

# SLAM

DESIGNING THE SOUTHWEST  
SOUTHWICK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL MEMO  
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*Do something wonderful, people may imitate it.*

— Albert Schweitzer

## CHOCOLATE COVERED SNOW PEAKS - COURTESY OF TYLER FLORENCE

### INGREDIENTS

4 large egg whites at room temperature

1 teaspoon cream of tartar

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons superfine granulated sugar

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups dark chocolate chips



### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 225 degrees F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat egg whites on low-medium speed with the whisk attachment until the whites become foamy. Add the cream of tartar and turn speed up to medium, beating until just fluffy. Add the sugar gradually, so it incorporates into the whites slowly without collapsing them. Once all the sugar has been added, add the vanilla and increase the speed to high, whisking until the meringue is firm and glossy, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Place meringue mixture into a piping bag with a medium-sized nozzle attached. Pipe 24 bite-sized "kiss"-shaped meringues onto the trays and place in the oven. Bake for 1 hour undisturbed then turn off heat and leave in the oven overnight to really dry out.

Melt chocolate over a double-boiler or in the microwave on medium power for 30 seconds. Holding each meringue by the peak dip the bases in chocolate so the bottom half of the meringue is coated. Let any excess chocolate drop off before placing on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. Allow to set at room temperature - do not put in the fridge. Once set, store in an airtight container.

## SALVATION ARMY CHAPEL

The Salvation Army Chapel is a small jewel of a project located within a sea of asphalt at the Salvation Army Complex, an organization that is known mostly for helping the homeless. It is a wonderful building which includes many landscape design elements. The coordination between JVC Architects and ourselves was crucial to provide the desired amenities for the sanctuary and its users.

The partially enclosed interior courtyard includes plant species with religious significance, a synthetic turf area provided for multi-purpose uses within the courtyard, seat walls for users to enjoy the space, plant species chosen for fragrances and textures, and a simple water feature (using materials used on the building) to provide a soothing background sound. Shade trellis heights and openings were coordinated with the architect to allow for the tall plant locations and plant species light requirements. The turf area is accented by concrete bands which were also coordinated with the shade trellis above. Colored and textured concrete was introduced to the courtyard to further enhance the space.



Colorful plant species and species with bold forms were used in the planters exterior to the building in the limited planting space to compliment the bold architecture.

## FAVORITE FLORA:

### SOPHORA SECUNDFLORA - TEXAS MOUNTAIN LAUREL



Most of the plants that have been covered in this series have been unique accents or exotic plants but this month we will cover a plant that can be used in almost every landscape in Las Vegas. The Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), a Cassi favorite, is an evergreen large shrub that is most often pruned into a small tree. Its lush look is produced by a dense canopy of small, round, thick glossy green leaves which are accompanied by purple flowers. Blooming in spring through early summer, these purple clusters give off a scent of grape bubble gum. Texas Mountain Laurel is drought tolerant but can handle more water if planted near a lawn or other water loving plants. It is Frost tolerant to at least 10 degrees and grows well in full sun.

This well rounded plant is right at home in both desert landscapes as well as more tropical settings. They can make great hedges or screens and when pruned, can make a wonderful patio tree. There are no thorns to worry about so a poolside planting is not out of the question.

Next month's plant is a fun accent that catches everyone's eye that walks by it...

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



DESERT SILHOUETTE  
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