PLANTING DESIGN FOR UCLA SOUTH ENTRANCE

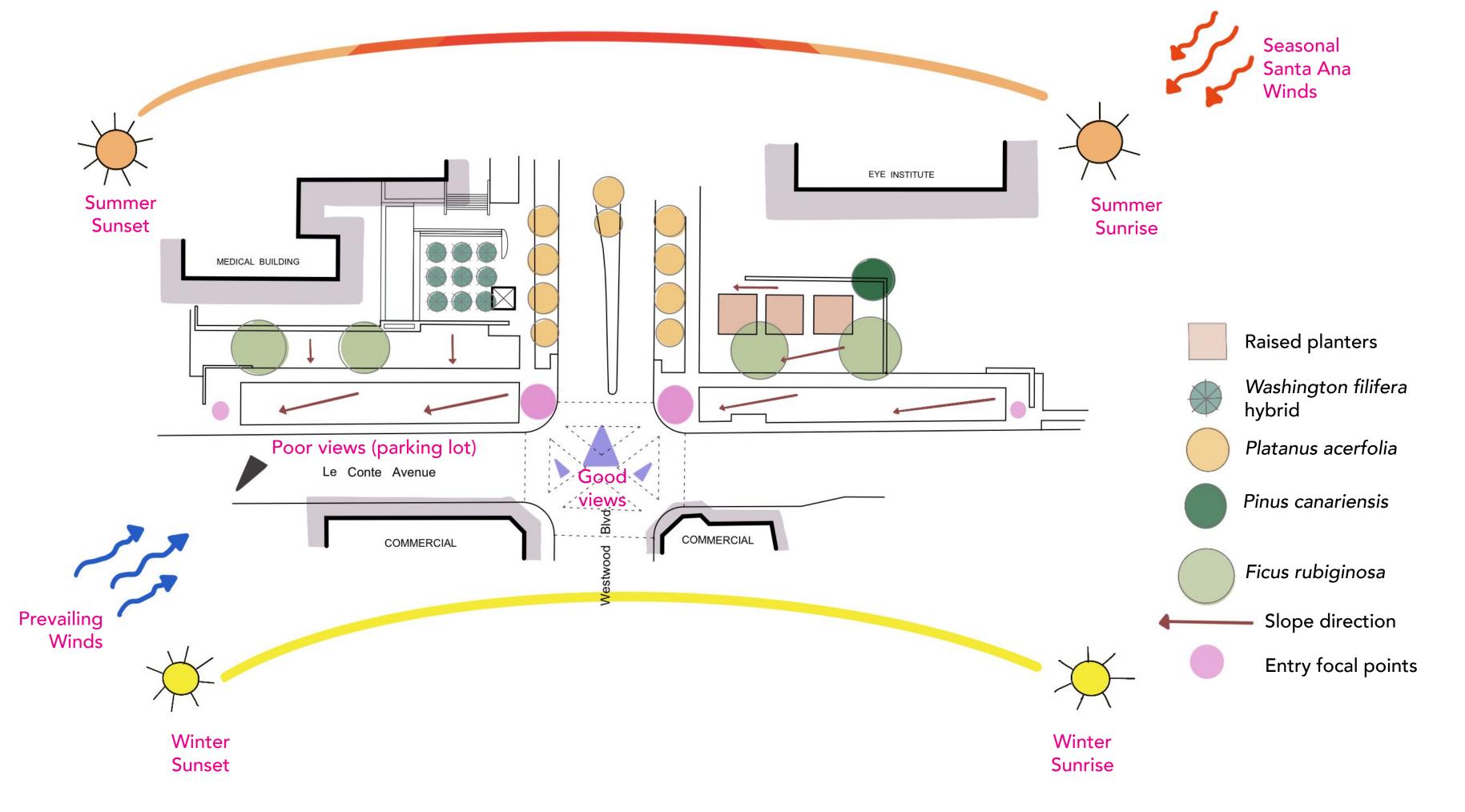
The Site

The site is the primary southern entrance of the UCLA campus, and is located at the intersection of Le Conte Ave and Westwood Blvd. It is a buzzing area with pedestrians and vehicles, and is adjacent to the Geffen Playhouse and the Westwood Village shopping and dining district.

The site's current landscaping is forgettable and water intensive. Plantings are primarily turf and mature trees, including Ficus rubiginosa, Platanus acerfolia, and Pinus canariensis, and shrubs such as Loropetalum chinense and a privet hedge. Other nearby plant species include Washingtonia filifera, Magnolia grandiflora, and a bamboo hedge.

Sunset zone: 23 Soil type: sandy loam





Design Narrative

The goal of the site design was to create a 'statement' entrance primarily through planting.

Statement Entrance: A diagonal motif was used so that angled sight lines would direct interest and activity toward the entrance. Pedestrian entry points were widened at an angle, and colored square pavers were added to accentuate the geometry. Angled plantings and paths of decomposed granite along Le Conte Ave lead to an allee of Washingtonia filifera.

Drought-Tolerant Planting with Purpose: As you approach from either end of Le Conte Ave, you will first see the dense shade provided by Quercus agrifolia. The oaks then transition to the seasonal color of Koelreuteria bipinnata, and then to the lower plantings of Chamaerops humilis. This succession from dense and evergreen, to colorful and deciduous, to petite and sunny is meant to draw attention to the entrance that is punctuated by the new palm allee. The palm allee also harks back to the early days of UCLA, when palms lined Westwood Blvd.

