

Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length. - Robert Frost

WHAT IS LANDSCAPE? - BILL RUSSO



Mike Klev

As Landscape Architects, we deal with the word landscape all the time. A landscape has soil and water, plants and animals, passive and active users, history and ecology, the private and the public, codes and regulations ... but, what does the word landscape really mean?

The word landscape seems to pop up in unexpected places. What does landscape mean when it is not used to discuss the land? During the presidential campaign there was talk of the political landscape, and how it is impacted by this speech or that poll. With the closing of the Las Vegas Art Museum, articles are written asking 'how does this affect the city's arts landscape?' Search on a newspaper's website for the word landscape and you will find a few articles on gardens and planning agencies, alongside articles discussing the economic landscape, the gender landscape, the changing landscape for Down syndrome, and the legal landscape. The article on how Tom Brady's injury has changed the football landscape does not discuss artificial turf and goal posts.

It seems the word landscape is comparable to context. Would that make all of us at Southwick LA Context Architects? Well... in a way, yes! When we purposefully redesign the landscape, we must be aware of all aspects of the site's context. There are all sorts of things going on at the site before we get there, there are always natural and cultural factors impacting the site from outside and the site will continue to change once construction is complete. Our design becomes one part, one deliberate intervention in the broad natural and cultural context which shapes and is part of... the landscape

SOUTHWICK LA NEWS

We would like to take the opportunity to update our loyal readers to some exciting things happening here at SLA.

For those that missed the first invite, we would like to invite all of you to our quarterly activity on March 20th. We will be meeting here at SLA at noon then going to Red Rock to hike the Fern Canyon Trail. If you would like to join us please RSVP to sla@southwickla.com by Wednesday, March 18th.

SLA is proud to announce Bill Russo has become a licensed Landscape Architect! He is a great asset to our office and we look forward to all his future work with us.

In other SLA news, we would like to officially welcome Cassi back to the office. We greatly enjoy her presence here! We are glad she's back and we know those who work with her are too.

Please stop by our newly updated website for all past issues of the SLAM as well as Quarterly News and great Featured Projects!



FAVORITE FLORA:

EUPHORBIA RIGIDA - GOPHER PLANT



A change in climate from last month's Norway Maple, the Gopher Plant (*Euphorbia rigida*) is a small to medium size Mediterranean native. The Gopher Plant derives its name from the thought that it repels gophers, though this has not been proven. This perennial forms 3ft. to 5ft. clumps of leafy stems that reach 2ft. in height. The leaves give the Gopher Plant a gray green appearance. Joe Vickers finds this plant to be one of his favorites because of its chartreuse explosion of flowers in the spring. The stems will die back to the ground after the seeds ripen while new stems begin to take their place. This euphorbia is a perfect addition to most

Las Vegas landscapes. The plant will tolerate our desert climate and soils and prefers sun to light shade.

Euphorbia rigida has a unique look that works well in both desert plantings as well as formal or lush plantings. This plant is easy to grow and tough enough even for the most challenged gardener. The one downfall to this plant is its toxic sap. Like most *Euphorbia*'s, the Gopher Plant produces a milky white sap when broken or cut that can be poisonous if consumed or cause skin irritation to some. Take caution when planting in areas with children and/or pets.

Next month's plant is perfect for all the chocolate lovers...

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



ECHO-O-O
GRAND CANYON, AZ
NICOLETTE FISK