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OFFICE SPACE

BY: MATT DURHAM

With most of us spending 40 hours a week at work (some weeks much more), why not make your workplace more enjoyable? Since our desk or office is our home away from home here at Southwick, we like to personalize them and make them a fun place to be throughout the day. For the new year, it may be fun for you to add a little pizzazz to your work area. You can add some color by painting the walls to lighten up the atmosphere at work. If your boss isn't that trusting in your creative style, perhaps you can hang a painting or two, or find a colorful calendar. Pictures of friends and/or family always add a personal touch to an office setting.

As Landscape Architects we are a little biased towards plants. Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*) are probably the most common type of indoor plant and are easy to grow even if don't have the greenest thumb. If you'd like to be a little more adventurous try cacti and succulents. Sedums and Euphorbia's offer a wide range of shapes, sizes and colors. If you are in the design profession or just love to paint or draw, display some of your own work. Also don't be afraid to show off any achievements or awards. If you have any great ideas for office décor feel free to e-mail us and we will try and pass them along in a future newsletter.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

We would like to introduce one of our newest employees, Justin Lindblad. Originally from Willmar, Minnesota, which is the home of Jenny-O turkey and Pinky Nelson, he moved to Las Vegas 4 years ago to pursue his goals in Landscape Architecture. As a double major at North Dakota State University, he received his Bachelor degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design. He says he's been involved in Landscape Architecture for 6 wonderful years.

He chose Landscape Architecture to design golf courses but that dream was quickly shattered when the retired pro golfers started being hired for that job instead. Imagine his dismay! Although the reason he started Landscape Architecture is gone, he still enjoys what he does and has fun doing it. When he's not designing, he likes to golf, break dance and attend concerts. We are anxiously awaiting our first break dance performance. We'll be sure to let you know how does.



He started working for SLA on January 2nd. Be sure to give him a great welcome!

SUNSET REGIONAL PARK

2007 NASLA MERIT AWARD WINNER

This 325 acre regional park has been enjoyed for many years by the community and has recently been undergoing a facelift. The entire park is being re-designed in three phases. For the first phase, SLA has designed two areas of the park that are currently undeveloped.

An area in the Northeast portion of the park we themed as "Native Discovery." In this area there are park elements such as a Children's Discovery Area complete with Desert Tortoise and Mojave Rattlesnake play sculptures, game tables and shaded picnic areas. There is also a Native Mojave Demonstration Garden and extensive trails. We have worked with Native Resources to create an educational outdoor experience as well as a beautiful areas for hiking, biking and other trail activities.

One of the last remainin natural sand dunes in the Las Vegas Valley is located in the Southwest portion of the park, called the "Dunes Discovery Area." In this area, we designed a trail system around the natural dunes that will not disturb the natural habitat and integrity of the dunes. We have added a lookout taking the user fifteen feet above the area so they can look across the dunes and out to the mountains surrounding our valley. On the journey up to the top the user is taken on a "History Walk" that will engage the user as well as educate them about our precious natural systems, the history of the park and its settlers.

We were very excited to work with Clark County on this project and because of the efforts of the entire design team; SLA won a 2007 NASLA Merit Award in the Un-Built category. We are very proud of our team. Congratulations!



Native Discovery Area

When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt. Henry J. Kaiser

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Here at SLA, we have been discussing some our favorite things to do around the valley in the winter and spring months (November - March). We thought it would be nice to hear from our readers.

What are some of your favorite things to do and why? Indoor or out? Inexpensive, free, or costly? We don't care, we just ask that it's legal! We came up with a few things ourselves too; like hiking around Lake Mead as it isn't as hot right now and still beautiful and sunny. Others in the office like to travel the hour out of town to Mt. Charleston or even farther to Brianhead, UT for a little snow time. Still others, looking for warmth, will hike to the Arizona Hot Springs. The trail starts 4.2 miles past Hoover Dam. It's a moderately strenuous hike but in the end you can soak in the hot springs. Last but not least, Death Valley made our list. Located about 2.5 hours northwest of downtown Las Vegas. Death Valley is rich in history for the state of Nevada and this area of the country. Now it's your turn. Let us know where you like to go!

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



YUCCA BREEZE
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
TAKEN BY: NICOLETTE FISK