

Welcome

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Cassie Grimes to the Southwick LA team. She comes to us after years of working at multi-disciplinary firms and design/build companies in Southern Nevada. Cassie (pronounced "KC" and not to be confused with Cassi Dawes in our office) is an Iowa State University graduate. Unfortunately she watched her ISU Men's Basketball team get beat out of the NCAA tournament by one point yesterday. Cassie is licensed in four states and has a variety of major projects filed away on a hard drive somewhere. A notable project that all should be familiar with is Craig Ranch Regional Park in North Las Vegas. Her husband is a civil designer and project inspector working for Boulder City and she has two adorable daughters that are very good at Tae Kwon Do, so don't mess with them! We look forward to many great design charrettes with Cassie.



"A winner is someone who recognizes his God-given talents, works his tail off to develop them into skills, and uses these skills to accomplish his goals."
— Larry Bird

FAVORITE FLORA: PLATANUS X ACERIFOLIA- LONDON PLANETREE



Not every landscape design in Las Vegas is suited for desert trees such as the Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia sp.*), Mesquite (*Prosopis sp.*), or Acacia (*Acacia sp.*). Sometimes a large, broadleaf tree is desired and the London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) can fit this bill. The London Planetree is thought to be a hybrid between an Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) and an American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). This is a large deciduous tree that can reach heights of up to 130 feet and widths of 60 feet, however, in Las Vegas 40-60 feet in height and 30-40 feet in width would be more common. Large, deeply lobed leaves take a maple-like shape to which this tree lends its name (*acerifolia*). These leaves are covered in tiny hairs throughout spring but wear off by late summer. The flowers are insignificant and give way to 1.5 inch fruit balls which disintegrate in the fall, dispersing the seeds. The London Planetree has an interesting gray-green bark that can peel away revealing brown streaks.

Platanus x acerifolia is grown in full sun and typically found in large urban spaces such as plazas and streetscapes. It is well suited to urban pollution and root constriction. This tree requires more water than most in Las Vegas but can be used in wet areas where the water table may be very shallow. Downsides of this tree include respiratory irritation to sensitive individuals and those with asthma when the leaves lose their hairs as well as leaf and bark litter. The London Planetree is most commonly used when a large shade tree is needed among evergreen shrubs and groundcovers such as Japanese boxwood (*Buxus microphylla var. japonica*) and Dwarf Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*).



Photo of the Month

Moon Over Anthem
Henderson, NV
Cassi Dawes