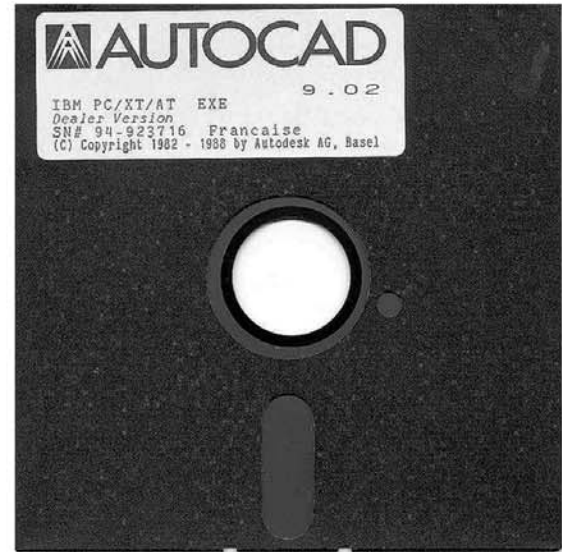


CAD

I was at our ASLA Chapter meeting last week as the director of Landscape Architecture at UNLV enthusiastically announced that the architecture department will no longer teach AutoCAD in favor of newer 3D modeling type software. As he announced this, I tried to remember how long I have been working with AutoCAD. I started in 1987 at my first job in Las Vegas. I remember I had a digitizer and a computer that boasted a 40MB hard drive! I think the AutoCAD software is at least three times that size nowadays. I also thought about all the architects and engineers we work with and how many of them work in AutoCAD... all of them to some degree.

I for one, love to sketch but I haven't had a lot of opportunities to provide a quick hand drawing on the fly for a client in a long time. Most, if not all of the renderings and graphics that we produce in our office are done electronically. It appears that hand sketching may be a thing of the past. This may be in part due to the Millennials, the generation now moving into the design profession. The Millennials were born with headphones on, a keyboard under their fingers and the glow of a monitor to light the delivery room. They understand and can quickly manipulate all of the latest design software. It just comes naturally to them. But can they sketch?

Don't get me wrong, I love new technology but I also have a romantic side that doesn't want to see the traditional means of producing drawings die. The greatest machine ever made is the human body with its ability to add emotion and passion to everything it does. Long live the graphite pencil!



"Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns;
I am thankful that thorns have roses."
— Alphonse Karr

FAVORITE FLORA: DYMONDIA MARGARETAE- DYMONDIA



This month's favorite flora is a low growing, spreading groundcover that can fill multiple roles in a landscape that few other plants can. *Dymondia (Dymondia margaretae)* is a native to South Africa and can be found along sandy coastal flats. Ironically, *Dymondia* is an endangered species and is at a high risk of extinction in the wild yet is grown for horticultural purposes worldwide. This spreading plant grows to about 2 inches tall with leaves that have a green top and silver underside. When water is scarce the leaves will curl revealing more of the silver foliage. *Dymondia* blooms mainly throughout the summer with small numbers of yellow daisy-like flowers. This plant gets both its botanical

and common names, a rare occurrence, from South African horticulturist Margaret Elizabeth Dryden-Dymond. *Dymondia* is also noted for being the only species within its genus, or monotypic.

In the landscape, *Dymondia* is best grown in full sun to partial shade and is drought tolerant. It is extremely important that it is planted in well drained soils as overwatering and consistently wet roots are this plants nemesis. *Dymondia* can be used in many situations from filling in small gaps between pavers to mass plantings as a lawn replacement. If large area coverage is the goal, space plantings about 8-10 inches apart as *Dymondia* can be somewhat slow growing.



Photo of the Month

Lincoln Memorial
Washington, D.C.
Cassi Dawes