

SLAM

SOUTHWICK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL MEMO

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LA

Designing the Southwest

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THE CITY BY THE BAY

BY: CASSI DAWES

I think I speak for everyone at our office when I say that the SLA Office Retreat in San Francisco was absolutely fantastic! On the first weekend of October, the SLA crew, along with some spouses and relatives (a group of about 18) left the Las Vegas Valley for a weekend of fun and inspiration in the City by the Bay. Everyone enjoyed a fabulous day of touring on Friday. We traveled in style in a small bus headed by our trusty tour guide and proud San Francisco resident, Pep. Highlights of the day included visits to the Palace of Fine Arts, the Stanford University Gardens, Golden Gate Park, the De Young Museum and the Filoli Mansion. Each stop gave us a lot of food for thought and tons of inspiration – great architecture, wonderful landscapes, intriguing art and more. To feed our bodies, we had a delicious picnic lunch in the Rodin sculpture garden at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. After a long day of walking and sightseeing, we gathered together to enjoy dinner at The Franciscan on Fisherman's Wharf. Saturday morning we got down to business. It was a productive morning filled with educational talks and team building exercises attended and presented by the office staff. Topics included Nature Deficit Disorder, Microclimates and Motivation. The team building exercises were fun even if they were a bit frustrating. Have you heard of the gravity stick? We may have to use it at our next kick-off meeting! The group at the office is so remarkable that it was a treat to enjoy the company of each other outside of the office. I can't wait until the next retreat! We will be posting some of our pictures to our website so be sure to check them out soon! If you would like to learn more about the places we visited please see the links provided in the email or contact us.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month we want to introduce Bill Russo. Bill came to us from Connecticut at the beginning of this year. He started in Landscape Architecture with a short internship in high school. He was hooked. While he graduated from State University of New York at Syracuse, he has studied in a variety of places. He spent one summer in Chicago, one in Tokyo and finally a semester in New Zealand.



Judging by the many places he's studied, it's obvious he loves to travel. What's not so obvious is that he likes to build furniture. He has made pieces for his apartment including cabinets and tables. We are waiting to see what piece he makes for the office. In this profession one never can have enough bookshelves!

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND WORK CENTER

The new opportunity village campus will house an Arts & Enrichment center as well as an employment and training center. The campus provides programs designed to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. The landscape for the center consists of a campus commons, amphitheatre, sculpture garden and learning courtyard. Special care was taken in plant selection and hardscape materials to make people feel safe, invigorated and to relieve stress in a comfortable setting. The campus commons is a linear space which incorporates a trellis structure that provides shade to benches below. An amphitheatre is also located on site and consists of a turf area with seat walls and a shade cover, providing refuge from the desert environment. A sculpture garden is adjacent to the amphitheatre and provides a place for donor plaques. The learning courtyard is in the work center, creates an outdoor room with trees and an ellipse shaped seating area.

Buckhorn Cholla at Lake Mead
Taken By: Matt Durham



PICTURES OF THE MONTH

The Picture of the month competition is heating up! So this month we have 2 pictures! We would like to encourage everyone who would like to participate to email your pictures to us at sla@southwickla.com. Nevertheless, be warned there is some very stiff competition out there!

In addition, we want to thank Scott Jarvis for throwing his hat in the ring by being the first from outside our office to submit some photos.

NATURE AND WISDOM NEVER ARE AT STRIFE

THANKS TO YOU!

BY: BERRY ELLISON

SLA would care to thank all of our Consultants for their continued ideas, inspirations, and hard work. We at SLA can draw and design all day but our ideas would never be realized without the expertise and efforts of our consultants. For it is the task of our structural engineers to make our architectural walls stand and retain earth; our electrical engineers who illuminate the gardens and open spaces; the civil engineers who creatively form the earth and properly convey drainage; the architects who so often design our interesting structures and small buildings; the geotechnical engineers who tell us where we can build and where we should not; and we could not leave out our cost estimators who tell us if the job is on budget and where we can save the client money. We know it is challenging to take a project from the conceptual stage and bring it through construction, and without your help we would not be able to. There are too many consultants to name, and would not like to leave anyone out, so we want to say "Thank You" to everyone who designs with SLA. We look forward to our continued relationships and our continued success in designing the Southwest!



Havasu Falls
Taken By: Scott Jarvis,
City of Henderson