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PERMACULTURE

BY: ELIZABETH JONES

With environmental concerns from pollution to global warming the design community has taken on the task of developing strategies to tread lightly on the earth. At the forefront of design systems today we use a variety of ideas from LEED, BPM, sustainable practices to xeriscape design. Permaculture is another system that we can add to our lexicon as designers.

Permaculture is a combination of design with ecology. It is a design system that takes a holistic approach by integrating all aspects of human beings and settlements. From growing your own food, finances, water harvesting, energy conservation, community and building design. The purpose of permaculture design is to produce edible landscapes and to echo natural ecosystems in diversity and production.

From a landscape architectural perspective there are several design approaches that can be used in the universal design here in Las Vegas. Creating contour banks; this is a trench dug along a contour which catches water and helps with erosion. Designing passive solar homes; using the sun's energy to warm and cool the home. Food production and self sustainable gardens; with a diverse array of plants from herbs to fruit and nut trees. We can grow: mint, figs, pomegranates and citrus here to name a few.

On a more in-depth level, if you were to design a property based on permaculture principles, specific design elements would be implemented. Using zones and succession, starting closest to the house you would have a vegetable garden, orchards and poultry, crops and pasture, agroforestry, and wilderness. The zones are placed in relation to the house by how often the zones need to be visited on a daily or weekly basis.

If you are interesting in learning more about Permaculture I would recommend 'The Basics of Permaculture Design' by Ross Mars.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

After not letting one co-editor of this newsletter elude the employee spotlight, we thought we would introduce the other partner in crime, Sarah Naber; administrative assistant, SLAM co-editor and SLA plant caretaker.

Sarah was born and raised right here in Henderson, Nevada and loved every minute of it. A small town feel with all the luxuries of a big city is how she likes to describe it. She is currently enrolled at UNLV and is hoping to graduate next year with a degree in Kinesiology. We aren't sure how she will use that to become a landscape architect just yet. Doesn't everyone aspire to be a landscape architect? Actually she later told us that she would love to go into personal training and plans to become a yoga instructor.



Sarah doesn't like to sit around when she is not at work. She enjoys rock climbing and dancing. Working at a landscape architecture office has its benefits, as Sarah loves to take what she learns about plants, design and irrigation and apply it to her yard. We are all waiting for the invite to the BBQ when it's done. Even though she loves her time away from work; she is a great asset to the SLA team when she is at the office.

SUMMERLIN SOUTH ROUNDABOUT

The goal of this project was to develop a traffic circle with a sense of place; converting from turf to a drought tolerant landscape was the main objective of creating a dynamic gateway to a revered Las Vegas community.

Using the Summerlin logo, which depicts an abstract mountain range, rammed earth features were made to look old and weathered to represent a cultured past while an emerging present design motif uses water conservation and artistic expression to give a voice to a once neglected urban streetscape. The walls were positioned in a relaxed curve to enhance the onlookers view as one drives or walks around the traffic circle. The design seems to morph before your eyes from one side of the roundabout to the other.



The conceptual design used the abstracted vision of the borrowed mountainous landscape to further enhance a sense of place in a timeless landscape. The geometric plantings to the north end of the project are reminders of the modern approach to development while the cascading stream beds pour from the mountains in an effort to signify the varied desert landscape within which we live. The desert plant palette is a reflection of the surrounding mountain and valley scenery.

Overall, the conversion saves the community more than 1 million gallons of water per year! The Summerlin South Roundabout is located at Village Center Circle and Town Center Drive.

THE SEASON OF THE BBQ

BY: SARAH NABER

Admit it. We all recognize the summer as a time to fire up the Barbecue. This month we thought we'd share a recipe with all of you. It is actually the recipe of my good friend Jennifer Jensen and with her permission I'm sharing it. It's fantastic over chicken!

Honey-Lime Marinade

- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1/4 cup honey
- a bit less than 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 2 medium garlic cloves
- 1 tsp salt

Mix Well in a glass bowl. Prepare chicken by poking a few holes to allow marinade to run through. Cover. Place in refrigerator for at least 18 hours. Do not marinate longer than 24 hours. Be sure to have the grill ready when the time is up! Cook completely. Serve. Enjoy!

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



PARADISE
ETHEL M'S, HENDERSON, NV
TAKEN BY: MATT DURHAM

I have a rock garden. Last week three of them died. - Richard Diran