

*There are two ways to pass a hurdle: leaping over or plowing through... There needs to be a monster truck option. - Jeph Jacques*

## WHERE'S THE LIFE RAFT? STAN SOUTHWICK



"I'm king of the world!" Today I feel a lot like Leonardo DiCaprio in the movie "Titanic" when he is standing on the front of the ship screaming to the open ocean. He went from nothing to being on the grandest ship of the time ... until it sank. Having passed through 2009 scraping for tidbits of work, I can finally see a glimmer of hope on the horizon. The first quarter of 2010 looks better than all of 2009. The lights are on and we are open for business. I feel like the king of the world! And we won't let the ship sink.

Perspective is an interesting thing. I have designed several projects that had an element of "false perspective" making things appear deeper or longer than they really are. My perspective for the coming year is greatly influenced by the events of the past year. If I were to compare the coming year with 2006 or any of the other "boom" years, my outlook may not be the same. One thing that I always rely on is that the future is an exciting blank canvas that I can paint on however I want. Learn from and build on the past, but plan for the future. Make it what you want.

As we plan for 2010 at Southwick LA, we look at the past and realize that we still have wonderful clients that we enjoy working with, we learned how to produce more products with fewer resources, we have a fantastic staff that has really pulled together, and we can get through anything we set our minds to. I'm looking forward to the excitement, the challenges and the successes of 2010. Meet me at the front of the ship in December to scream to the open ocean, "I'm king of the world!"

## CITY OF HENDERSON NORTH COMMUNITY POLICE STATION

Having been awarded the Gold Certification in LEED certified design, the City of Henderson Police Station incorporates a variety of natural desert landscape. From barrel cactus and agave, to ocotillos and red yucca, these plants and many more are formally laid out to adorn the building. Bands of varied size rock meander through the desert plant material adding dimension and variety to the landscape. Being a police station, security was taken into consideration and the overall layout of walkways, site furniture, rock material and plant selection was all chosen with this element in mind.



Picnic tables and low concrete walls are included as site furniture. Some of the picnic tables lie beneath the semi-shaded covered seating area. The covering includes two close-sided paneled walls which allow for air to pass through in some of the empty panel spaces. The variation in the density of the panels provide a unique shade pattern throughout the entire day. Trees surround the remaining picnic tables and will add shade as trees mature.

Included at the entry are the traditional three flags on display. The hardscape and rock pattern, along with the required lighting, further emphasize and draw attention to the flags.

The City of Henderson Police Station is the City's first LEED-Certified municipal facility. We had the pleasure of working with Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects on this project and want to congratulate them on a great LEED design.

## FAVORITE FLORA:

### VITEX AGNUS-CASTUS - CHASTE TREE, MONK'S PEPPER TREE

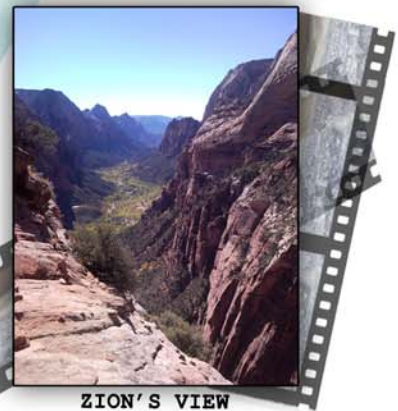


Vitex agnus-castus (Chaste Tree) unlike many of the plants used in the Las Vegas valley, this plant is a native to southern Europe. The seeds of the tree were reportedly used for pepper by monks in southern Europe, which is how it got its name. This plant is perfect as a pop of color in the summer however it is deciduous. Some people love the rough, knotty trunk and branches that become visible in the winter months.

Often seen as a small tree, the Vitex agnus-castus may also be a large shrub or a patio tree. It can reach anywhere from 10 to 25 feet high and wide. Growing rapidly with regular water, this tree loves full sun to part shade. It will bloom all summer long with blossoms most commonly lavender or blue but can also be white, or pink. This plant is great in our valley due to its love for the summer heat and ability to withstand our winter temperatures as well.

While this plant is wonderful in small spaces and for accents of color, we do not recommend planting near swimming pools or water features. This plant is fairly messy with the shedding of all its leaves, flowers and seeds. However, the aromatic green leaves and long blooming period somewhat makes up for the litter.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



ZION'S VIEW  
ZION, UT  
STAN SOUTHWICK