

The Project

Site

- Single-family residence
- 1834 16th Street, Santa Monica.
- 1,500 square feet, one-story, stucco.
- Lot size approx 5,400 sq ft (50'x 108').

Client

35-year old couple, with an eight-year old daughter and a dachshund.

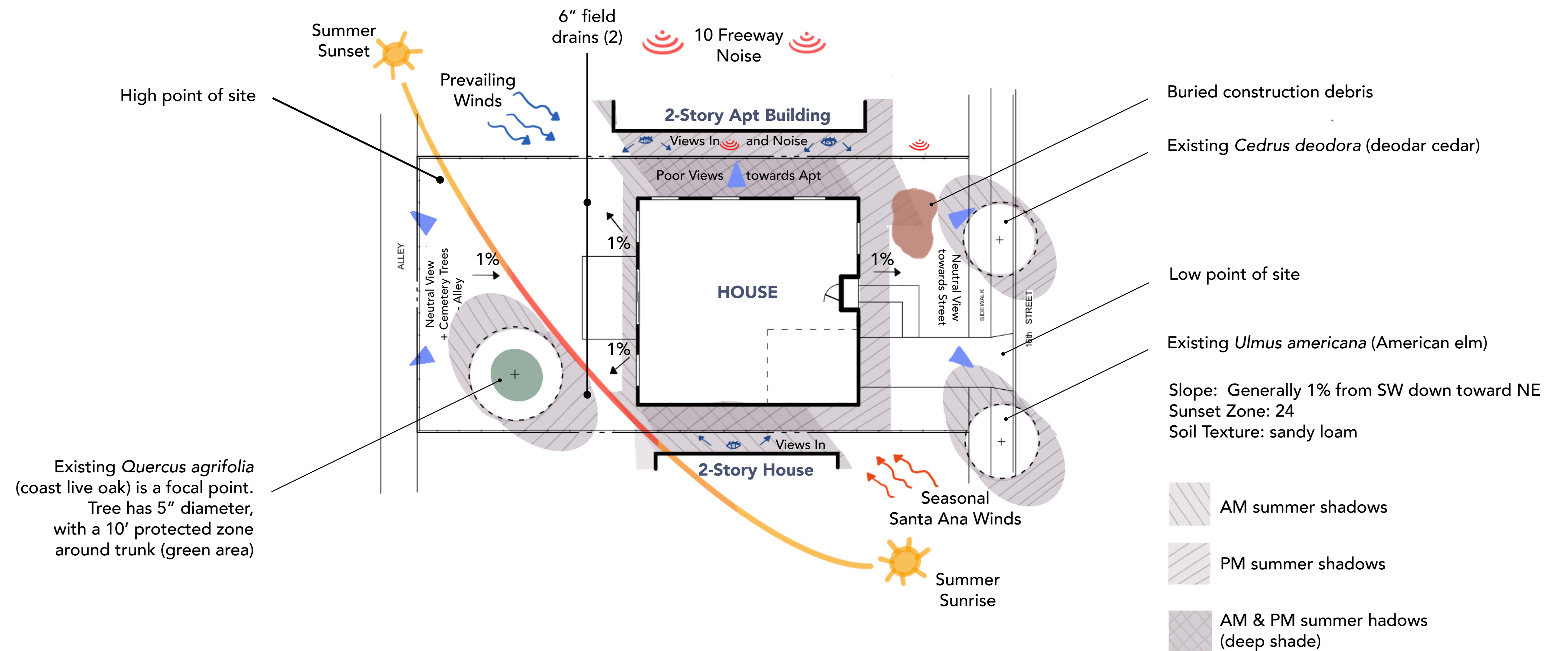
Objective

Re-landscape entire lot. Retain existing hardscape, fencing, parkway trees, and backyard oak tree.

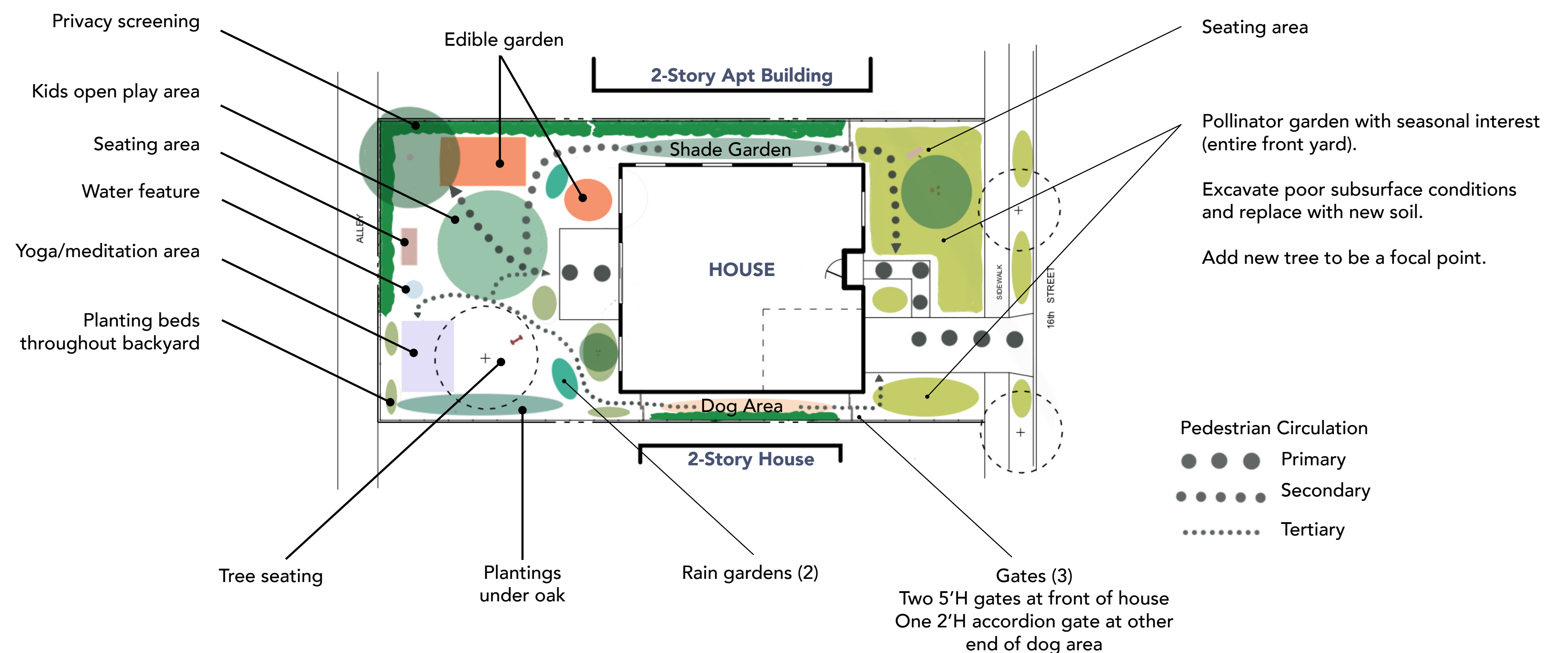
Design to include the following features:

- yoga/meditation area for parents
- play space for daughter
- play space for dog
- seasonal interest
- edible garden
- pollinator garden
- shade garden
- rain garden

Site Analysis



Proposed Area Use Diagram



Design Narrative

Our client would like a space that balances **play**, **quiet**, **privacy**, and **sustainability**. To meet those needs we created rooms -- separated by plantings, paths, or gates -- while keeping the space as open as possible.

The design for the front yard is a dedicated pollinator garden. A chitalpa serves as anchor, and a reminder of seasonal changes as it drops its leaves in the fall and buds out every spring. A pollinator garden is often a neighborhood conversation topic and opportunity to meet neighbors, so we have included a bench out front for lingering and observing.

While a focal point of the backyard remains the existing coast live oak, we have added a Santa Cruz Island ironwood and open grassy area to draw the eye over and up, and to create other points of interest.

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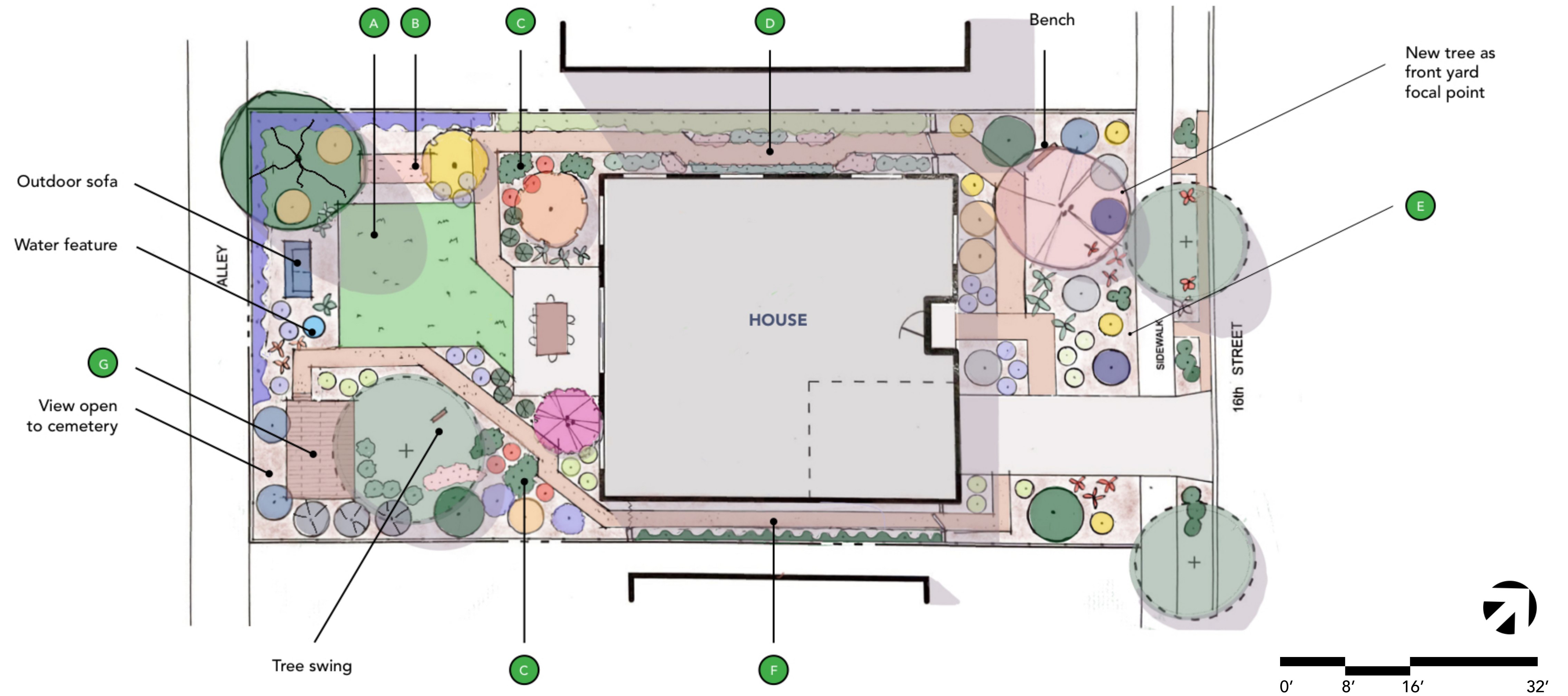
Play: Play areas include a grass area (roughly 300 sq ft), a hanging swing under the oak, and an edible garden (with a 4' x 8' raised vegetable bed, and two citrus trees).

Quiet: A raised wooden deck (roughly 8' x 12') is for meditation and yoga. Tucked in the south corner, it is shaded by the oak tree, has a window to the cemetery and trees beyond, and has a bubbling water feature nearby. Other relaxation spots include the outdoor sofa and front yard bench.

Privacy: The chain link has been obscured with evergreen vines, bamboo, and native shrubs. We have added 5'H secure gates on each side of the house.

Sustainability: Increasing habitat value and reducing water use were high priorities. The vast majority of the plant palette is low water or drought tolerant (including the turf substitute), and 19 of the 28 plant species are CA natives. All paths are DG and planting areas use organic mulch (e.g., wood chips).

Planting Concept Plan



Plant Palette (by hydrozone and approx descending height)

Full Sun/Part Sun:

5 Trees & 1 Vine

15 Shrubs & Grasses

 Santa Cruz Island Ironwood 50'H x 25'W; CA Native White-Brown-Gray; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Low	 Lemonade berry 12'H x 20'W; CA Native White/Pink; Winter-Spring WUCOLS: Very Low	 Blue flame foxtail agave 12'H x 3'W; Mexico Monocarpic bloomp spike WUCOLS: Low	 Yankee point carmel mountain lilac 2'H x 10'W; CA Native Blue; Spring WUCOLS: Low
 Pink dawn chitalpa 25'H x 25'W; Garden hybrid Pink; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low	 White; Inverness white pink-flowering currant 8'H x 8'W; CA Native White; Winter WUCOLS: Low	 Blue lavendin 3'H x 3'W; Mediterranean Purple; Year-round WUCOLS: Low	 California fescue 2'H x 2'W; CA Native Wheatish; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Low
 Western redbud 15'H x 15'W; CA Native Purple; Spring WUCOLS: Low	 Concha mountain lilac 6'H x 8'W; CA Native Blue; Spring WUCOLS: Low	 Breeze dwarf mat rush 3'H x 4'W; Australia Yellow; Summer WUCOLS: Low	 Native bentgrass 2' H (can be mowed as low) CA Native WUCOLS: Low
 Eureka lemon 15'H x 15'W; CA White; year-round WUCOLS: Medium-low	 Indian mallow 5'H x 5'W; CA Native Orange; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low	 Silver spurge 3'H x 3'W; Asia & Europe Chartreuse; Winter-spring WUCOLS: Low	
 Mandarin orange 15'H x 15'W; Asia White; Winter-Spring WUCOLS: Medium-low	 California sunflower 4'H x 5'W; CA Native Yellow; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low	 Bees bliss sage 2'H x 8'W; CA Native Lavender/Blue; Spring WUCOLS: Very low	
 Lavender star flower 10'H (vine); Southern Africa Purple; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Medium	 White sage 4'H x 5'W; CA Native White; Winter-Summer WUCOLS: Very Low	 Coral aloe 2'H x 3'W; South Africa Red; Winter-Spring WUCOLS: Low	

Shade:

4 Shrubs & 1 Vine

 Alphonse Karr bamboo 15'H x 15'H; Asia Purple; Spring WUCOLS: Medium	 Coastal wood fern 3'H x 3'W; CA Native White-Brown-Gray; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Medium-low	 Wendy island alum root 2'H x 2'W; CA Native Pink; Spring WUCOLS: Medium	 Southern maidenhair 2'H x 2'W CA native WUCOLS: Medium
 Chaparral Clematis 15'H (vine); CA Native White; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Very low			

Rain Garden:

2 Shrubs

 Wire grass 2'H x 2'W; CA Native Brown; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low, but tolerates medium	 Scarlet monkey flower 3'H x 3'W; CA native Orange-Red; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low, but tolerates medium
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Area Legend

- A** Kids' open play area (grass)
- B** Edible garden with raised veggie bed and two fruit trees
- C** Rain gardens (2) surrounding field drains
- D** Shade garden
- E** Pollinator garden with seasonal interest (entire front yard)
- F** Dog play area
- G** Yoga/meditation area for parents (1' raised wooden deck)