

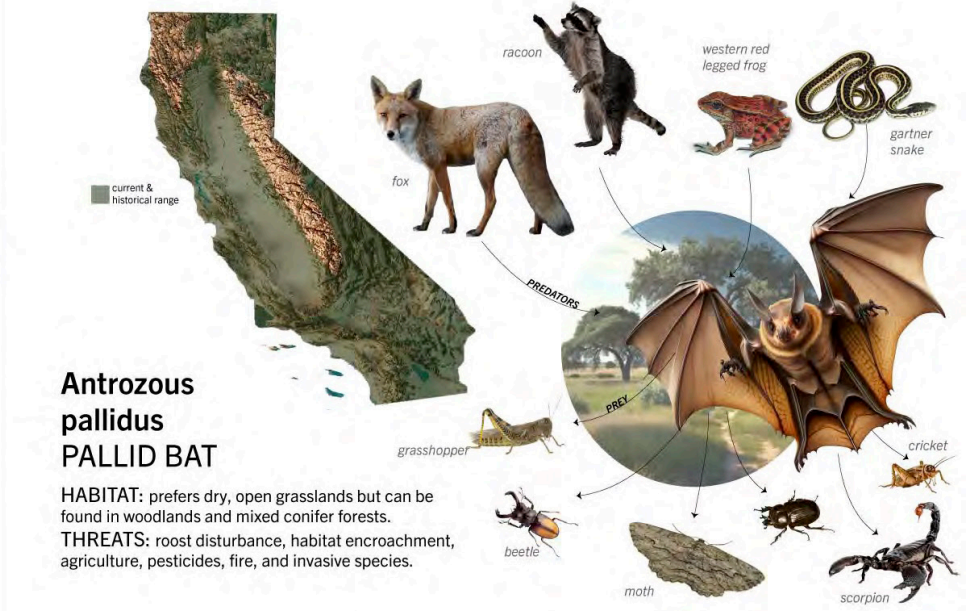
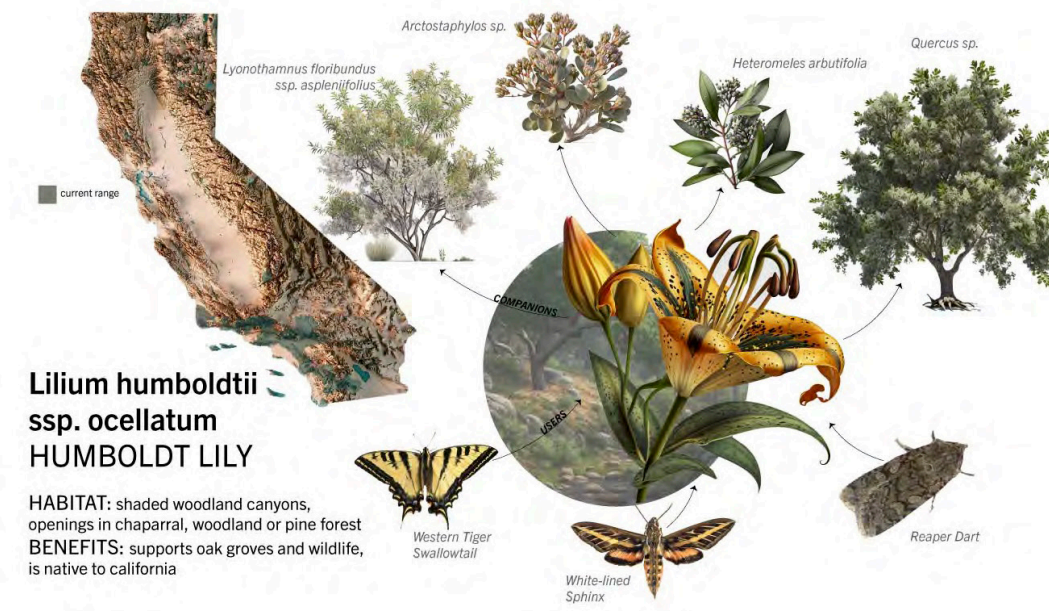
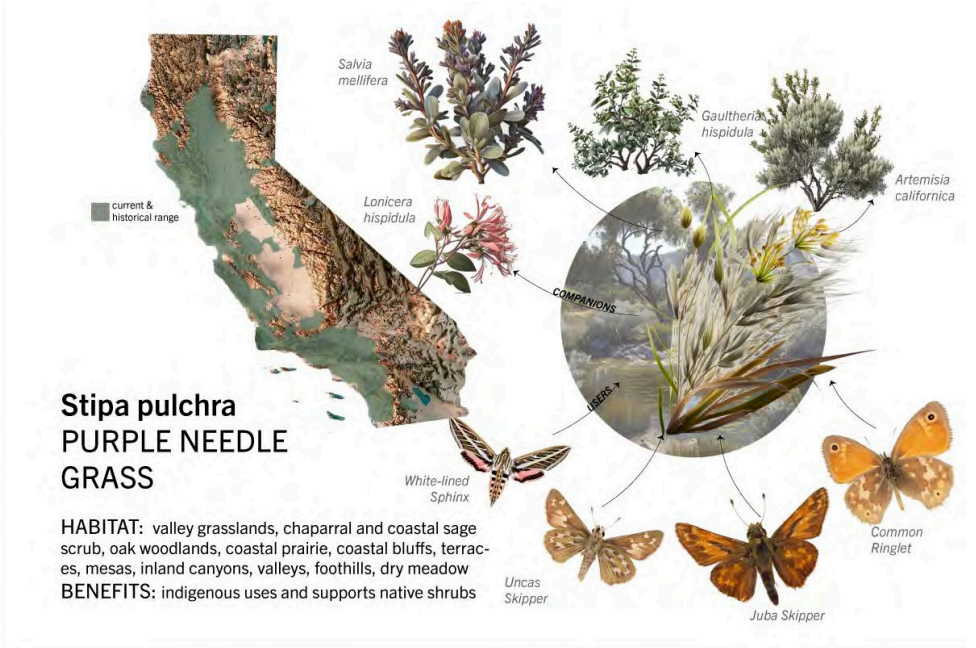
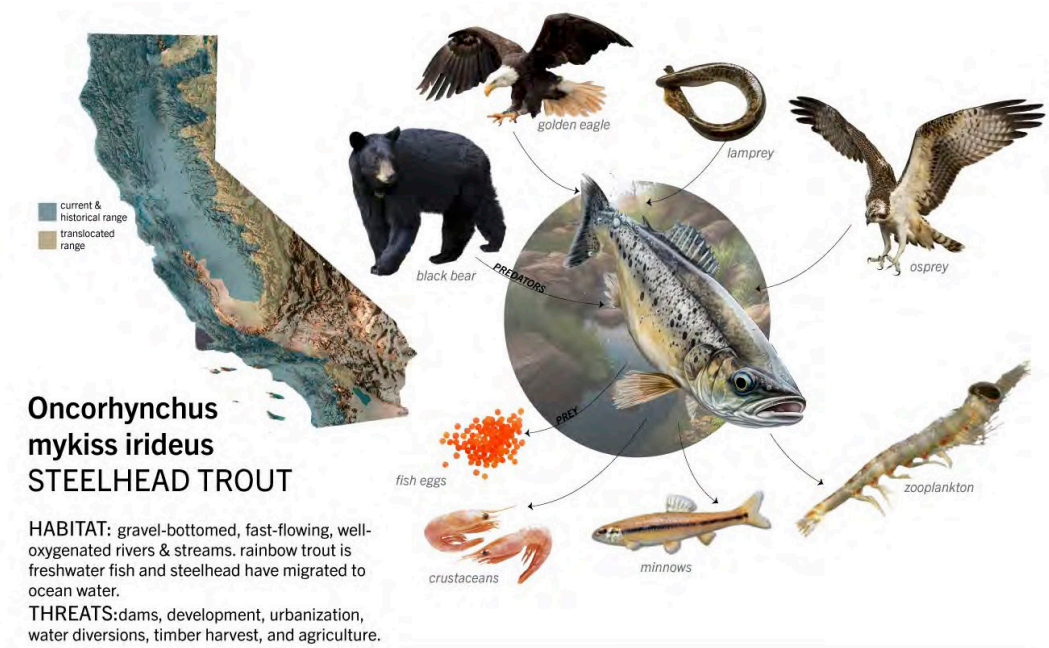
Selection Criteria for Ribas Piera Prize Projects.-

The five projects selected to represent our school in the prestigious Ribas Piera Prize were chosen through a rigorous evaluation process, highlighting the academic excellence and critical engagement of our students with pressing environmental and urban issues in Southern California. The selection was guided by a multi-dimensional set of criteria:

- First, **conceptual quality**: Each chosen project demonstrated a deep and thoughtful response to complex social and ecological challenges, proposing visionary yet grounded landscape architectural strategies.
- **Innovation**: Students were encouraged to push boundaries through speculative design approaches, emerging technologies, and experimental urban narratives. The projects presented a fresh perspective on landscape practice, deliberately moving beyond traditional models to explore bold, forward-thinking solutions
- **Topic relevance**:The selected projects addressed urgent local issues in Southern California such as wildfire recovery amd soil mitigation in Los Angeles, heat island effects in urban parking lots, coastal regeneration, water managment in the mediterranean climate area, and the reimagining of the channelized Los Angeles River as inclusive public space.
- **Technical resolution** was assessed through the clarity and sophistication of drawings, models, and overall presentation. Projects had to demonstrate a strong grasp of materiality, structure, and environmental systems.
- **Academic process and critical thinking** were valued, rewarding projects that evolved through research, iteration, and constructive dialogue.

This selection celebrates Landscape Architecture as a transformative practice—capable of healing, adapting, and re-imagining the built environment in times of ecological crisis.

**CPPLA is the largest landscape architecture department in the country*



Work by Brianna Cruz, Seeding the Future, 2023

Please provide a 250-word text explaining the selection criteria used to choose the five projects representing the school in the Ribas Piera Prize. Detail the aspects evaluated, such as conceptual quality, innovation, thematic relevance, technical resolution, or any other criteria considered in the selection process with a single image, characteristic of the academic process, to accompany the text.

California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Landscape Architecture Department, Los Angeles, California

Students: Issy Cassou, Jessica Lund, Brianna Cruz, Do Kyung Lee

Professor: Lorena Garcia, Claire Latané, Maryam Eskandari, Cheryl K Lough

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Education Center West (ECW) Campus, Downey

Loop Center: Groundings in Reuse and Repair for the Future of Education



CHILE Studio • Spring 2025 •

Los Angeles, California, USA

California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Departement of Landscape Architecture,
2024-2025

The Loop Center: Grounding in the Use and Repair for the Future of Education

Issy Cassou



| | |
|---|--|
| Title of the project | The Loop Center: Grounding in the Use and Repair for the Future of Education |
| Authors | Issy Cassou |
| Title of the course | Studio LAB: Collaborative for Healthy and Inclusive Learning Environments |
| Academic year | 2024-2025 |
| Teaching Staff | Claire Latane |
| Department / Section / Program of belonging | Landscape Architecture Department, 2nd year Master in Landscape Architecture |
| University / School | California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design |

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The Loop Center reimagines the LACOE Education Center West parking lot as a regenerative landscape. The project aims to make connections between education, material flows, ecological restoration, and community resilience, while serving the LACOE staff, visitors, and students on site. Rooted in its treatment of the ground plane, this design explores reuse and repair through asphalt removal and reimagination, plant care and maintenance, and educational programming. Regeneration begins with a connection to the soil. Sections cut out from asphalt and seeded become a lab for soil remediation, as well as a rock garden. Tree planting and coastal sage scrub restoration bring shade and biodiversity to a previously barren site. Runoff is captured in bioswales, planter beds, and an infiltration meadow. Gardens, an outdoor library, and outdoor furniture provide structure for learning in nature. The asphalt lab and compost areas, for example, offer hands-on experiences focused on soil, plant life cycles, and materials; the amphitheater might serve as a meeting space for performing arts classes; and the ethnobotanical garden can host history and health classes. In addition to spaces designed for education, several gardens and smaller areas offer opportunities for outdoor rest and dining.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

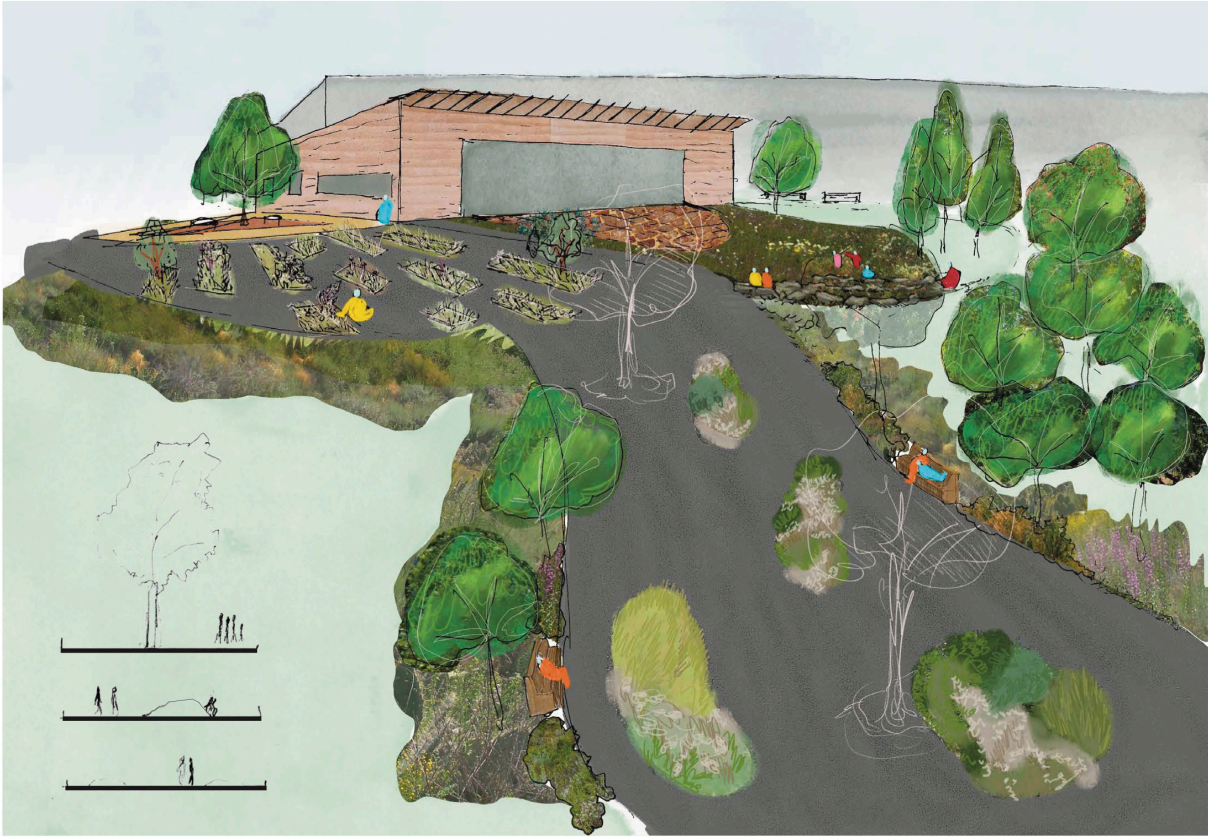
Contact via email:
biennialadm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Education Center West (ECW) Campus, Downey Loop Center

"I think a lot about how school districts are part of the infrastructure of a city or town... and how they can provide all these additional benefits... just by the nature of the fact that they link communities so carefully."

Dr. Bevin Ashenmiller,
Environmental Economist and
Associate Professor of Economics at Occidental College



Perspective of the Loop Center and la Rambla. One of the aims of regenerative systems is to create circular, closed loop systems. Remnants of the parking lot wasteland are transformed into a wide walking path for LACOE staff and community use. A north/south origination seeks to maximize shade opportunities from new tree plantings on either side of la Rambla. Cutouts in the asphalt bring plants into a distinctly urban space, combining natural and man-made narratives in a collaborative investigation.

LOOP CENTER

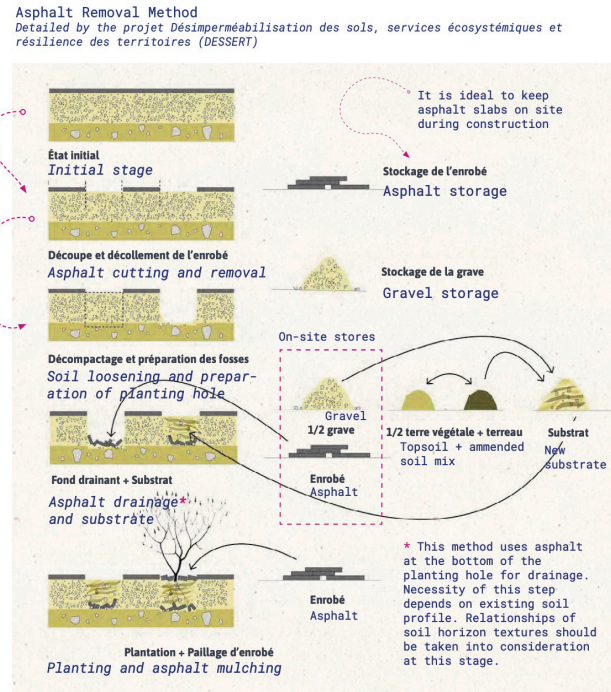
The Loop Center, serving as both the emergency operations building and conference center, draws on architect Richard Neutra's philosophy of educational buildings. Sliding and hinging walls extend interiors to the patio, creating further connections to the meadow, amphitheater, and micro forest beyond. This helps regulate temperature throughout the year in tandem with rammed earth or adobe construction. These features also connect occupants to nature, improving both health and cognitive performance. As the future site for teacher trainings, the building has the potential to influence educators across Los Angeles County. The Loop Center design reinforces growing support for outdoor learning by connecting the classroom and the yard, treating the entire educational site as a cohesive learning environment. It can also serve as a place to reimagine community care during emergency operations; for instance, utilizing the flexible conference room as a community kitchen, with cooking facilities located in the building that double as teaching space and an events resource.



- (L) Adobe bricks. (n.d.). Éxelsior. Retrieved from <https://www.exelsiorcalifornia.com/2016/07/15/history-adobe-structures-are-a-link-to-the-inlands-past/>.
- (M) Urbanite (recycled concrete) wall. (n.d.). Northwest Edible Life. Retrieved from <https://nwedible.com/urbanite-broken-concrete-retaining-wall-as-a-garden-feature/>.
- (R) Gabion-type wall using asphalt slabs from site. (n.d.). Pinterest. Retrieved from <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/413964597085985093/>.



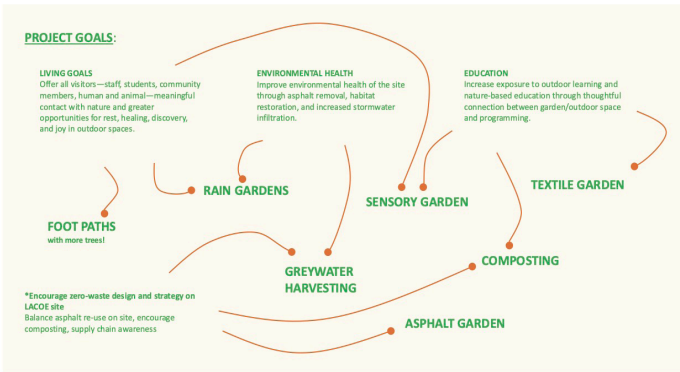
CHILE Studio • Spring 2025 • LA 6121L • Issy Cassou | Prof. Latané



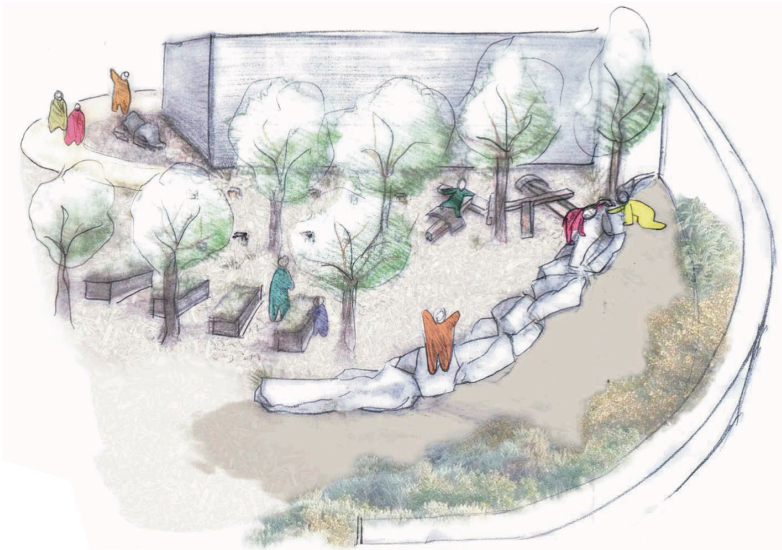
This diagram walks through the steps for asphalt removal, soil amendment, and recycling of removed asphalt. It is the third of three proposed methods by DESSERT, notable for its use of crushed asphalt in the planting holes for drainage. This could be adopted to improve soil's draining capacity.

The DESSERT project has studied the functions of soil-water-plant systems in contrasting situations of soils with removed asphalt to assess the fertility of substrates. The asphalt removal practices outlined in their report have all enabled soil restoration, albeit with a difference in performance depending on the intensity of intervention. Existing site conditions, soil profile, and climate are imperative to adapting these methods.

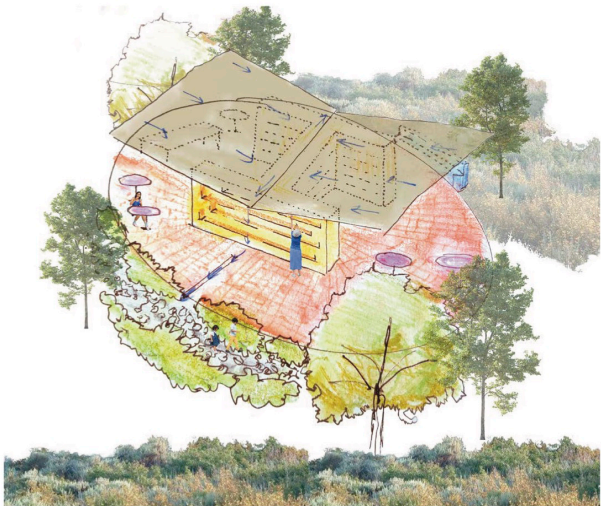
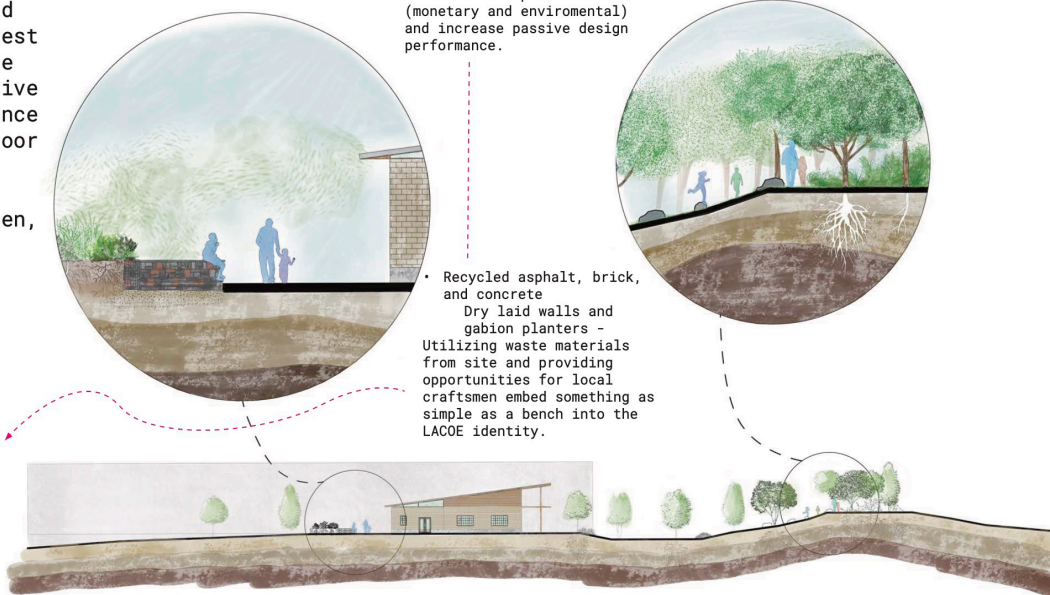
Schwartz, C., et al. (2024). Désimperméabiliser les villes. Guide opérationnel pour (re)découvrir les sols urbains. Plante & Cité.



Project goals included living, environmental, and educational objectives. The frame of regenerative landscapes is emergent in the connections between these goals.



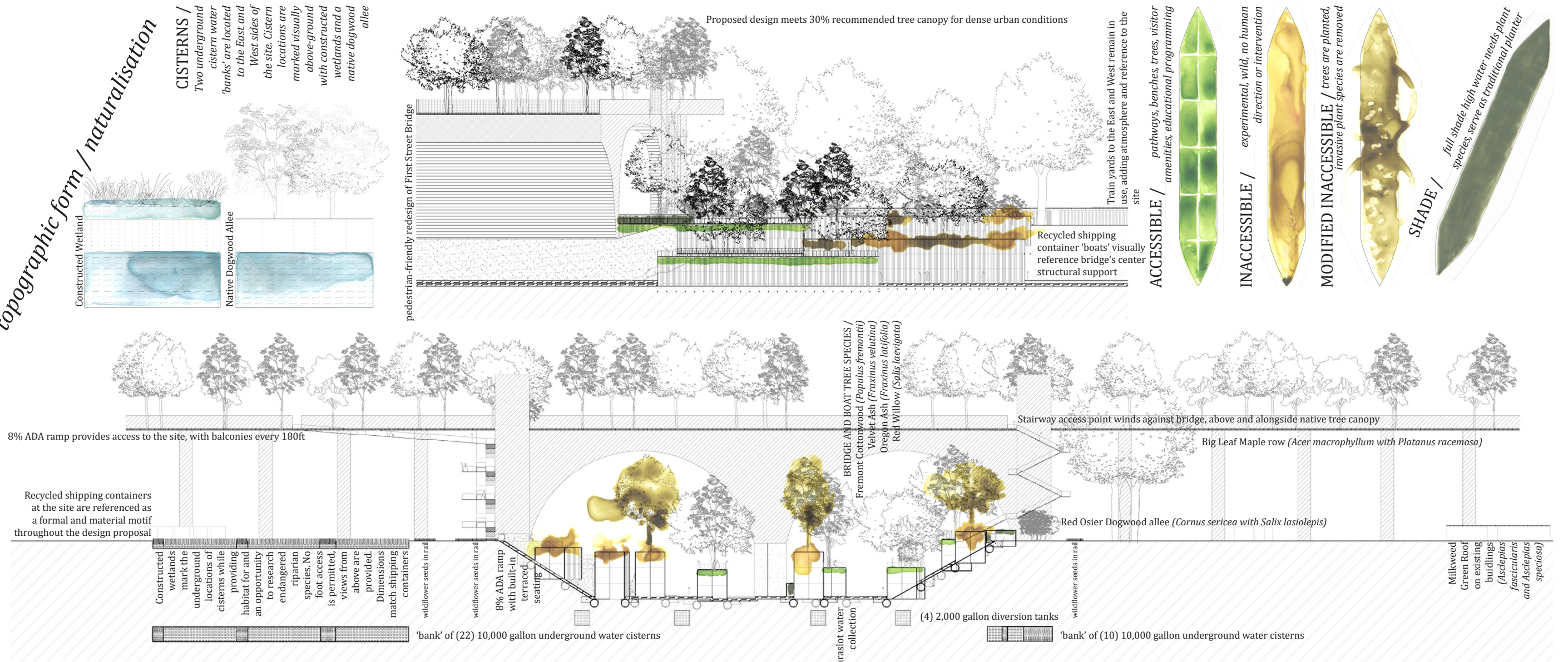
Head Start Pre-school Yard visualization.



Outdoor library with rain harvesting roof.

Los Angeles River Fragment mi.22 SHADE + WATER RETENTION

500



Los Angeles, California, USA

California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Departement of Landscape Architecture, 2022-2023

Los Angeles River Fragment mi. 22: Shade and Water Retention

Jessica Lund



| | |
|---|--|
| Title of the project | Los Angeles River Fragment mi. 22: Shade and Water Retention |
| Authors | Jessica Lund |
| Title of the course | Studio Lab: Rethinking Los Angeles River |
| Academic year | 2022-2023 |
| Teaching Staff | Lorena Garcia |
| Department / Section / Program of belonging | Landscape Architecture Department, 1st year Master in Landscape Architecture |
| University / School | California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Los Angeles, California |

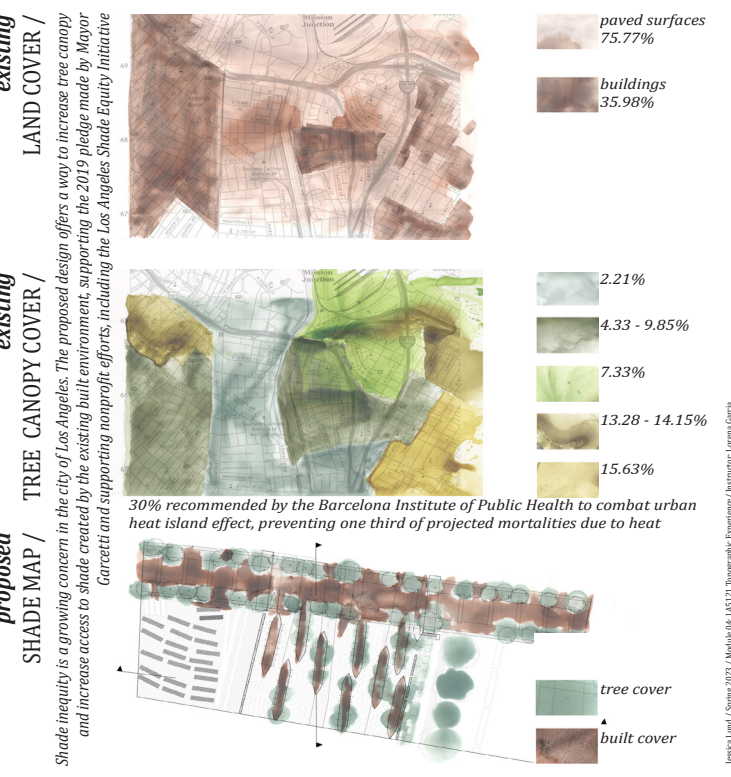
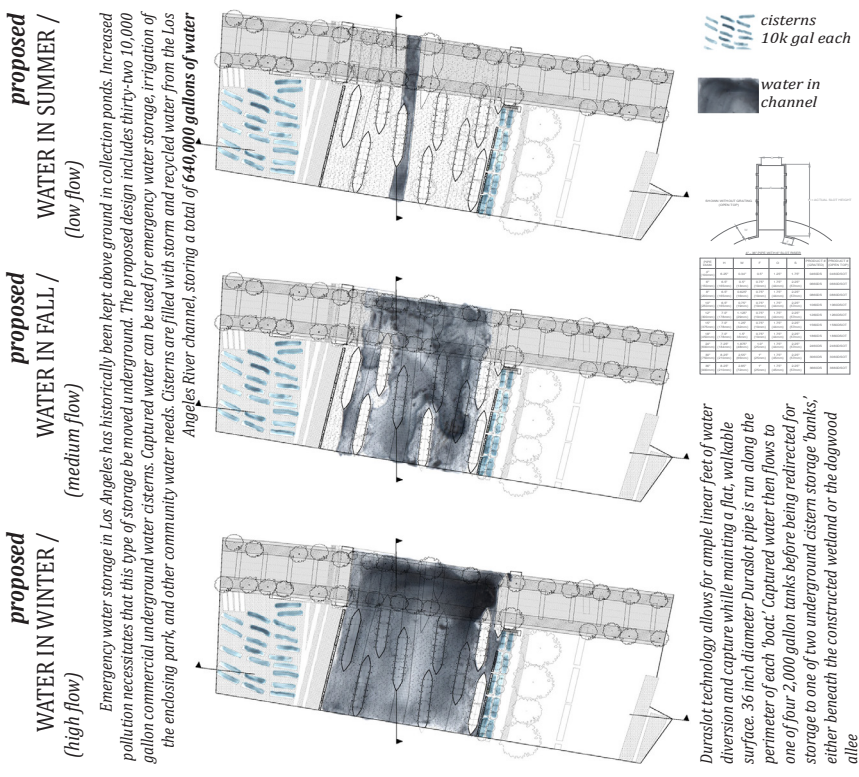
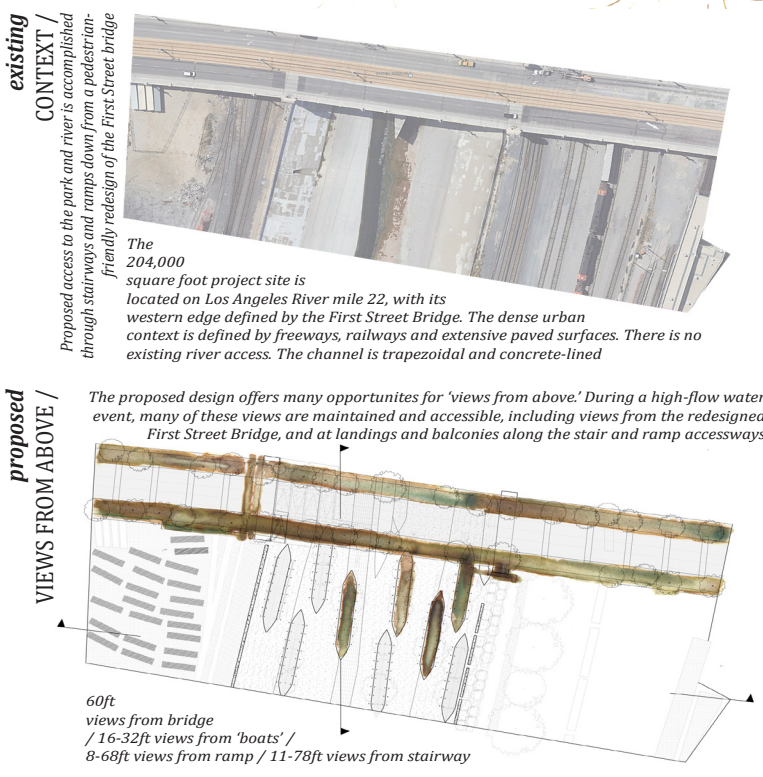
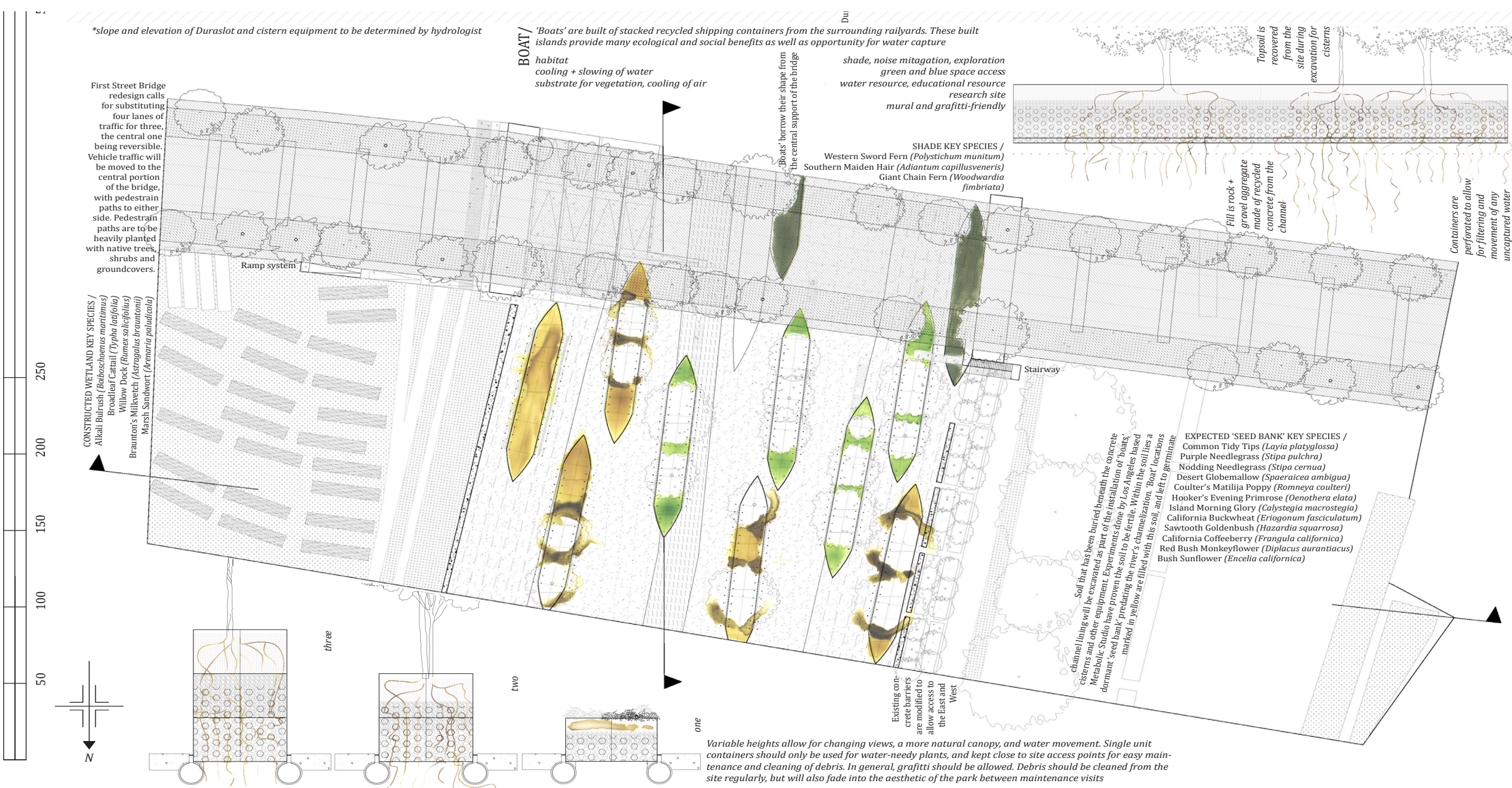
Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The Los Angeles River, historically known as the Porciúncula River, is a major watercourse in Southern California. It runs for a total of 51 miles through Los Angeles County, starting from its headwaters in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains, passing through the San Fernando Valley, Downtown Los Angeles, and the Gateway Cities, and ending at its mouth in Long Beach where it flows into San Pedro Bay. It was once a free-flowing river that frequently flooded and formed alluvial flood plains along its banks, but it is now controlled by a concrete channel that was built after a series of devastating floods in the early 20th century. Emergency water storage in Los Angeles has historically been kept above ground in collection ponds. Increased pollution necessitates that this type of storage be moved underground. The proposed design includes thirty-two 10,000 gallon commercial underground water cisterns. Captured water can be used for emergency water storage, irrigation of the enclosing park, and other community water needs. Cisterns are filled with storm and recycled water from the Los Angeles River channel, storing a total of 640,000 gallons of water

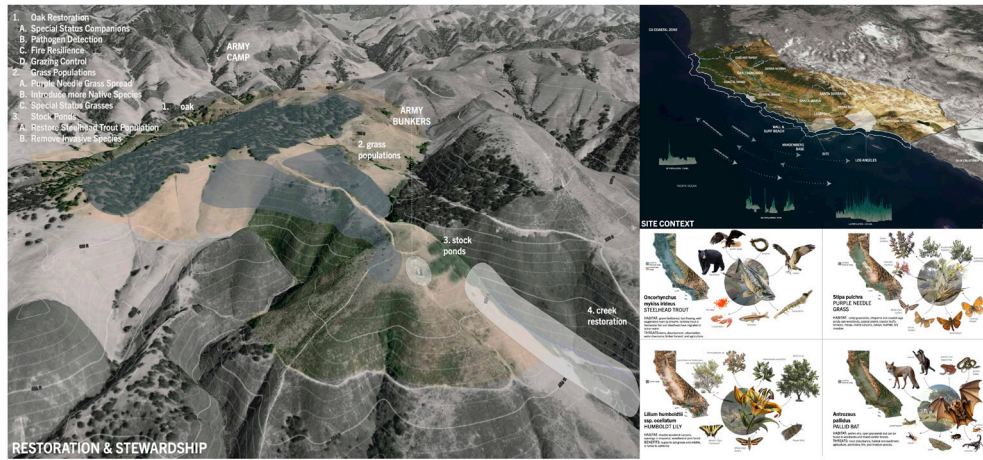
Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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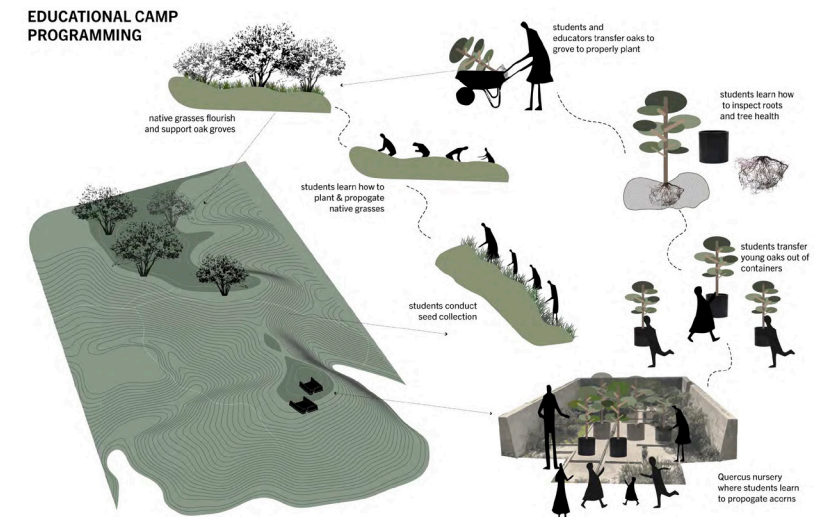
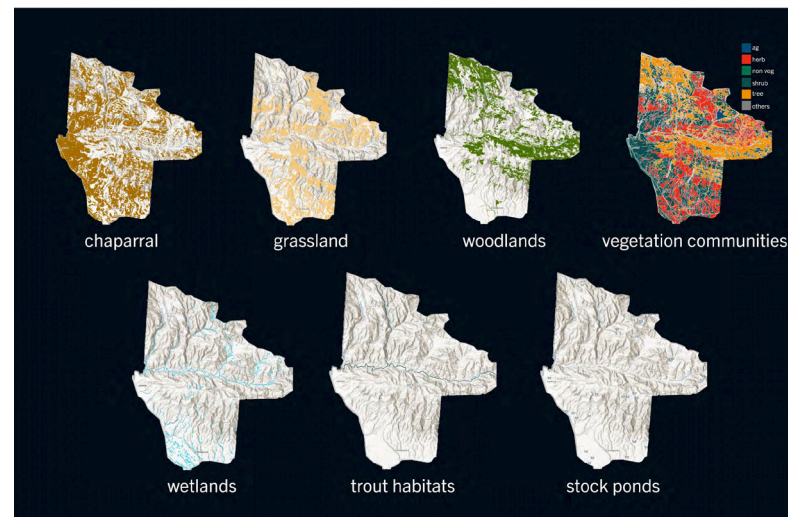


Jessica Lund / Spring 2022 / Module 04: LA3121 Topographic Experience / Instructor: Lucena Garcia



SEEDING THE FUTURE

Army Camp and Bunkers are located in Black Canyon at TNC Dangermond Preserve. We were tasked with designing a non developed site, and took a non-traditional route to "recreate" nature. This site is also used as an environmental education camp for students of Lompoc Unified. Through restoration and stewardship, the sites ecosystems will flourish through students learning how to propagate oak acorns into seedlings at their bunker nursery. The students will also harvest native grass seeds and plant them across the site to support and revitalize the soil and root systems below. As the site is at a high elevation, it has the ability to aid in rainwater capture to avoid erosion below. I plan to implement stock ponds for the endangered steelhead trout that would revive riparian systems. Recreating nature is difficult but learning the ecosystems and working with them can be taught to the young students of Lompoc.



Los Angeles, California, USA

California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Departement of Landscape Architecture, 2022-2023

Seeding The Future

Brianna Cruz



| | |
|---|--|
| Title of the project | Seeding The Future |
| Authors | Brianna Cruz |
| Title of the course | Studio LAB: Revitalizing TNC Dangermond |
| Academic year | 2022-2023 |
| Teaching Staff | Maryam Eskandari |
| Department / Section / Program of belonging | Landscape Architecture Department, 1st year Master in Landscape Architecture |
| University / School | California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Los Angeles, California |

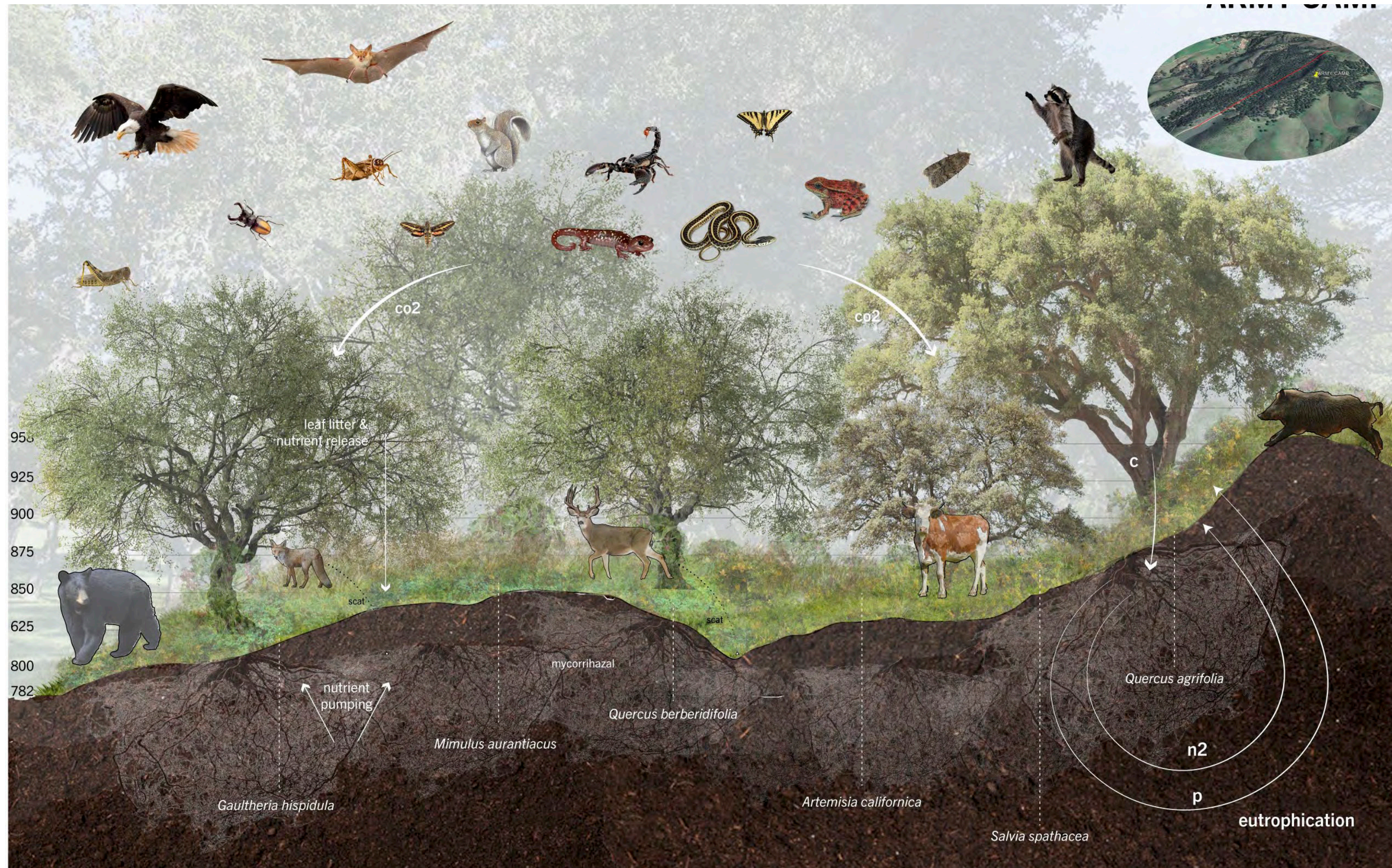
Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

A project showcasing the revitalization of land on TNC Dangermond through reintroducing and introducing plant and animal species, taking the land, cutting and filling it with new forms to lure the ecological masses. Restoration, stewardship, phytoremediation, and carbon sequestration participate in the revitalized environment. Once, a space used for those in the Army turned into a site used for educational purposes and the housing of many species. Army Camp and Bunkers are located in Black Canyon at TNC Dangermond Preserve. We were tasked with designing a non developed site, and took a non-traditional route to “recreate” nature. This site is also used as an environmental education camp for students of Lompoc Unified. Through restoration and stewardship, the sites ecosystems will flourish through students learning how to propagate oak acorns into seedlings at their bunker nursery. The students will also harvest native grass seeds and plant them across the site to support and revitalize the soil and root systems below. As the site is at a high elevation, it has the ability to aid in rainwater capture to avoid erosion below. The project plan to implement stock ponds for the endangered steelhead trout that would revive riparian systems. Recreating nature is difficult but learning the ecosystems and working with them can be taught to the young students of Lompoc.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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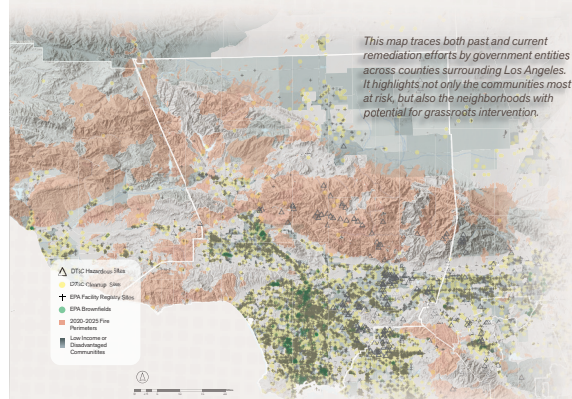
Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
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RETOOLING OURSELVES: LA COUNTY SOIL INITIATIVE

DO KYUNG LEE
LA5121 S25

CONTAMINATION MAP



CONTAMINANT OF FOCUS



Disproportionately impacts lower socioeconomic communities of color

Lead is non-degradable, making it one of the most persistent contaminants in our environment

Children are the most vulnerable to the harmful effects. They absorb four times more than adults

The largest lead contributors are lead paint, leaded gasoline, and industrial emissions.

In recent soil tests conducted by the LA County in Altadena, the results show elevated levels of heavy metals, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), and dioxins in areas affected by Eaton Fire. Findings reveal high levels of lead outside of the fire perimeter, where parcels are intact.

POST-FIRE CONTAMINANTS

+ ORGANIC

- VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS** paints, electronics, petroleum, hydraulics, fuels, solvents
- HYDROCARBONS** commonly found in petroleum products, fuels, plastics, roofing, asphalt

+ INORGANIC

- DIOXINS AND FURANS** carcinogenic byproduct; preserved woods, herbicides, bleach, PVC plastics, diesel
- POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS** coolants, lubricants, electrical equipment, rubber, plastics
- PER-AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)** firefighting foams, flame retardants
- CIRCUMSTANTIAL CONTAMINANTS** asbestos from building materials, trichloroethylene
- HEAVY METALS** lead, mercury, nickel, copper, chromium, arsenic

Over 90% of homes in Altadena were built before regulations of toxic building materials were enforced.

MATERIALS

REMEDATION AGENTS

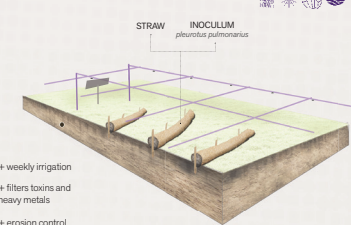
- ZEOLITE
- BIOCHAR
- COMPOST/COMPOST TEA
- MULCH
- CA NATIVE PLANTS
- NATIVE SOIL
- NATIVE FUNGI
- STRAW/CARDBOARD

ADDT'L

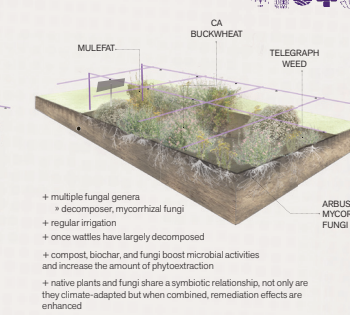
- SOIL PROBE
- BIODEGRADABLE WATTLE SOCKS

METHODS

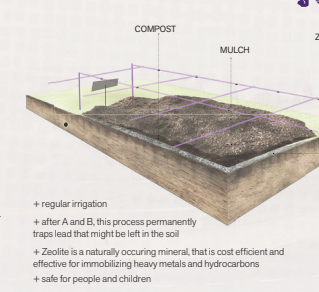
A MYCO + MICROBIAL REMEDIATION



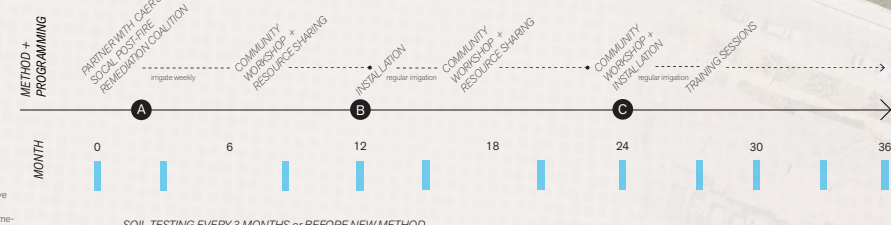
B MYCO + PHYTO + MICROBIAL REMEDIATION



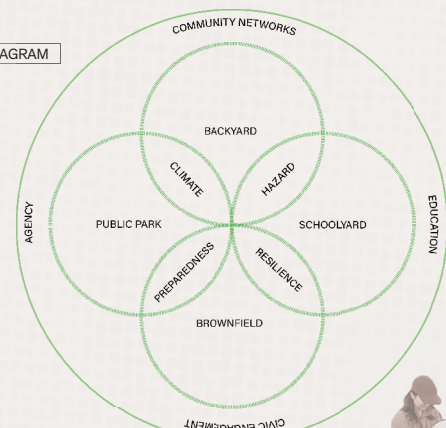
C MINERAL + MICROBIAL REMEDIATION



TIMELINE



SOCIAL DIAGRAM



1 SUPER BLOCK WEATHER TOWER



CENTERING COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS, AND COLLABORATION WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR SHARING WEATHER NEWS AND REBUILDING INFORMATION + SOIL UPDATES

SOLAR-POWERED WEATHER DATA COLLECTING STATION WITH LED SCREEN FOR USER INTERFACE

2 ACTIVE, IN-SITU REMEDIATION PLOT



COMMUNITY GATHERING AND EDUCATIONAL SPACE, LIVE-DEMONSTRATIONS OF EFFECTIVE AND AFFORDABLE BACKYARD REMEDIATION, IMPLEMENT CONSISTENT MATERIALS AND APPROACH TO ALL SITES TO EVOKE A SENSE OF UNITY AND RESILIENCE.

IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE: TO CREATE MORE NEEDED DATA TO CONTRIBUTE TO BIOREMEDIATION RESEARCH

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Loyola Marymount University
UCLA Caltech



RAINWATER TANKS FROM HARVESTING RAINWATER ON THIS SITE, APPROXIMATELY 14,100 GAL OF WATER CAN BE REUSED, WHICH WILL BE REDIRECTED TO IRRIGATE THE REMEDIATION PLOT

SITE PLAN



Los Angeles, California, USA

California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Departement of Landscape Architecture, 2024-2025

Retooling Ourselves: Los Angeles County Soil Iniciative

Do Kyung Lee



| | |
|---|--|
| Title of the project | Retooling Ourselves: Los Angeles County Soil Initiative |
| Authors | Do Kyung Lee |
| Title of the course | Studio Lab: the Group, the Public, the Community |
| Academic year | 2024-2025 |
| Teaching Staff | Cheryl K Lough |
| Department / Section / Program of belonging | Landscape Architecture Department, 1st year Master in Landscape Architecture |
| University / School | California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Los Angeles, California |

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Across our cities, soil contamination remains a pervasive—often invisible—threat, rooted in the legacy of industrial overdevelopment, infrastructural neglect, systemic environmental injustice, and, more recently, wildfire events. In the absence of sufficient government intervention, individuals and communities are increasingly left to protect themselves.

The project positions public space as a living laboratory for bioremediation — a strategy that addresses both environmental contamination and collective healing. Triangle Park presents an ideal launching point for this initiative. As conversations around redevelopment continue to accelerate, so too does the urgent need for community-led approaches to soil remediation. Any vision for rebuilding must begin with the health of the soil. By employing a consistent material palette and spatial framework, each intervention will be tailored to the specific contaminants present on site, while remaining visually and structurally recognizable as part of a larger regional network. These bioremediation sites will not only restore ecological function but also foster a visible sense of unity and shared resilience across neighborhoods and communities

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POST-FIRE CONTAMINANTS

+ ORGANIC

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

paints, electronics, petroleum, hydraulics, fuels, solvents

HYDROCARBONS

commonly found in petroleum products, fuels, plastics, roofing, asphalt

+ INORGANIC

DIOXINS AND FURANS

carcinogenic byproduct; preserved woods, herbicides, bleach, PVC plastics, diesel

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

coolants, lubricants, electrical equipment, rubber, plastics

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

firefighting foams, flame retardants

CIRCUMSTANTIAL CONTAMINANTS

asbestos from building materials, trichloroethylenes

HEAVY METALS

lead, mercury, nickel, copper, chromium, arsenic

LOW to HIGH persistence in the environment

Over 90% of homes in Altadena were built before regulations of toxic building materials were enforced.

MATERIALS

LOCALLY SOURCED

REMEDIATION AGENTS

ZEOLITE

BIOCHAR

COMPOST/ COMPOST TEA

MULCH

CA NATIVE PLANTS

NATIVE SOIL

NATIVE FUNGI

STRAW/ CARDBOARD

ADD'T'L

SOIL PROBE

BIODEGRADABLE WATTLE SOCKS

CA BRITTLEBUSH

DECOMPOSER FUNGI

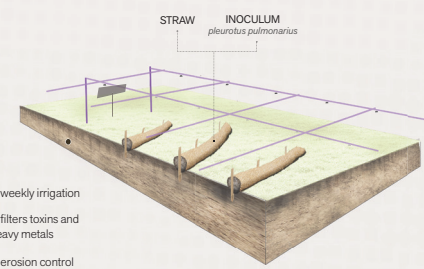
FUNGI + BACTERIA DECOMPOSITION

METAL EXTRACTION MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI + ROOTS

METHODS

A

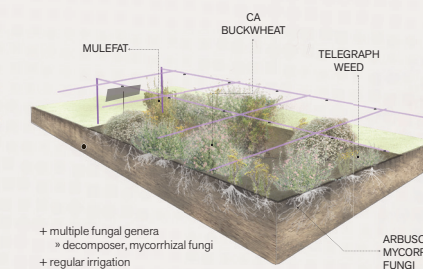
MYCO + MICROBIAL REMEDIATION



- + weekly irrigation
- + filters toxins and heavy metals
- + erosion control
- + biodegradable
- + continues to enrich soil

B

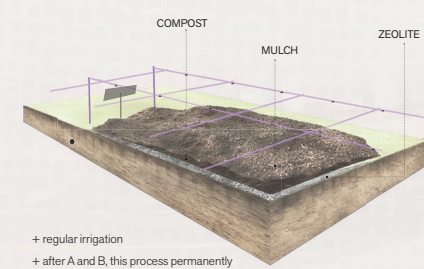
MYCO + PHYTO + MICROBIAL REMEDIATION



- + multiple fungal genera
- + decomposer, mycorrhizal fungi
- + regular irrigation
- + once wattles have largely decomposed
- + compost, biochar, and fungi boost microbial activities and increase the amount of phytoextraction
- + native plants and fungi share a symbiotic relationship, not only are they climate-adapted but when combined, remediation effects are enhanced

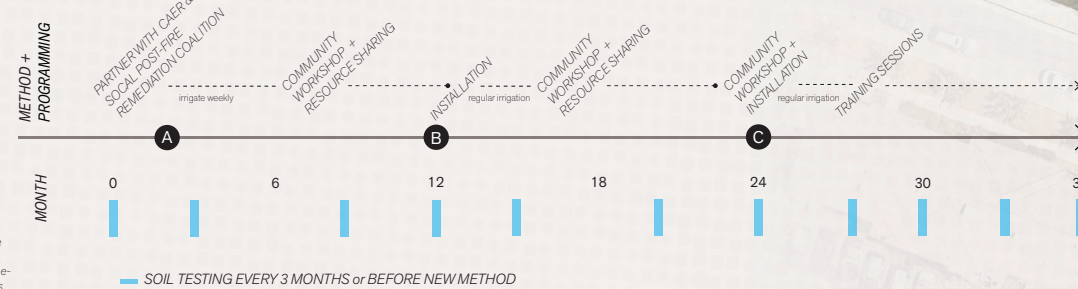
C

MINERAL + MICROBIAL REMEDIATION



- + regular irrigation
- + after A and B, this process permanently traps lead that might be left in the soil
- + Zeolite is a naturally occurring mineral, that is cost efficient and effective for immobilizing heavy metals and hydrocarbons
- + safe for people and children

TIMELINE



SITE PLAN

UCLA

Caltech



3 RAINWATER TANKS FROM HARVESTING RAINWATER ON THIS SITE, APPROXIMATELY 14,100 GAL OF WATER CAN BE REDIRECTED TO IRRIGATE THE REMEDIATION PLOT

ALTADENA DR

DRAIN

RESTAURANT

material ENTANGLEMENTS

A site-based lab for
exploration of urban ecology
in the Los Angeles River

The Los Angeles River is a place of blurred boundaries: between federal and city, natural and engineered, history and present, human and non-human. This project seeks to burrow into the tangled threads that find themselves weaving and wrapping around each other in the channel.

Taking advantage of California's dry season, the installation of the temporary boardwalk, made from invasive Arundo donax, would run from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

This project focuses on the dynamics between invasive arundo, man-made trash, and the ecology of the LA river. The site is a rocky landform in the river channel with a significant population of arundo and trash, in addition to willows, bowed over from heavy flow in the channel. The design and installation of the temporary boardwalk happens in community, to foster a sense of exploration of the river and the systems that meet within it. The maintenance and labor of preparing the site encourages tactile connections and deep engagement.

Use only material from the site:

- Arundo donax
- River cobble
- Trash
- Textiles
 - Blankets, clothing, drapes, rugs
- Metal
 - Shopping carts, license plates, rods, wire, bike frames, parking signs, baskets
- Plastic
 - Bags, food packaging, hoses
- Misc. Items
 - Suitcases, glass bottles, mattresses, string lights, foam, bike tires and inner tubes
- Tree stumps

Arundo Boardwalk

- *Dry, mature arundo reed
- *Woven arundo or palm textile

The top textile is tied/secured to the arundo reeds for a light-weight, portable ground covering.

Stool for site
Legs can be stuck in the sand or wedged between rocks to stabilize.

Community participation to design the path and prepare the site

Arundo Investigations

Experiment with different weaves

Los Angeles River Channel
River Mile: 25
Glendale Narrows
Frogtown, CA

Issy Cassou, LA 5121, Professor Garcia Spring '24

Los Angeles, California, USA

California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design, Departement of Landscape Architecture.

2023-2024

Material Entanglements

Issy Cassou



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| Title of the project | Material Entanglements |
| Authors | Issy Cassou |
| Title of the course | Studio LAB: Remaking Los Angeles River |
| Academic year | 2023-2024 |
| Teaching Staff | Lorena Garcia |
| Department / Section / Program of belonging | Landscape Architecture Department, 2nd year Master in Landscape Architecture |
| University / School | California State Polytechnic University of Pomona, College of Environmental Design |

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The Los Angeles River is a place of blurred boundaries: between federal and city, natural and engineered, history and present, human and non-human. This projects seeks to burrow into the tangled threads that find themselves weaving and wrapping around each other in the channel. Taking advantage of California’s dry season, the installation of the temporary boardwalk, made from invase Arundo donax, would run from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This project focuses on the dynamics between invasive arundo, man-made trash, and the ecology of the LA river. The site is a rocky landform in the river channel with a significant population of arundo and trash, in addition to willows, bowed over from heavy flow in the channel. The design and installation of the temporary boardwalk happens in community, to foster a sense of exploration of the river and the systems that meet within it. The maintenance and labor of preparing the site encourages tactile connections and deep engagement.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

Contact via email:
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Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d’Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

Use only material from the site:

- Arundo donax
- River cobble
- Trash
 - Textiles
 - Blankets, clothing, drapes, rugs
 - Metal
 - Shopping carts, license plates, rods, wire, bike frames, parking signs, baskets
 - Plastic
 - Bags, food packaging, hoses
- Misc. Items
 - Suitcases, glass bottles, mattresses, string lights, foam, bike tires and inner tubes
- Tree stumps

Arundo Boardwalk

*Dry, mature arundo reed

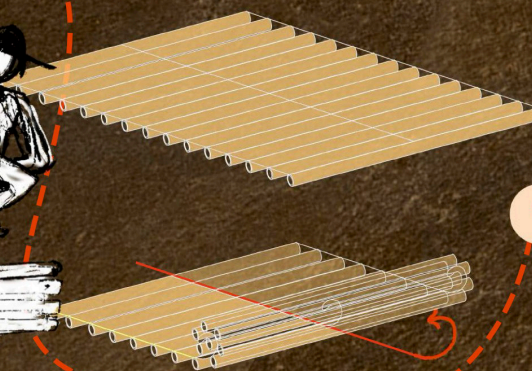
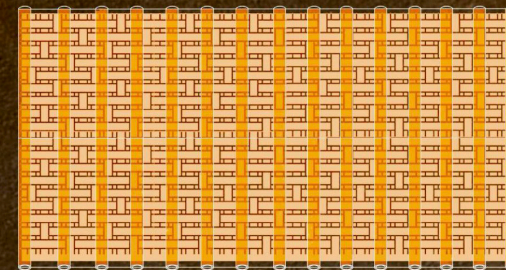
*Woven arundo or palm textile

The top textile is tied/secured to the arundo reeds for a light-weight, portable ground covering

Stool for site

Legs can be stuck in the sand or wedged between rocks to stabilize.

Community participation to design the path and prepare the site



Experiment with different weaves



Arundo Investigations

Scale: 3/