

SLAM

DESIGNING THE SOUTHWEST
SOUTHWICK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL MEMO
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southwick
LA

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

Leo Tolstoy

GET ON THE BUS!

The RTC's new ACE Bus that is. On St. Patrick's Day, we were privileged to get a sneak peek ride on the ACE Gold Line. Prior to our ride around town on the stylish new buses, we were addressed by General Manager Jacob Snow as well as some of the artists involved in the creation of artwork displayed at the various downtown stops. Each artist had the



opportunity to present their inspiration behind their work as well as the medium they worked in. After we heard from the artists we boarded the buses and off we went. Unfortunately the artwork wasn't installed at the stops yet so the artist's presentations were very helpful.

The buses function much like a light rail system. In many places they have their own travel lane, along with level boarding platforms and ticket vending machines at each station. The Gold Line runs from the Las Vegas Premium Outlets to Town Square and back. For more information or to find a stop near you, visit rtcsonthernnevada.com.

What a great experience this was! We want to thank the AIA for putting together such wonderful tours and events that allow us to observe fellow designer's finished products.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

The initial award of this project came by means of winning a design competition. Southwick LA is teamed with JVC Architects whose designs won first place in the competition. This new, modern church is located next to a private high school, Bishop Gorman, whose landscape architecture was also designed by Southwick LA.

Within the site, spaces are divided for their own specific purposes. An outdoor presentation stage contains a slightly raised platform. The backdrop for the stage includes layered stone walls stained red and a rustic brown. Within the walls, religious symbols have been stained a dark brown for extra emphasis. Other artistic walls located on the site contain breaks in the wall made up of religious symbols that allow the space behind the wall to become visible through the openings. A meditation area has been created with more religious symbolism as the focal point. Some of the plants adorning these areas are intended to contain religious symbolism as well.



The religious symbols around the site are made of individual offset elements that align to form the symbol as you move through the space. This gives a very dynamic look and feel to these artistic elements.

FAVORITE FLORA: PENSTEMON



There are so many varieties of Penstemon that I am going to write about it as a species in general. Commonly used as an accent plant for a pop of color, it can be spotted all over town. Due to its low water usage, this plant is often seen in commercial as well as residential landscapes and can be spotted along roads and freeways.

Native to the North American continent, the Penstemon is a profusely flowering perennial that sees moderate growth in the late winter through summer months. A clump of evergreen leaves grows near the ground with tall, upright flower stalks which varies in height, width and color depending on the variety. After the initial burst of color, the stalks are removed and the clump of green leaves stay with occasional flower stalks throughout the summer. Seeds may be collected from the spent flower stalks to be spread throughout your garden. While drought tolerant, this plant grows well and will bloom longer into the season with regular light watering. During the winter months, prune back any dead stalks.

Many Penstemon varieties are perfectly suited for our desert climate as they love full sun, rocky or sandy soil and after establishment and are drought tolerant. Tubular flowers are most commonly red, pink or orange in color. Keep an eye out for them as you travel around town as they are just starting to bloom.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



SPRING
BOISE, ID
CAROLINE HICKS