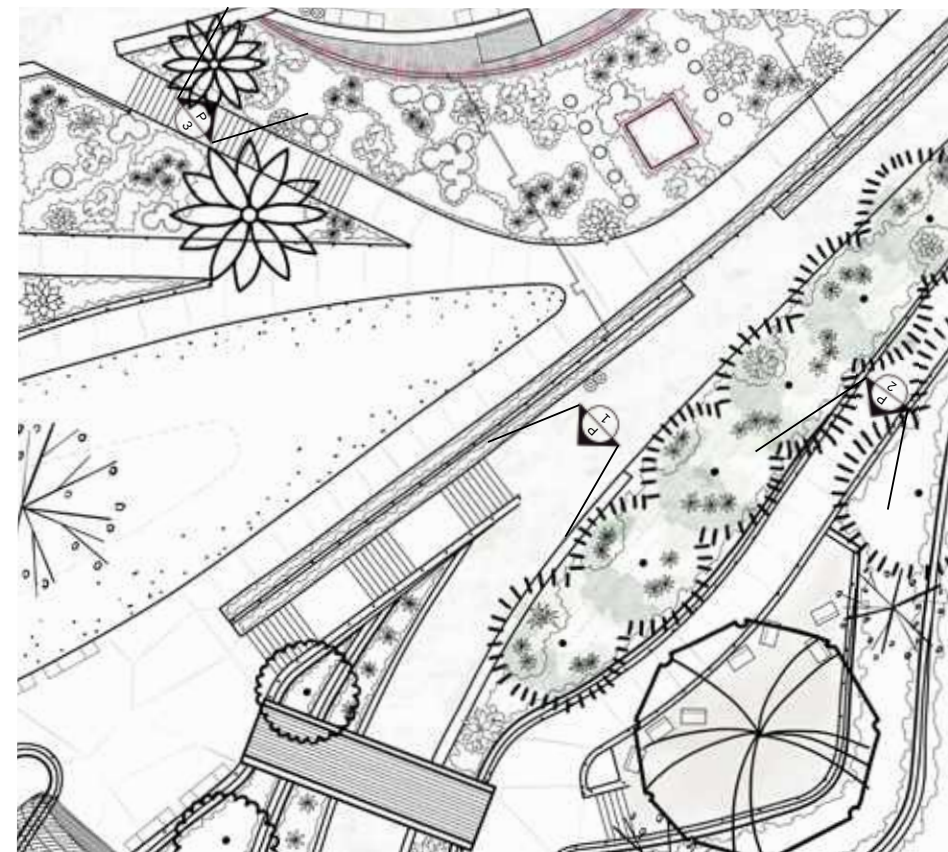
D G2



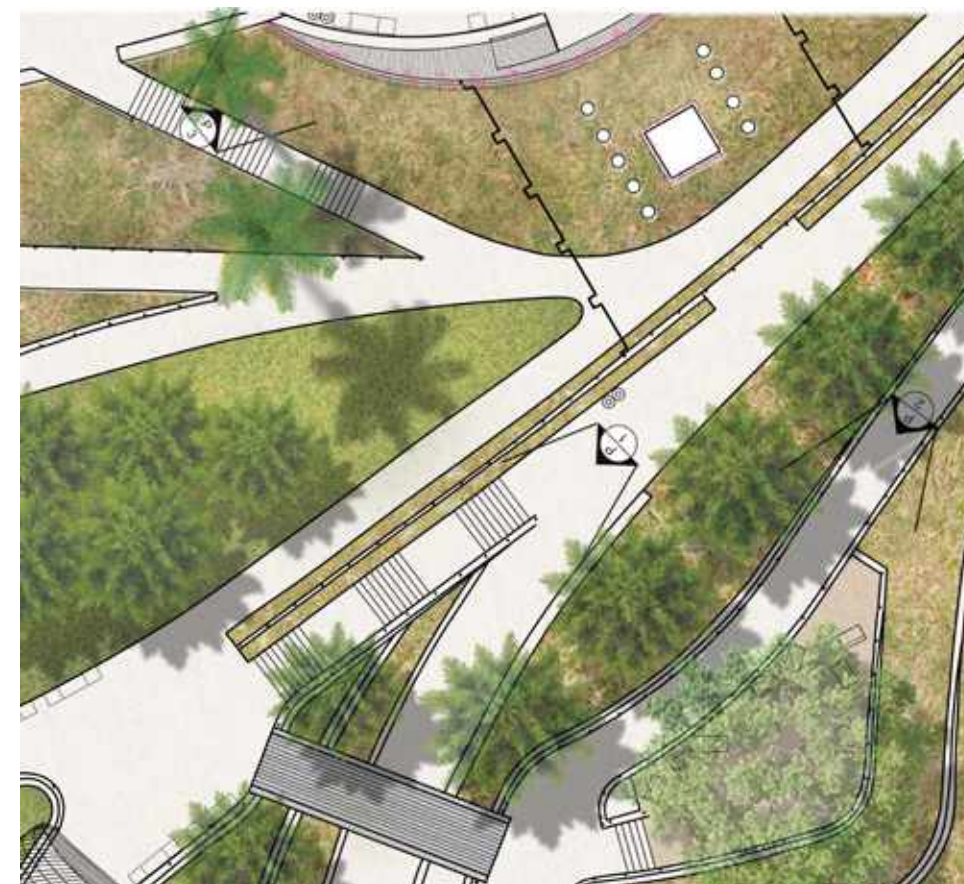
D G3



D G2



D G3



Program Overview



Language of Curves



2



4

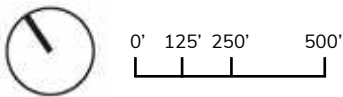


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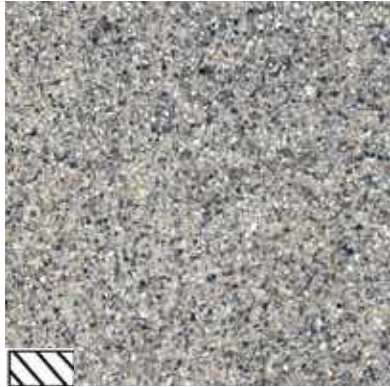
RETAINING WALL SEATING DIAGRAM



22

Paving Materials

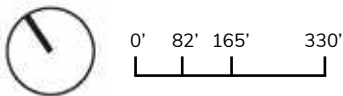
- Large Aggregate
- Small Aggregate
- D.G.
- Smooth Concrete
- Rubber



PAVING DIAGRAM

Paving materials correspond to the park's original intended pedestrian circulation hierarchy. The large and small aggregate materials are reminiscent of pebbles found at the bottom of an arroyo wash, which was one of the design guidelines for Tongva Park. The curving nature of all the paths accentuate this intent. Every joint at which different paving materials meet is absolutely seamless, which is the mark of quality craftsmanship.

*Note: paving materials inside the park differ from that of the immediate surrounding context. The paving materials in the park are all very naturalistic, as if it is trying to become the very ground of the place that the park is meant to transport its users to.

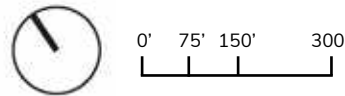


Water Story



WATER STORY DIAGRAM

As a coastal city, a large part of Santa Monica's identity is connected to the ocean. This was taken into the account in the overall design, as a long water feature laterally spans the entire park and symbolically connects the Ken Genser Square fountain, which is located in front of City Hall, to the ocean.



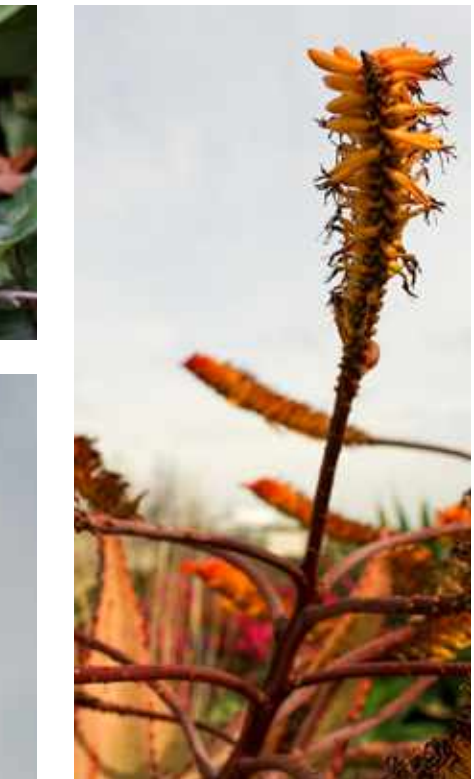
Planting Overview



Specimen Showcase



Trees



Shrubs

Acknowledgements & Credits

Acknowledgements

I will be forever grateful to David Squires, Rebecca Schwaner, and Laura Razo for being the best graphics professors anyone could ever have. David, your attention to detail and masterful landscape architecture ways has opened my eyes to what landscape architecture can be; you are an inspiration! Rebecca, your guidance and wisdom are gems that I will treasure forever. Laura, I so admire your kind and patient nature; thank you for making this jump from analog to digital rendering as smooth as possible.

A big shoutout to my entire cohort! The past three quarters have flown by, and I am so proud of the progress that every single one of us have made. I honestly don't think that I could have made it thus far and stayed sane without every single one of you -- from late night study sessions to non-stop jokes that keep us all awake and engaged during class, let's keep on going strong!

Photo Credits

- 1. <https://www.santamonica.gov/places/parks/tongva-park>
- 2. https://www.asla.org/2018awards/455654-Tongva_Park_And_Ken_Genser.html
- 3. <https://pin.it/5ZqCArc>
- 4. Photos on pages 28 and 29 are courtesy of Clayton Daily, a phenomenally talented photographer and landscape architecture student, with whom I am fortunate enough to be in the same cohort.

About Me



Hello! My name is Grace Pan, and I am currently a student in UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture Program. I have always loved biology, but I then discovered my love for art during the Covid lockdowns. I then gravitated towards Landscape Architecture, as it is the perfect marriage of science and art! Another aspect of Landscape

Architecture that I adore is the opportunity to form relationships with coworkers, clients, supplies, etc. It truly is a discipline that directly impacts everyone, everyday. That is what drew me into science in the first place -- to make a tangible difference in people's lives and the world/environment around us. With landscape architecture, I get to do just that -- one curve, plant, and hill at a time.