

# SLAM

DESIGNING THE SOUTHWEST  
SOUTHWICK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL MEMO  
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southwick  
LA

*Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see. - Arthur Schopenhauer*

## MY DESERT OASIS

BY: STAN SOUTHWICK

Summer is here in the Desert Southwest once again after what turned out to be a beautiful spring. Warm Spring temperatures turn into hot summer days and nights, the desert is in full bloom. Spring and fall are great times to visit your favorite desert spot at Lake Mead, Red Rock or Valley of Fire among others and see the spectacle of the native flora come to life. Few people ever get off the beaten path to enjoy the natural beauty that is all around us. In my twenty-two years in Southern Nevada, I have come to love the hidden wonders of this seemingly barren wasteland. I enjoy our native environment so much that I have been designing desert landscapes since 1988, including my own residence.



Each evening for the last three weeks, as I turn into my driveway after leaving the office, I am greeted by the red, pink and purple flowers spikes of various varieties of Penstemon. The yellow flowers of Lantana and Angelita Daisy ground covers make a perfect backdrop for the Penstemon. The accents of Agaves Yucca, Beavertail Cactus and Hesperaloe provide architectural form to the landscape and blend beautifully with the colorful perennials and ground covers. The natural stone steps and walkway that lead to the front door remind me of the desert environment that I live in and are a great contrast to the plants along the edge.

Dinner on the stone slab patio under the wood and fabric trellis is a perfect way to relax after a hard day's work. Fresh vegetables will soon be coming from the hydroponic greenhouse. Dinner music is provided by the sound of the doves that have nested in the yard and the splash of a small waterfall onto the Koi pond. As I eat, a hummingbird that has made my yard its home, hovers just a few feet away sucking nectar from the Lavender bush. On its way to another flower, it stops and sticks its beak into an orange flower on a Trumpet Creeper vine climbing up the trellis. After dinner a lap or two in the pool is relaxing or I can practice my golf skills on the putting green. As the sun sets I lie on the hammock and watch the stars start to twinkle while listening to the sound of the nearby waterfall. After several years of planning and building, I can truly relax in my own private desert oasis.

## OUR TOP 10 FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT SOUTHWICK LA

We surveyed our employees and asked what their top 10 favorite things were about working at Southwick LA. Here's what they came up with.

10. Half Day Fridays
9. Fun Quarterly Office Activities
8. Yearly Office Retreat
7. Lots of plants...inside
6. Colorful Work Environment
5. Wonderful Co-workers
4. Exceptional Clients
3. Exciting Projects
2. Walking Distance to Ethel M's
- And...
1. The best boss in town!



2008 SLA Company Retreat  
San Francisco, California

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: STAN SOUTHWICK

In honor of our first anniversary of SLAM, the spotlight has finally landed on our Principal Landscape Architect, Stan Southwick. Stan has been working in the landscape architecture industry for 25 years and started Southwick LA eight years ago.

While in high school he was interested in becoming an engineer but he wanted to draw. A teacher suggested a college architecture course he taught. Stan enjoyed it but wanted to be able to draw more. He has always loved the outdoors so when he found landscape architecture, he realized it was the perfect fit. He said he has never regretted that decision.

He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and environmental planning from Utah State University in 1983. After graduation he worked in Utah then California. In 1986, he was offered a better opportunity here in Las Vegas and hasn't been able to leave since. Not that he wants to.

Stan loves to spend time with his family and working with youth in the community. He also loves to golf, hike and pencil sketch. His knowledge and experience inspires us all here at Southwick LA.

### PHOTO OF THE YEAR



BUCKHORN CHOLLA  
LAKE MEAD  
MATT DURHAM