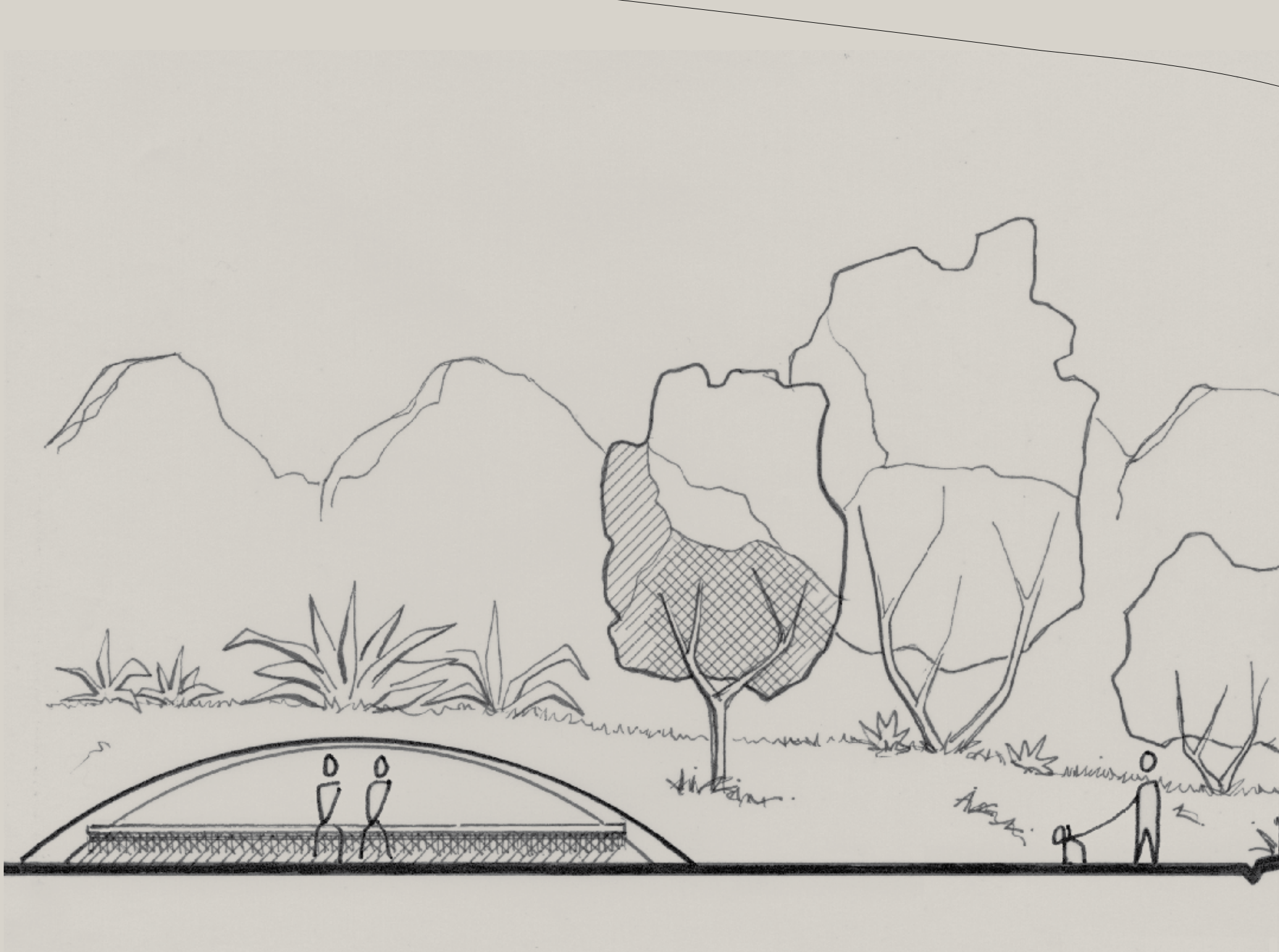
A detailed landscape design plan for Tongva Park. The plan features a central, winding path or stream bed, bordered by a series of irregular, light-colored stones. To the left of this central feature is a large, dense cluster of green, rounded shrubs or trees, interspersed with smaller, star-shaped plants. To the right, there are more greenery elements, including a large, rounded tree-like shape and several smaller, star-shaped plants. The overall design is a top-down view of a park area, with various plantings and a central water feature or path.

DESIGN GRAPHICS 3
ARCH-X 472.4F

TONGVA PARK

DESIGNER - BRENNAN GROH
INSTRUCTOR - LAURA RAZO



04-05 **INTRO**

06-09 **CONTEXT**

10-11 **ANALYSIS**

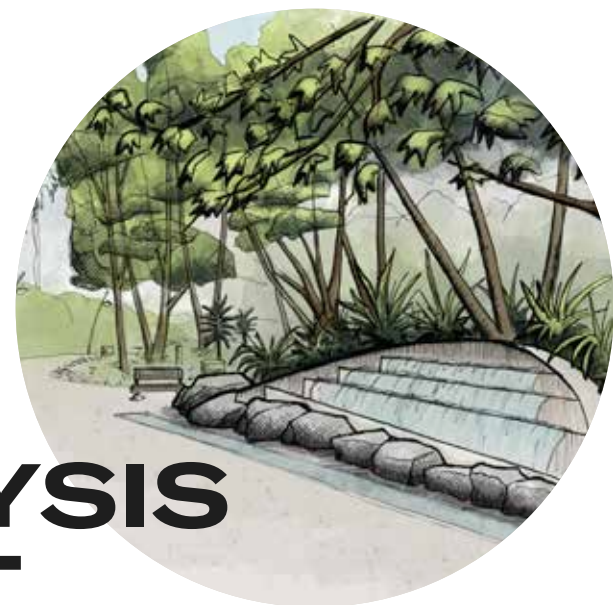
12-16 **CONCEPT**

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**“GREAT PUBLIC SPACES
ALLOW PEOPLE
TO BE EXPOSED
TO
OTHER PEOPLE.”**

– JAMES CORNER

TONGVA PARK

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet is the culmination of my graphic communication and process development through the Design Graphics (DG) courses in the UCLA Extensions Landscape Architecture Program. The subject matter studied during this process was Tongva Park in Santa Monica, CA.

In DG 1 we were introduced to the park and did a deep dive into one quadrant that was assigned to us. Through this introductory study we were able to learn a lot of functional and foundational knowledge through drafting and tools, line weights, perspective drawing, and observation. This served as the base of our graphic communication for the built space.

DG2 had us looking at Tongva Park as a whole rather than just a small section. This got us thinking about the ‘big idea’ behind the built space and how to communicate that visually, honing our line weight skills and adding color to our hand graphics communication toolkit. Here, we started asking questions: What was the intent of the designer? How is the space actually being used? How does it connect with it’s surroundings and the community? What inspired the designer’s concept?

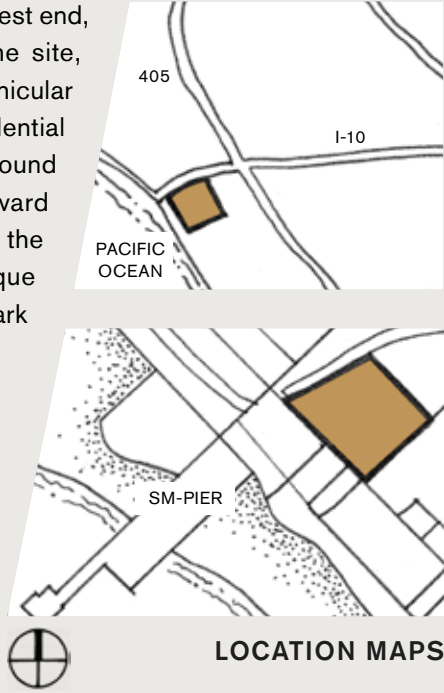
The pages of this booklet use hand drawing techniques that were practiced in both DG1 and DG2 and combine them in the digital space. DG3 showed me the importance of hand drawn graphics, and how we can enhance them digitally. Developing your own hand in graphic communication helps to breathe expression and life into your concepts and designs; digital tools can help strengthen the communication and organization of those ideas.

Prior to this process I was already very familiar with the park, having visited many times on lunch breaks. After taking the Design Graphics courses I will never look at Tongva Park, or any built space, without a critical eye and appreciation of concept and execution.

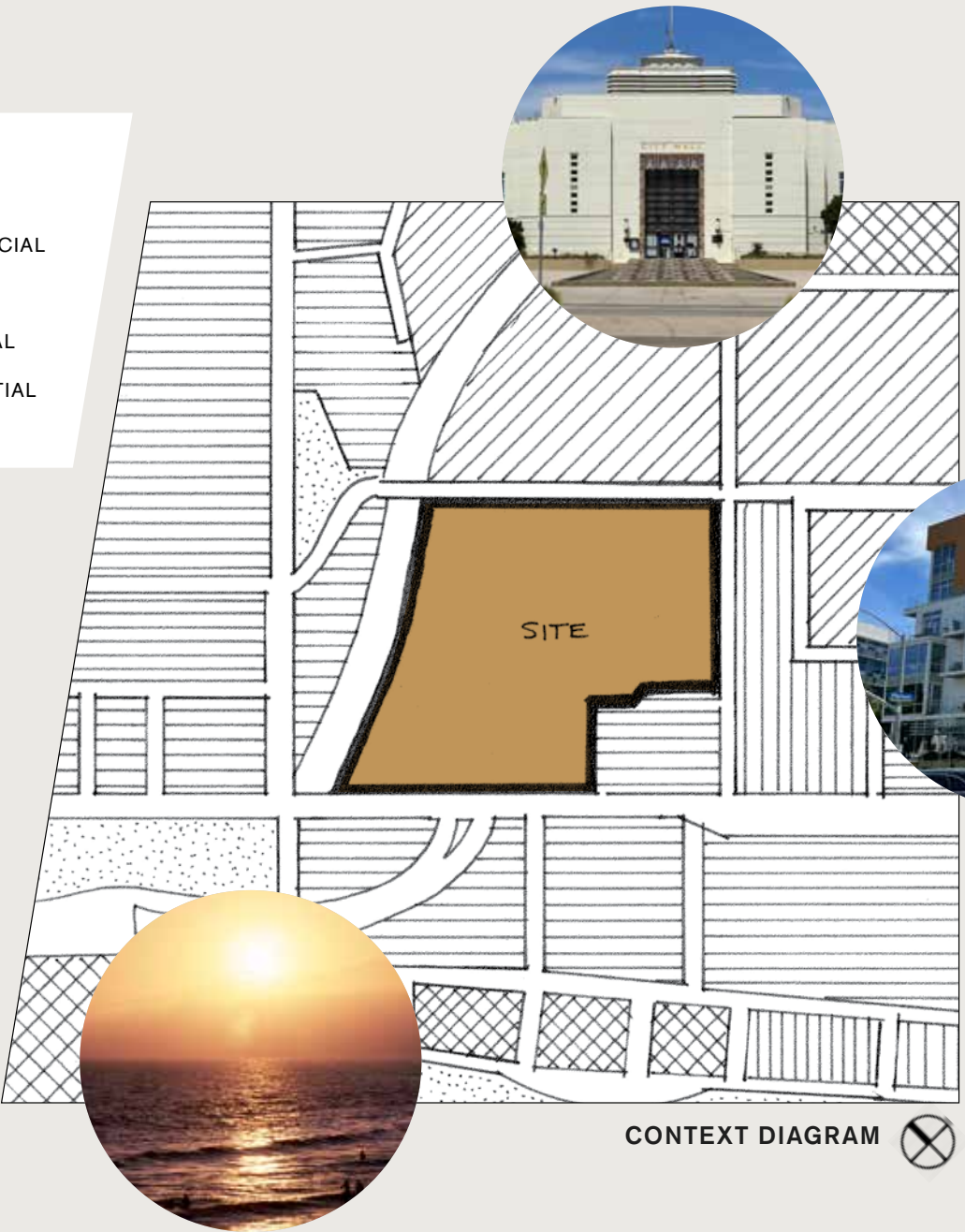
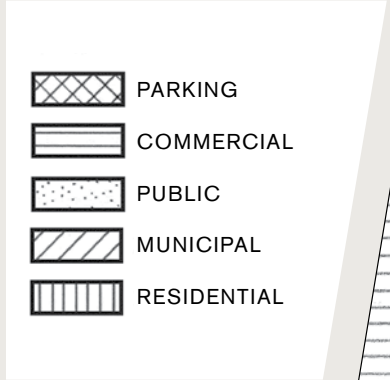
INTRO

PARKING LOT -> PARK

Set the scene: Situated in the heart of Santa Monica, CA, Tongva Park combines form and function in a once derelict, 6.2 acre parking lot. Land usage on either side is quite different. The site knits together the community from all four sides. It forms as a connection between Santa Monica City Hall/Civic Center and the world famous Santa Monica Pier and beaches, welcoming millions of tourists each year. The 10 freeway borders the northwest end of the park, separating it from the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place shopping districts. On the southwest end, Olympic Boulevard was extended through the site, connecting it to Ocean Avenue, opening up vehicular circulation in the area. A new, multi-family residential building with mixed use retail space on the ground floor was constructed across Olympic Boulevard shortly after the park's development helps give the site a more local visitor. Because of it's unique location, Tongva Park was destined to be a park for the people.



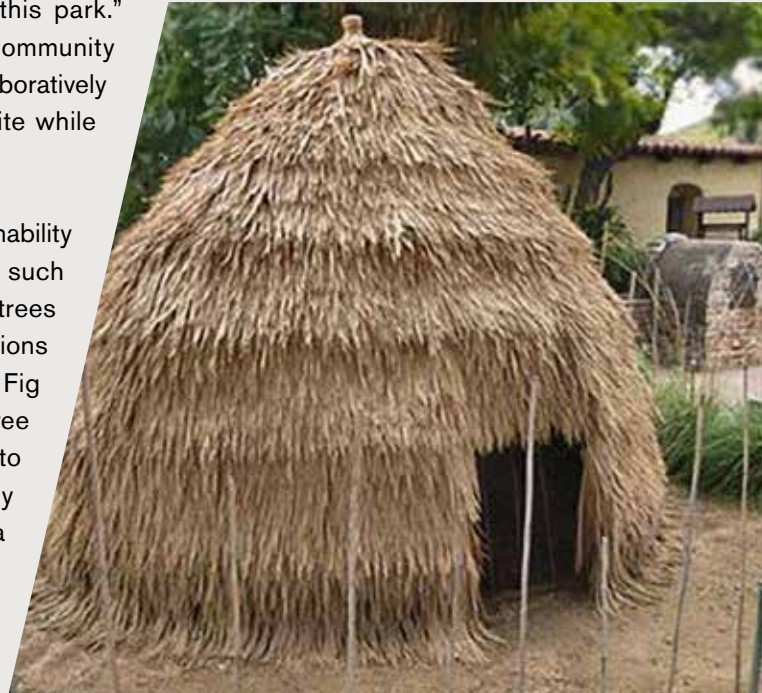
TONGVA PARK



SITE CONTEXT

Although Tongva Park was previously a parking lot in it's recent history, the site's history goes back much further than that. Prior to becoming the Santa Monica that we know today, the land was the home to the indigenous people of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe. The park's name is an homage to the area's original inhabitants and their connection "to the original arroyos, native landscape, springs, and the 'breath of the ocean' that are symbolically represented in this park." Through the design and development process the community along with James Corner Field Operations worked collaboratively to create a space that restored ecosystems to the site while providing cultural context to it's rich history.

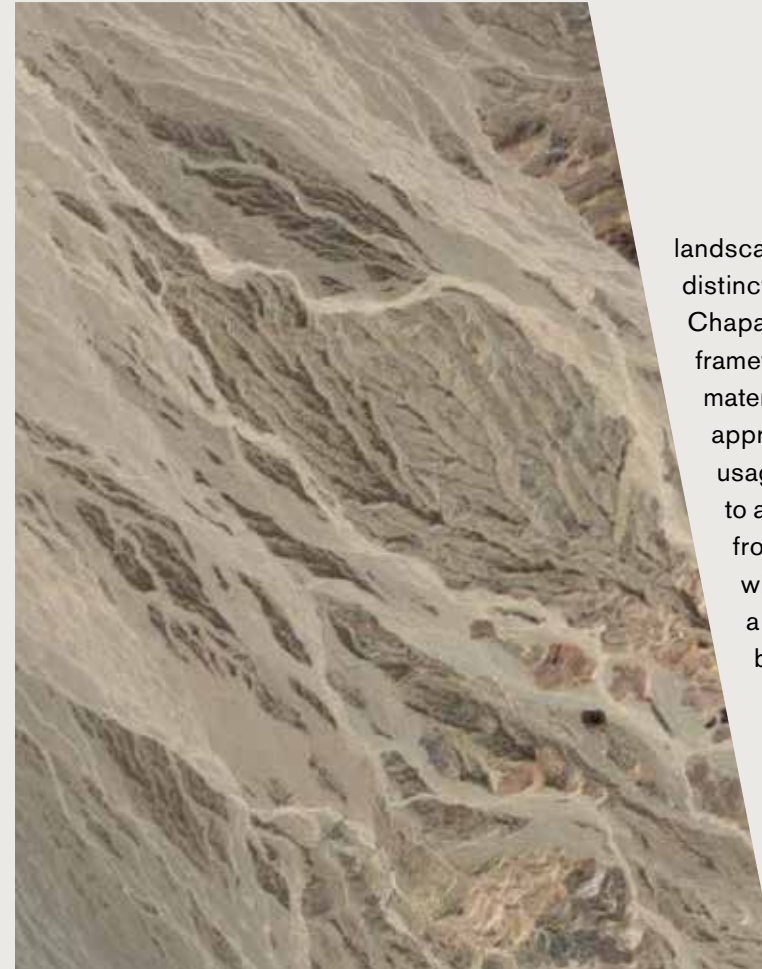
Santa Monica is known for it's environmental and sustainability initiatives and it's no surprise to see this influence on such a large project like Tongva Park. Many of the original trees on the site were preserved and/or moved to other locations on the site. Most notable are the large Mission Bay Fig that sits between the park and the 10 freeway, the Three Amigos, three large ficus trees that were relocated to help provide a sound buffer to the freeway, and many palm trees that are a popular visual in the Santa Monica



**Recreated Gabrielino-Tongva
Tribe dwelling**

Photo courtesy of gabrielinotribe.org

TONGVA PARK



**Ariel view of dried desert washes of
Southern California**

Photo courtesy of Google Earth

landscape. New trees were selected and grouped into three distinct areas "modeled on native California Coastal Scrub, Chaparral, and Riparian plant communities" and provide a framework for the plant material palette. The additional plant material was selected from a mixture of native and location-appropriate that would support and enhance the intended usage and original vision of the design concept. In addition to a sympathetic plant palette, the site utilizes recycled water from the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility which is collected along with storm water run-off through a network of bioswales across the site. In addition to the bioswales, 70% of the park's surface was designed to be permeable, capturing more storm water on site.

Through extensive collaboration, sympathetic design, and cultural sensitivities, Tongva Park is the modern day postcard of Santa Monica.

SITE CONTEXT



Primary circulation
Ocean Avenue

Secondary circulation
Olympic Boulevard

Tertiary circulation
Main Street

I-10 Freeway



Primary circulation
from West entrance

Secondary circulation
at Gathering Hill

Tertiary circulation at
Garden Hill

Crosswalk to
residential building at
Olympic Boulevard



Shaded
picnic area

Meandering
paths

Observation
decks

Tot lot

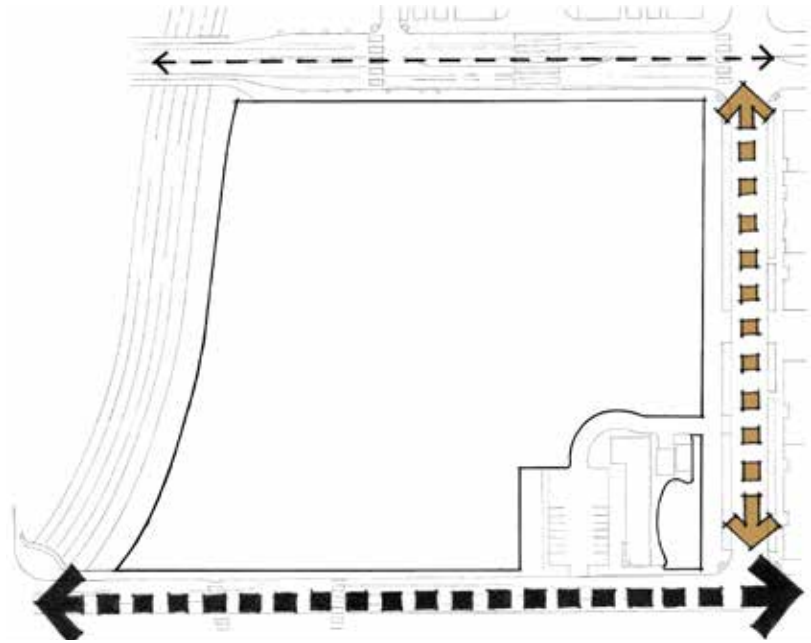


Adjacent fountain at
Ken Genser Square

Northeast entry
water feature

Ground plane water
channels run from
East to West

Water feature at the
West entrance



VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

PRIMARY ■ ■ ■

SECONDARY ■ ■ ■

TERTIARY - - -

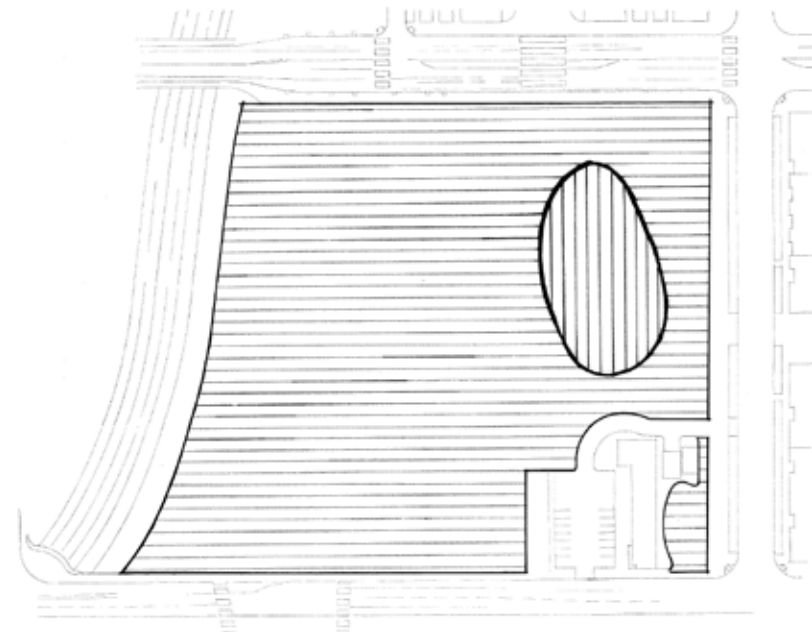


PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

PRIMARY ● ● ●

SECONDARY ● ● ●

TERTIARY . . .



RECREATION

ACTIVE ▨ ▨ ▨

PASSIVE ▨ ▨ ▨



WATER CIRCULATION



California Sycamore
Plantanus racemosa



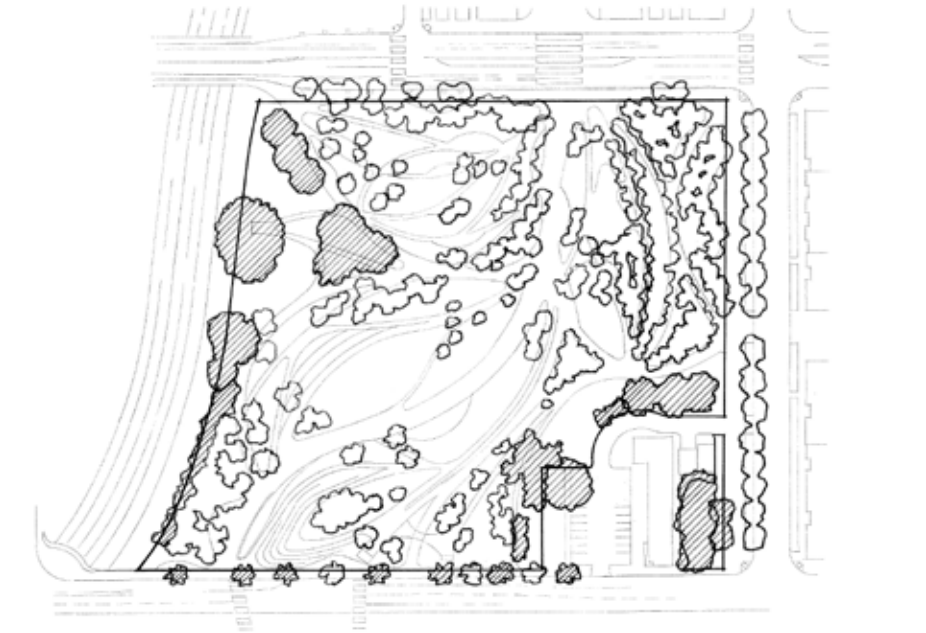
Marina Strawberry Tree
Arbutus marina



Torrey Pine
Pinus torreyana



Olive Tree
Olea europaea



TREE CANOPY

EXISTING TREES

PROPOSED TREES

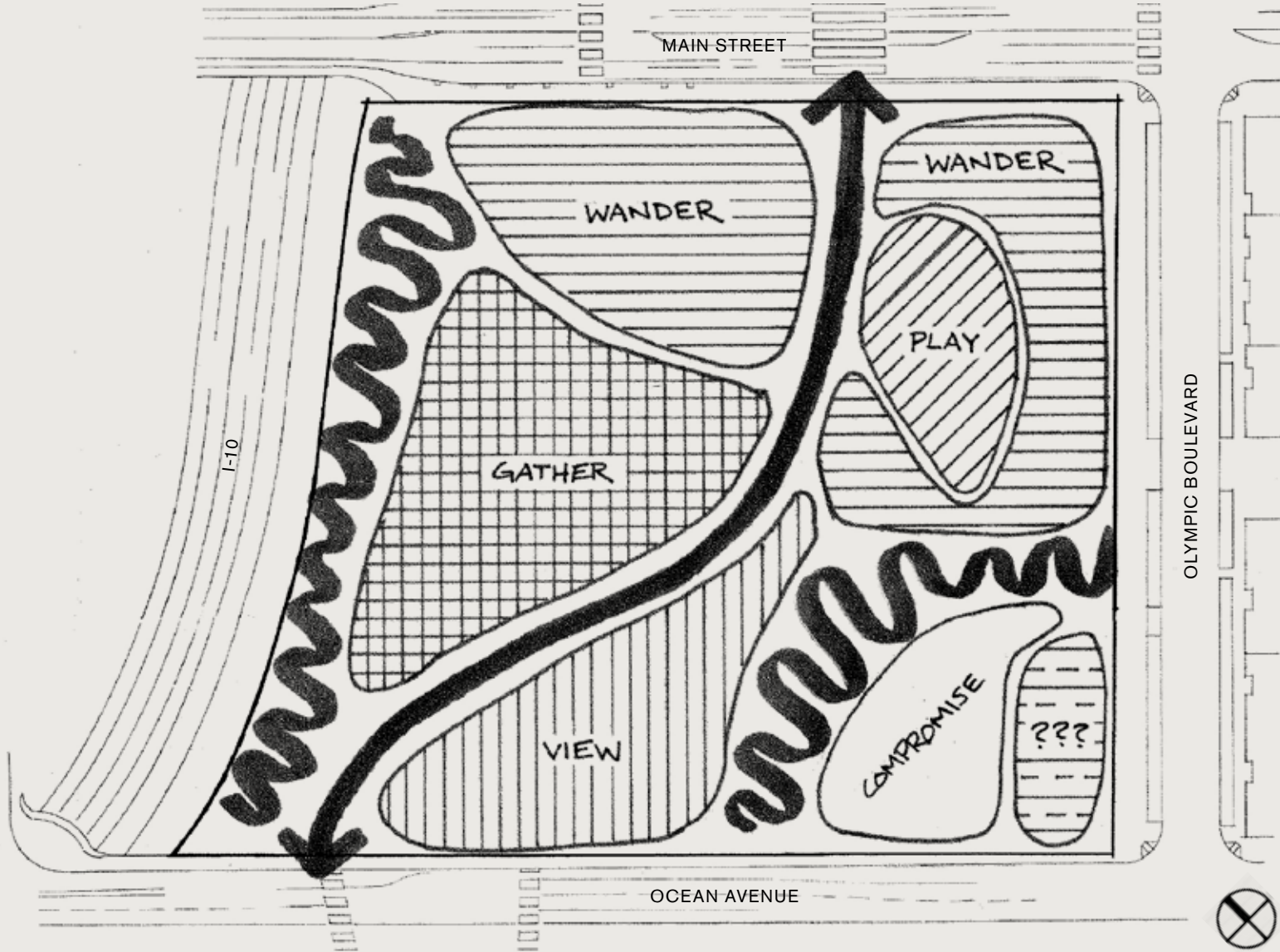


CONNECTION

As mentioned, the visual concept for Tongva Park draws inspiration from the arroyos, natural landscape, and indigenous people that once inhabited the site. This was translated through the fluid paths, raised berms, architectural features, and sympathetic water systems that stitch the park together and provide a culturally significant space for the surrounding community, connecting the past with the present.

Because of the varied land use on all sides, Tongva Park was designed to be a point of connection for the community. Not only does the park make efforts to connect to its surroundings, City Hall, Civic Center, Santa Monica Pier and beaches, and residential buildings, it also does double-duty and provides areas of connection within its borders.

The park was created in four quadrants: Garden Hill, Discovery Hill, Gathering Hill, and Observation Hill (see pages 14-15).



CONCEPT



GARDEN HILL

More intimate spaces for connection on a smaller or personal scale were created on the northeast end of the park. Berms rise from the ground providing alcoves that are carved out for seating and provide a visual buffer from the surrounding pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Native and Southern California friendly planting provides seasonal interest and change throughout the year.



DISCOVERY HILL

A kids play area is located in the shadiest and most active corner of the garden. A splash pad, integrated slides and play structures, and music wall offer the community a place to bring their kids to wear off excess energy and connect with their neighbors.



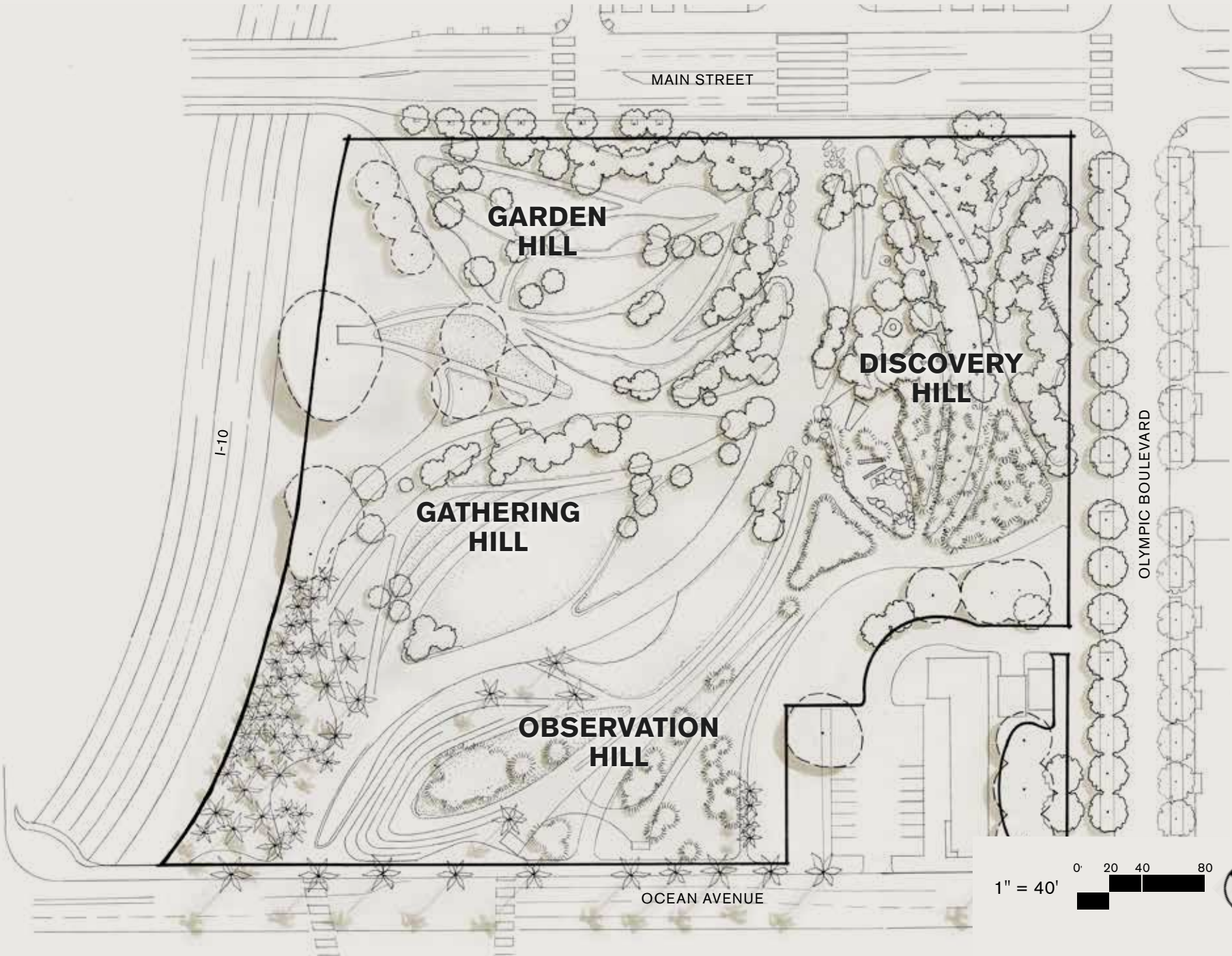
GATHERING HILL

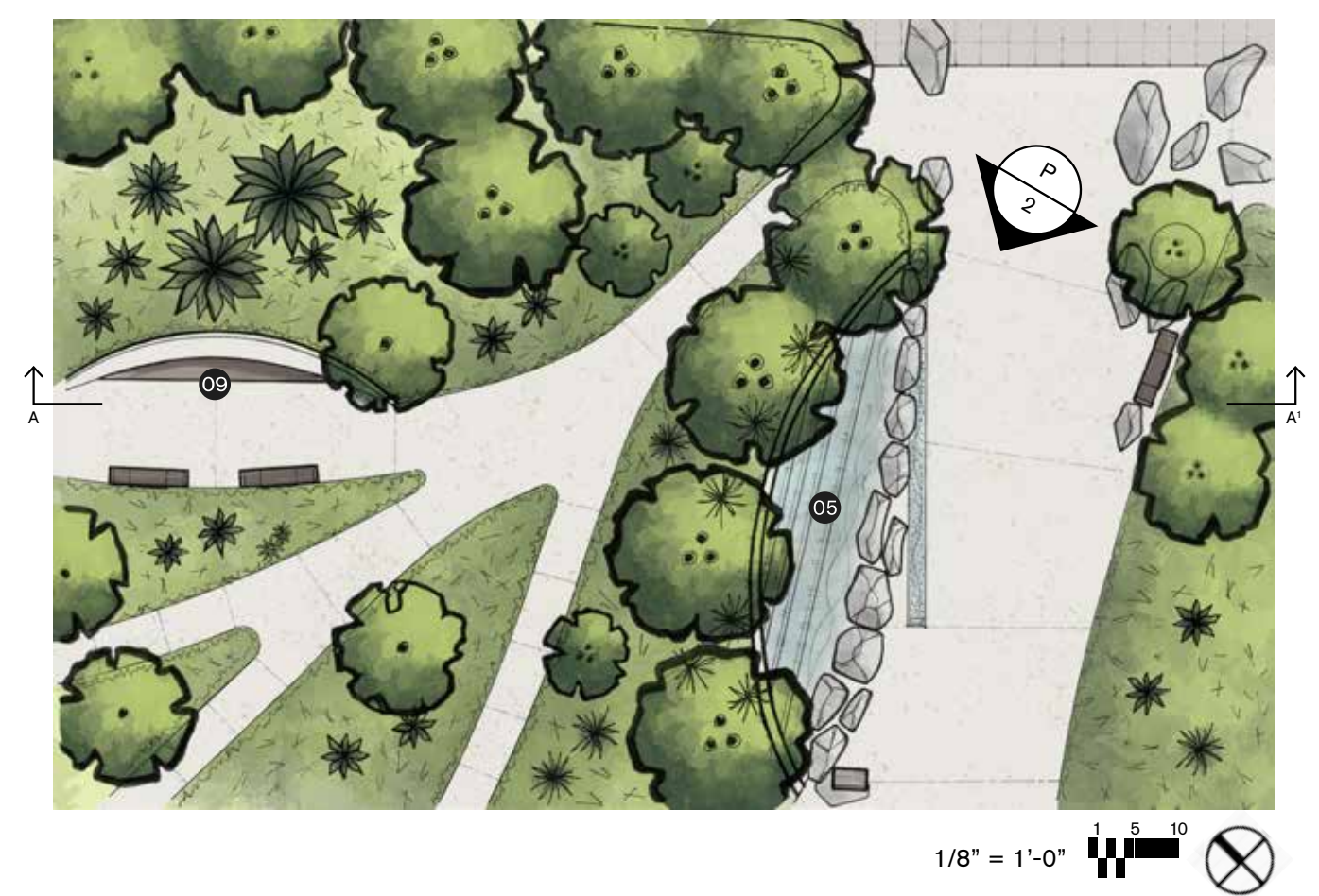
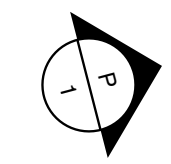
A large open lawn and amphitheater style seating developed near the center of the park provides an open space for larger gatherings and cultural events. Less formal picnic areas were built in for an additional social element.



OBSERVATION HILL

True to it's name, Observation Hill provides some of the best views from the park. Two cyclone structures envelop viewing decks where visitors can catch a glimpse of the Pier, ocean and the best sunsets Santa Monica has to offer. Truly iconic for both locals and tourists.





SITE PLAN - ENLARGEMENT - SECTION ELEVATION



LEFT
Typical retaining
wall seat

ABOVE
Water feature at
Northeast entrance

PERSPECTIVE DRAWINGS



PAVING

A majority of the path paving has an exposed aggregate texture. The designer opted to change the scale of the aggregate according to the hierarchy of the pedestrian circulation. Larger aggregate is seen on paths with greater circulation and smaller aggregate on paths with lighter circulation.



RETAINING WALLS

Many of the retaining walls inside and surrounding the park are made out of concrete that has been textured to have a more organic appearance and connect it to the rugged terrain of the surrounding mountains.



BOULDERS

California gold boulders are used as more organic, informal bollards at a few different entrances as well as at the base of the water feature on the Northeast side of the park. The material was chosen to further connect the park to the geology of Southern California.



WATER FEATURES

Two main water features are found at either main entrance of the park. These water features are visually connected by water channels in the ground plane that flow along side the primary pedestrian circulation. The water circulation within the park also have a visual connection to the adjacent water feature found in front of City Hall in Ken Genser Square.



PLAY STRUCTURES

Custom fabricated steel structures were created for the Tot Lot reference the traditional structures built by the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe. They've been painted in vibrant, kid-friendly colors.



OBSERVATION DECKS

There are two observation decks located at the West end of the park to take advantage of the views of the world-famous Santa Monica Pier, beaches, and sunsets. These observation decks are enveloped with steel structures that reference rolling waves coming in off of the ocean.



BENCHES

There are several different types of benches throughout the park. The most integrated benches are carved into the berms and double as a retaining wall. These spaces create more intimate, private settings within the park. This curved, arching shape can be found repeated throughout the park in different forms.



LIGHTING

Custom light bollards are dotted throughout Garden Hill to enhance the more intimate setting at night time.



BRENNAN GROH

Brennan Groh graduated with a BFA in Fine Arts with a focus on Graphic Design. Since then, he has been living and practicing design and visual storytelling in Los Angeles with a focus on socially-responsible startups and non-profits. Having experience in design and an interest in evolving cityscapes and the role that green spaces (both commercial and residential) play in that evolution to create vibrant, healthier communities (and planet) lead him to pursue the field of Landscape Architecture. With each project, he hopes to benefit local ecosystems and give the planet a hi-5.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the Design Graphics instructors David Squires, Rebecca Schwaner, and Laura Razo for sharing your knowledge and guidance each quarter. It's been a challenge in the best way possible and I appreciate your insight.

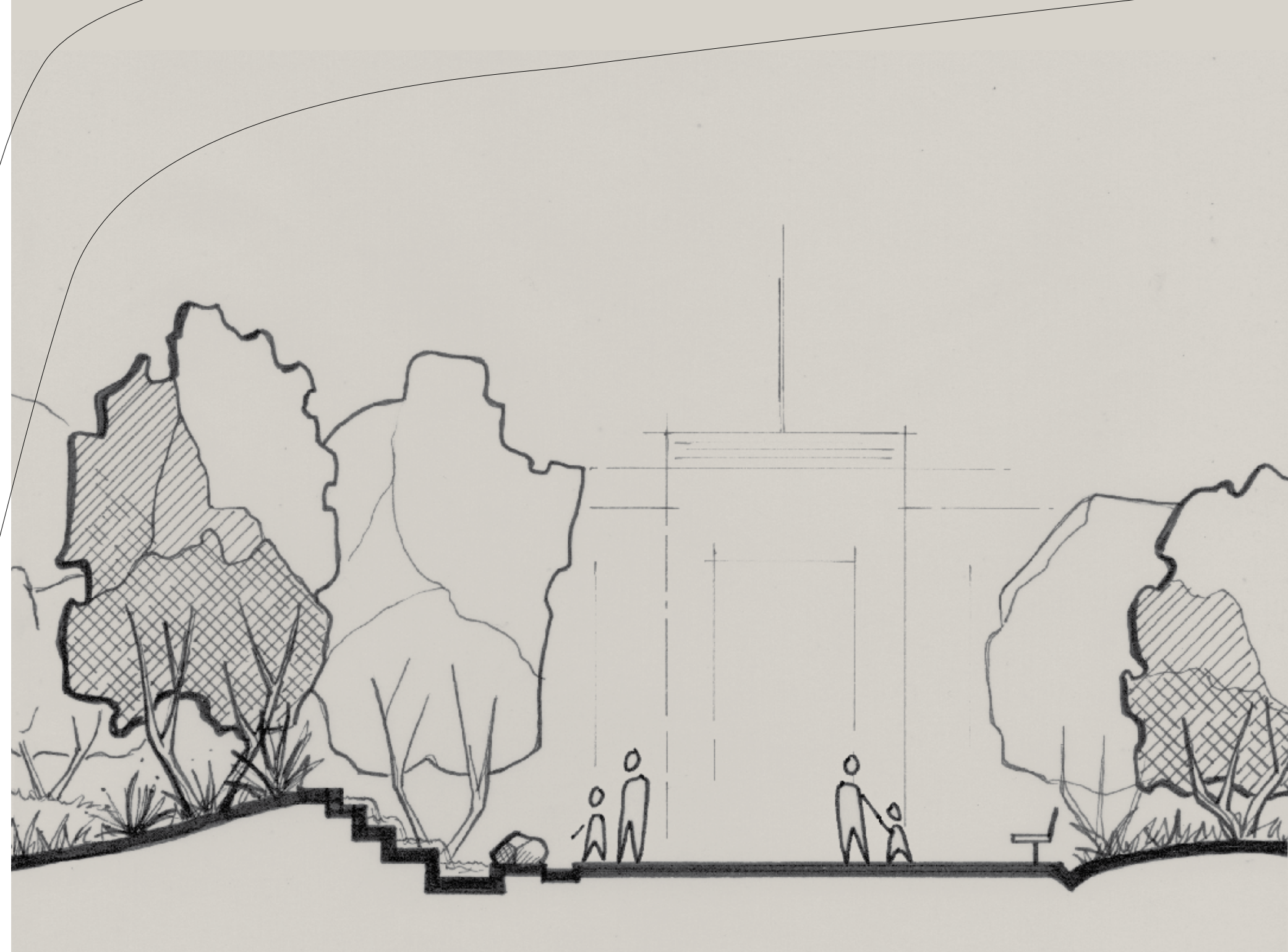
A huge thank you to my cohorts in the UCLA LandArch program. I'm fortunate to have found you all as we navigate the program remotely. You keep me sane.

Shout out to James Corner and team for navigating the City of Santa Monica and designing a beautiful park for us to study.

RESOURCES

gabrielinotribe.org
tongvapark.smgov.net
asla.org

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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