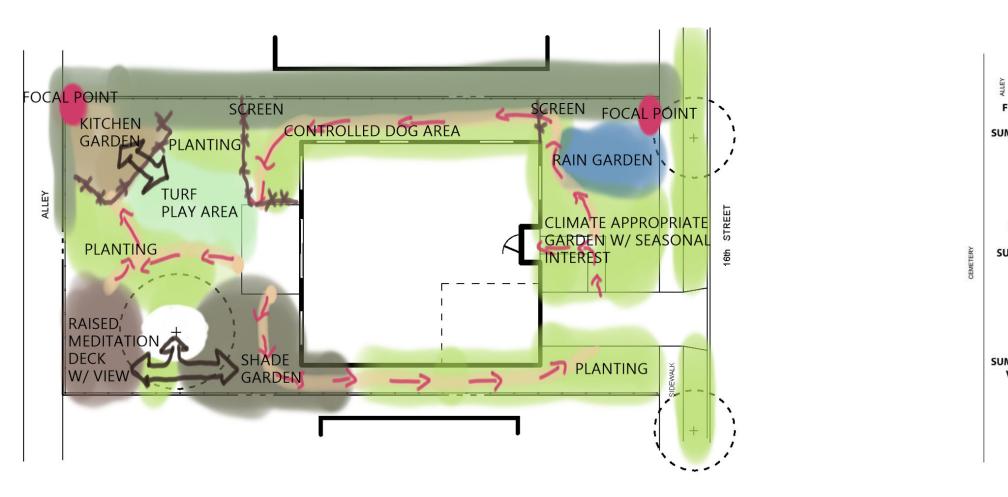
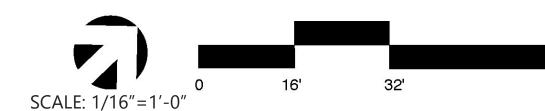


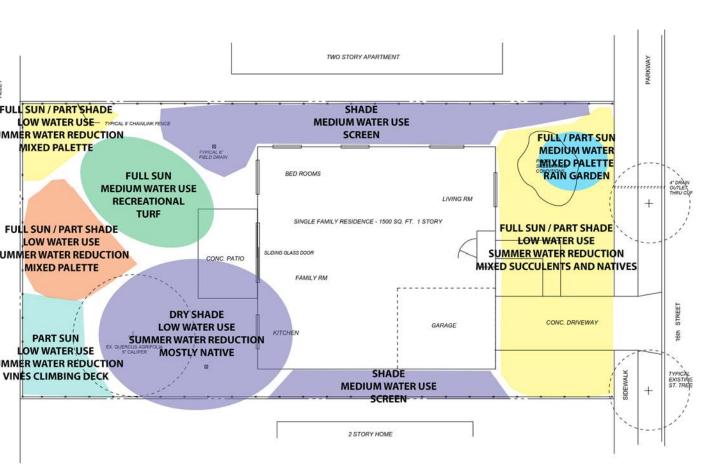
AREA USE DIAGRAM





E SEASONAL SANTA ANA WINDS

HYDROZONE PLANNING



WRITTEN NARRATIVE

Designing a yard for a young couple with a dog and a small child is about striking a balance between the practical and the picturesque. A controlled space for the dog, a turf play area for the kid, a kitchen garden, and a meditation retreat for the parents—these are practical elements requested by the client. The goal is to integrate those elements into a thriving and environmental planted landscape.

This design confines the dog run primarily to the northern side yard, which allows ample room for the dog without dominating the backyard space. It is important to have an easily accessible turf area for the child's recreation. However, we made sure to limit it to less than 25% of the total landscaped area for aesthetic and water conservation reasons. A kitchen garden is nestled in the far western corner of the backyard, where it will receive the most sun. A raised meditation (and possibly dining) deck is hidden behind the oak tree in the opposite back corner of the yard. This raised deck will open up a view of the adjacent cemetery, a valuable but completely unused asset of the property.

As for the planting plan, the back and front yards are separated into distinct hyrodronzes with different water requirements and sun exposure. A shade garden is located in the back under the oak tree where the house provides abundant shade. The rest of the backyard planting area is located in full sun/part shade and contains a mix of native plants and seasonal color. The northern fence is lined with alternating hedges to screen views from the adjacent apartment building. The southern fence is covered with vines. The front yard is a mixed plant palette with succulents and shrubs. A rain garden for stormwater infiltration is located in the northern corner. To construct this, the underground debris in that area of the yard would have to be excavated. In the far northern corner, behind the rain garden, is a raised mound with a Catalina Ironwood specimen tree that acts as a focal point. Two other large specimen succulents, an Aloe plicatilis and an Agave americana var. mediopicta 'Alba,' add additional interest to the front. Dymondia margaretae line most of the paths in the front and back because they are hardy and can handle light traffic. Nearly all plants have low or very low water requirments and do best with summer water reduction. The areas that require medium water requirements are the turf play area, citrus kitchen garden, northern side yard hedges, and front rain garden.

Most of the chosen plants require well-draining soil, so the existing sandy loam is perfectly adequate. Some slight soil amendment of additional non-organic material might be needed and as always, spraying the area with compost tea right after planting will help soil microbe health. Recommended irrigation is 1/2 inch drip tubing.

With the right touch, this garden will become an oasis for humans and wildlife, seamlessly blending the functional and the beautful.

