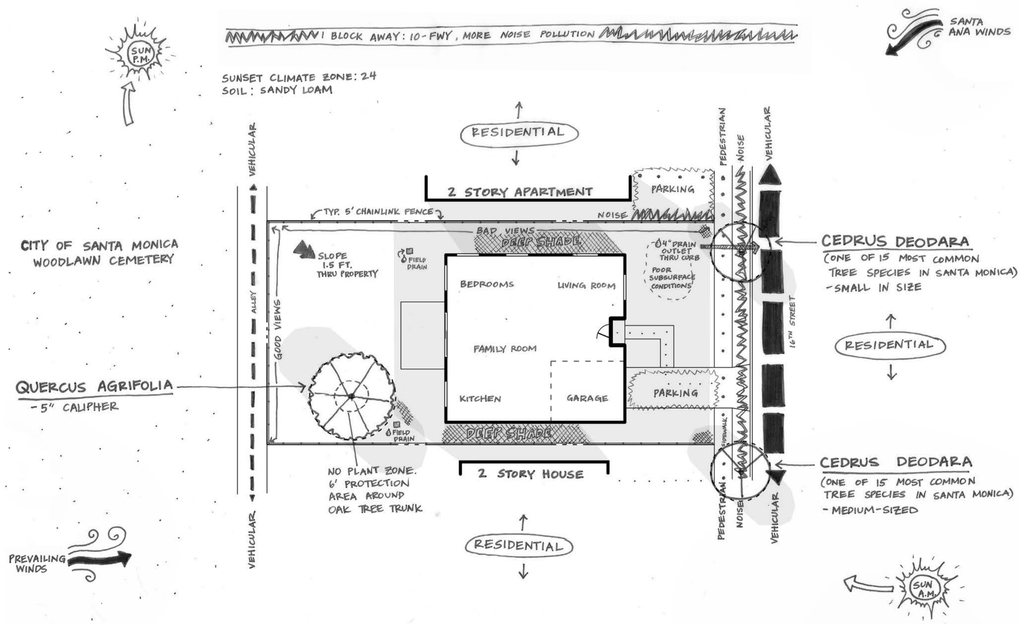
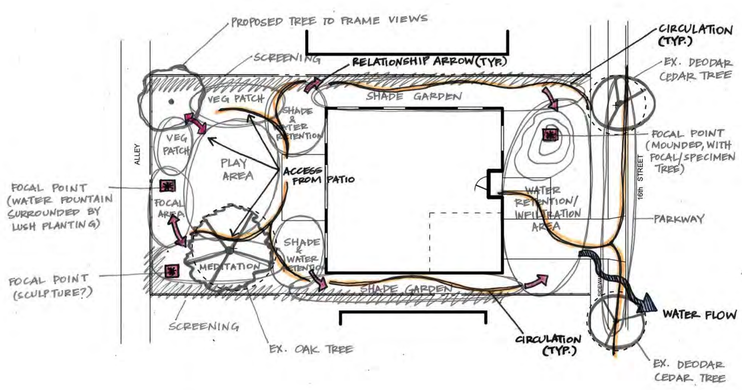
SITE ANALYSIS & BUBBLE DIAGRAM





DESIGN NARRATIVE

Located at 1834 16th Street in Santa Monica, CA, the residence shown is home to a young couple with an 8 year old daughter and a dog (a Daschund). After analyzing the site, it was apparent that the best views were toward the cemetery past the backyard, and alternatively, much privacy screening was needed to counteract the two story apartment building on the western side of the garden. Other design prompts included: planting a shade garden for the areas of deepest shade (along the side yards), protecting - and taking advantage of - the beautiful existing Oak Tree in the backyard, making a kitchen vegetable garden, designing a water infiltration/retention area (most beneficial where the water naturally drains on the site), and creating a quiet meditation area for the parents.

Using the existing *Quercus agrifolia* as an inspirational starting point for the design, I chose to design a woodland centered around a central meadow (or lawn) made of *Carex praegracilis* for the daughter and dog to play. For color inspiration, I chose to focus on vivid eye-catching colors - fun for the family to look at - such as blues, purples, and pinks, with their complementary colors orange and yellow. This informed the plant selection as well as the color pairings during various seasons of the year. However, in the meditation area - a wooden deck with a water feature at one end - the plant colors were more muted: green leafy vegetation with white or light pink flowers as well as plants with yellow in the form of their berries, such as *Ribes aureum gracillimum*. This design choice, in combination with the cool shade provided by the Oak as well as the fragrant scent to many of the plants placed in this area, contributes to the overall calming retreat-like feel of the meditation/relaxation corner.

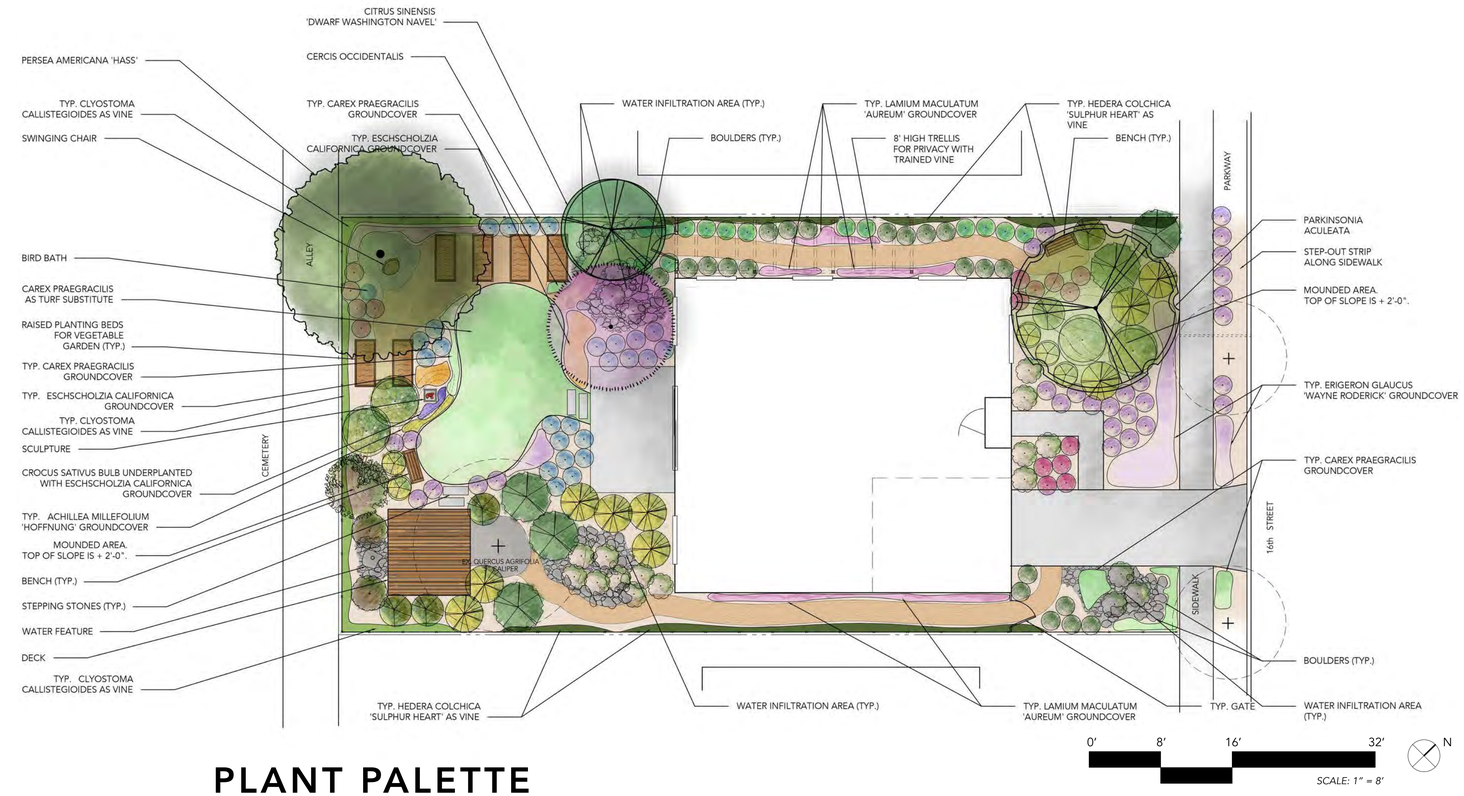
Another feature of the garden is a vegetable patch with raised planting beds. This area is not only for the parents to use for the family's food, but also serves as an educational space for the daughter to learn about sustainability and nature. This concept is emphasized with the large space for the daughter to inhabit under the Avocado Tree - her own retreat area, complete with a swinging chair hanging from one of the tree's branches. The foodscape of this residential landscape does not end there; plants with other herbal or edible interest were placed throughout the site, making the plants a feast for both one's eyes and stomach. Examples include: Hass Avocado, Dwarf Washington Navel, Lemonade Berry, Coffee Berry, Golden Currant, Winnifred Gilman Cleveland Sage, and Saffron Crocus.

Additionally, privacy and safety concerns were addressed. An 8' high trellis was introduced on the western side yard, where the bedroom windows were exposed to onlookers from the adjacent two story apartment building. A vine - *Hedera colchica* 'Sulphur Heart' - will beautify the trellis and add to the overall aesthetic of the shade garden created below. Moreover, the safety of the daughter and dog was taken into consideration, and lockable gates now exist in each side yard, making the backyard a safe space for the dog to play without any concern of it running away.

Water retention and infiltration areas were placed throughout the garden in three distinct areas as bioswales surrounded by rocks and boulders: two in the back yard and one in the front yard. The ones in the backyard are to each side of the concrete patio, where there are existing field drains. The placement of the infiltration areas in these locations maximize the potential for cleaning the water before it goes back into the water supply. The infiltration area in the front yard is placed at the lowest drainage point on the site, based upon the results of the site analysis. Grass-like plants in these areas continue this meadow-like feel in turn.

Finally, focal points were crucial to the design and understanding of the planting plan. As visible in the Bubble or Area Use Diagram, several focal points were created to draw the eye outward into both the front and back gardens. On axis with the house is a focal point straight ahead, where a mound has been created to add dimension to a planting area with much visual appeal, such as a bright-colored sculpture. In the corner of the backyard - in the meditation area - is a hidden water feature, the sound of which makes one want to go out and find it, in turn making the garden feel much larger. Lastly, in the front yard, a view from the living room window out onto a *Parkinsonia aculeata* and an adjacent bench is equally as irresistable.

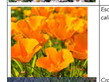
CONCEPTUAL PLAN



PLANT PALETTE

PHOTO	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH	WUCOLS	NATIVE	KEY
	Persea americana 'Hass'	Hass Avocado	30-40'	25-35'	Medium		
	Parkinsonia aculeata / *Cercidium aculeata*	Mexican Palo Verde / Jerusalem Thorn	15-30'	15-30'	Low	X	
	Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	10-18'	10-18'	Low	X	
	Citrus sinensis 'Dwarf Washington Navel'	Dwarf Washington Navel Orange	8-12'	8-12'	Medium		
	Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade Berry	3-10'	3-10'	Very low	X	
	Ceanothus 'Concha'	Concha Ceanothus	6-7'	6-8'	Low	X	
	Rhamnus californica / *Frangula californica*	Coffeeberry	6-8'	6-8'	Very low	X	
	Malacothamnus fasciculatus	Chaparral/Bush Mallow	4-6'	4-6'	Very low	X	
	Ribes aureum gracillimum	Golden currant	3-6'	3-6'	Very low	X	

PHOTO	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH	WUCOLS	NATIVE	KEY
	Carpenteria californica	Bush anemone	6-8'	3-5'	Low	X	
	Mimulus aurantiacus	Sticky Money Flower	3-4.5'	3-4.5'	Very low	X	
	Salvia clevelandii 'Winnifred Gilman'	Winnifred Gilman Cleveland Sage	3'	3'	Very low	X	
	Digitalis x mertonensis	Merton's Foxglove	2-3'	2-3'	Medium		
	Acanthus mollis	Bear's Breech	4-5'	2-3'	Medium		
	Aspidistra elatior	Cast Iron Plant	2-3'	2-3'	Medium		
	Lavandula 'Goodwin Creek Grey'	Goodwin Creek Lavender	2-3'	2-3'	Low		
	Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass	1-2'	2-4'	Medium		
	Carex praegracilis	California Field Sedge	<1'	Spreading	Medium	X	

PHOTO	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH	WUCOLS	NATIVE	KEY
	Achillea millefolium 'Hoffnung'	Hoffnung Yarrow	1-3'	1-2'	Medium		
	Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'	'Wayne Roderick' Seaside Daisy	1'	1-2'	Low	X	
	*Eschscholzia californica*	California Poppy	1-2'	1-2'	Very low	X	
	Crocus sativus	Saffron Crocus	<1'	<1'	Medium		
	Lamium maculatum 'Aureum'	Spotted Dead Nettle 'Aureum'	6-12"	6-12"	Medium		
	Clytostoma callistegioides	Lavender Trumpet Vine	15-20'	15-20'	Medium		
	Hedera colchica 'Sulphur Heart'	Sulphur Heart Persian Ivy	20-30'	2-3'	Low		

RIVKAH SPOLIN
UCLA EXTENSION: LANDSCAPE DESIGN 5
PROJECT 1: RESIDENTAL PLANTING CONCEPT
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