

A PUBLICATION FROM THE APLD CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

# CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE DESIGN

*sustainability  
in focus:*

GARDENS, MATERIALS, AND DESIGNS  
THAT LEAD THE WAY

EFFECTIVE FIRESCAPING  
IN WUI ZONES

THE CASE AGAINST  
ARTIFICIAL TURF



Association of  
Professional  
Landscape  
Designers

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

SUMMER/FALL | VOL. 6, NO 1 | JULY 2024

Our mission is to advance the profession of landscape design and to promote our members as qualified and dedicated professionals.



[apldca.org](http://apldca.org)

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# CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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A PUBLICATION FROM THE  
APLD CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Association of  
Professional  
Landscape  
Designers  

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California Chapter

Publication

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**Contributors**

Jodie Cook

Stephanie Bartron

Gün Ünsal

**Managing Editor &**

**Designer**

Lorena Guy

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## Woodland Tranquility

Kate Webster of Katharine Webster Inc. shows us an admirable hillside transformation.

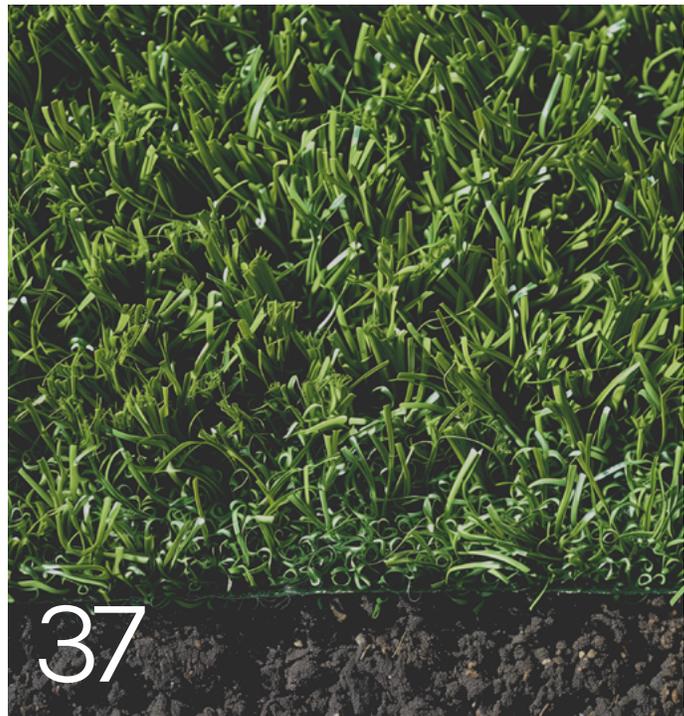
Cover photo by Caitlin Atkinson



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## Firescaping

Rethinking landscapes for fire safety and ecological resilience.



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## Plastic Wrapped Gardens

The negative impacts of artificial turf, and why designers should always advocate against it.

## A Letter from the California Chapter President Martin G. Carrion van Rijn



Greetings,

May this message find you all well and thriving.

The focus of this Summer/Fall 2024 issue of *California Landscape Design* is Sustainable Innovation in Landscape Design. This topic is both critical and timely in our industry. Aligning with nature's laws and principles should be integral to a landscape designer's creative process, not only due to environmental challenges such as drought and fire resilience but also to ensure harmony with nature itself.

In terms of innovation, we must shift our focus from merely sustainable principles to regenerative principles. To make a significant impact, we need to regenerate environments, not just sustain them. Sustainable Innovation in Landscape Design should be at the forefront of our continued education as landscape professionals.

I applaud APLD as an organization for providing continuous educational opportunities in this subject. My practice would be very different without the knowledge and insights gained from APLD. I am deeply grateful for this growth and professionalism. Let us continue to explore and innovate together in this vital field!

With best regards,

APLD California President

*Martin G. Carrion van Rijn*



# CONTRIBUTING THIS ISSUE



**JODIE COOK** is a Landscape Architect dedicated to sustainability, regenerative practices, and the use of California native plants. Certified in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley and trained at the New York Botanical Garden, she is an EPA Watersense certified Watershed-Wise Landscape Professional and Sustainable SITES AP. Based in Orange County, Jodie has taught classes on subjects such as AI in Landscape Design, Ecological Design Principles, California Native Gardens and Sustainable Landscape Design. Her education-based turf-to-native-garden water agency program, NatureScape, was featured in the American Society of Landscape Architects national exhibit entitled, Smart Policies for Climate Change.



**GÜN ÜNSAL** is the Owner and Principal Designer of Blue Hibiscus Gardens, where she has been crafting sustainable landscapes since 2014. Formerly a computer engineer for 15 years, she excels in site analysis, CAD design, and 3D simulations for residential projects. Her designs focus on permeable surfaces, drought-tolerant plants, and water-saving techniques. As president of the APLD Bay Area District, Vice President of APLD California, a ReScape Qualified Professional, and a QWEL-certified landscape designer, Gün brings a wealth of expertise and passion to her work, championing eco-friendly practices in landscape design.



**STEPHANIE BARTRON** has been designing gardens for over 20 years, primarily in Northeast Los Angeles. A long-time APLD member, she joined as a young designer before an active district existed in Los Angeles. When APLD hosted the 2006 conference in LA, Stephanie helped organize it, connecting with many local designers and eventually playing a role in the formation of what is now the Greater Los Angeles District. Currently, she serves on the GLA board as the Sustainability Chair. Throughout her career, Stephanie has continued designing gardens and collaborated with G3 on projects, including LA County's Drought Tolerant Garden Handbook, the San Diego Sustainable Landscape Guidelines, and the Beverly Hills Garden Handbook. She looks forward to writing about landscape sustainability and sharing her insights with fellow designers.

Sphaeralcea 'Childerley', a low-growing desert mallow.  
Photo: Jodie Cook



# NEWS & UPDATES



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## *Save the Date*

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### APLD International Landscape Design Conference 2024

Join us for the APLD International Landscape Design Conference from **October 11-13, 2024**, in Charleston, South Carolina. Experience the charm of Charleston while connecting with landscape designers from across the globe. The conference will feature private tours of stunning gardens, inspiring talks,

and numerous networking opportunities. Don't miss this chance to engage with industry leaders and enhance your professional skills. Stay tuned for more details and register now to secure your spot at this must-attend event!

[Visit the event page here.](#)



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## *Upcoming Advocacy Webinar*

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We are excited to announce an upcoming webinar that will cover the latest regulatory and practice updates crucial for landscape designers. This informative session will provide you with vital insights into current licensing and regulatory issues, proposed changes in legislation and professional practice codes, and the potential impacts on your daily operations and long-term planning. More details can be found in the Advocacy Corner section.

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## *New Team Members*

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## ***New & Returning Sponsors***

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Landscape design detail by Bay Scenery

The 2024 sponsorship lineup for the APLD California Chapter brings exciting changes and new partnerships. We are thrilled to introduce our new and renewing sponsors.

Bay Scenery returns as our Platinum Sponsor, and are actively engaging with the Bay Area District to coordinate various in-person and virtual events.

We are also pleased to welcome Pampa Lighting as our new Gold Sponsor. Highly recommended by the San Diego District

for their reliability and excellent product line, Pampa Lighting will be featured in an upcoming Sponsor Spotlight to share more about their contributions to our field.

Among our Silver Sponsors, we warmly welcome back Pergolas by Julie and San Marcos Growers. Additionally, we are excited to introduce our new Silver Sponsors, Frantz Nursery and Southwest Boulders. You can go directly to [page 49](#) for links to all of our fantastic sponsors.



**MJ Broadbent** is APLD California's new Communications Admin. An active member of the Bay Area District, she now supports our Chapter's event calendar and related communications. MJ, a Creative Visual Strategist and Facilitator, is an excellent visualizer who synthesizes ideas into life. She can be reached at [mj@apldca.org](mailto:mj@apldca.org).

**Lorena Guy** is the new Managing Editor and Designer for the *California Landscape Design* publication. She is a graphic artist, and working Landscape Design student. This is her first published issue and she looks forward to hearing your ideas as well as feedback at [newsletter@apldca.org](mailto:newsletter@apldca.org).





# WELCOME ALL

## *Professionals*

Landscape Designers who engage in the practice of landscape design and have more than 3 years of professional landscape design experience.

### **RICK TAYLOR**

Elder Creek Design Studios  
Sebastopol, CA

### **NANCY DIVEN**

Landesigns by Nancy  
Walnut Creek, CA

### **BRIDGET DAVENPORT**

Bridget Davenport  
Landscape Designs  
Pittsburg, CA

### **NAOMI SANDERS**

Naomi Sanders  
Landscape Design  
Greater Los Angeles District

## *Emerging Professionals*

Individuals who have been practicing landscape design for one to three years and are starting a career in landscape design.

### **LIBERTY SILVER**

Liberty Silver Gardens  
Altadena, CA

### **VANESSA**

**LEMAIRE-WORKMAN**  
Foliava Garden Design  
Mill Valley, CA

### **ANDREW EITNER**

California Edible Landscapes  
Burbank, CA

### **MICHELLE NAKAMURA**

Legacy Niwa Matsu  
Gardena, CA

### **VICTORIA CRISWELL**

Your Garden My Gloves  
Alamo, CA

### **LAUREN COOK**

Mazra'a Gardens, LLC  
Woodside, CA

### **EMILY KENDALL**

MLE Designs  
Orangevale, CA

### **KELSEY TYLER**

Moosa Creek Nursery  
San Diego, CA

### **SYDNEY WHITEHEAD**

The Branch Manager  
La Crescenta, CA

### **JESSE TORRILHON**

JTDesign  
Los Angeles, CA

We're thrilled to welcome the latest additions to the APLD California Chapter, representing diverse cities and bringing fresh perspectives to our designer community. Members who joined after June will be listed on the next issue. Visit our website for the most up to date **list of members**.

### *Enthusiasts*

Individuals practicing in related or associated fields.

**JENNIFER MILLS**  
Belvedere Tiburon, CA

**JORDAN BATCH**  
Dublin, CA

### *Educators*

Professional Landscape Design educators or teachers who are not practicing Landscape Designers.

**KAREN SUMEK**  
Cuyamaca College  
San Diego, CA

# NEW MEMBERS

### *Students*

Individuals actively enrolled, on a full or part-time basis, in a Landscape Design, Landscape Architecture or Horticulture program.

**BETH KREBS**  
Oakland, CA

**ZACH SHORT**  
San Diego, CA

**DEE ESCOBEDO**  
Sacramento Chapter

**PEJMAN TAGHAVIZARGAR**  
Chula Vista, CA

**CINDY ROBBINS**  
Winchester, CA

**SHERI-ANN ADAMS**  
La Mesa, CA

**ERIN GUIFFRIDA**  
Poway, CA

**TINATIN MANDARIA**  
San Diego, CA

**NASTIA GARACHTCHENKO**  
Brentwood, CA

**ROBERT LOPEZ-DON**  
San Diego, CA

**LINDA DEWI**  
Los Altos Hills, CA

**ALEXANDER MITMAN**  
Lafayette, CA

**CELSA DOCKSTADER**  
Berkeley, CA

**DAN CHAMBERS**  
Santa Barbara, CA

**ALDRINNA NICHOLS**  
Oakland, CA

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Steve Grosch**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER,  
SAN DIEGO DISTRICT

HEDGE FUN! LANDSCAPE DESIGN

## *What do you hope to gain through your membership with APLD?*

I'm looking forward to connecting with other designers and contractors to expand my knowledge of design and construction. I'm inspired by all of the amazing work going on in San Diego to create functional outdoor spaces that are more conscious of water use and the local ecosystem. The learning never stops in this industry and my hope in joining APLD is to further widen my design horizons by tapping into the vast experience of APLD designers.

## *How do you incorporate sustainability into your design practice?*

Of course, every project is unique and has different opportunities and constraints. With almost every project there is an opportunity to at least inform about sustainable options that are within a client's interest and budget. Some of my favorite sustainable features to include in a design are native plant palettes, rain

capture tanks and swales, lawn alternatives such as no-mow grasses or ground covers, re-use of existing materials, and the use permeable surfaces rather than hardscape.

## *What is your current favorite landscape design style?*

My favorite landscape design style is a modern Japanese aesthetic. In addition to landscape design, I specialize in restoring Japanese gardens and rehabilitating Japanese Black Pine trees, many of which are over 70 years old. My goal is to design and create modern Zen Japanese landscapes that preserve and highlight these magnificent trees.

## *What do you hope to gain through your membership with APLD?*

I'm always eager to broaden my knowledge and look forward to discovering more amazing learning opportunities through the APLD Event Calendar, such as the Master Pruner's Series for Professionals, which I'm excited to start next week. I also look forward to attending upcoming APLD in-person events and feeling a sense of community among fellow landscape designers.



**Michelle Nakamura**

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL MEMBER,  
GREATER LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

ZEN NATURESCAPES &  
GOTHIC LANDSCAPE

*How do you incorporate sustainability into your design practice?*

I incorporate sustainability starting from the ground up by creating the optimum environment for the soil microbiome. I also designed a 22-acre sustainable and regenerative agro forest using permaculture concepts, and developed a proprietary organic product with Grow20™ that improves soil quality, sequesters carbon, and reduces water and fertilization needs.

*What is your current favorite landscape design style?*

I prefer landscapes with multiple uses and purposes, focusing on edible plants, plants that produce scents and pollen for insects, and incorporating solar panels into the landscape to generate power and provide shade. This style, known as Agri-Voltaics, maximizes growing conditions by utilizing the environment efficiently.



**Andrew Eitner**  
EMERGING PROFESSIONAL MEMBER,  
GREATER LOS ANGELES DISTRICT  
  
CALIFORNIA EDIBLE LANDSCAPES



**Explore Your Potential with APLD California**

APLD California isn't just about certification; it's about building connections that inspire and opportunities that empower. From seasoned experts to emerging talents, our members thrive together. Discover how APLD can enrich your professional life at [apldca.org/membership](http://apldca.org/membership).

# DESIGNER'S TOOLBOX

Build your professional skills and network of resources.



Written by **Lorena Guy**

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## **Site Mapping Tools**

Accurate site data is integral for relating new ideas into a landscape. New tools promise less time-consuming on-site measuring.

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**IN OUR LINE OF WORK**, precise site measuring and mapping are crucial for creating accurate and functional outdoor spaces. The evolution of site mapping technology is transforming the workflow from the days of simple measuring wheels and bulkier transit levels to sophisticated digital tools for both designers and contractors alike. These modern tools combine advanced sensors, GNSS technology, and laser measurements to offer accuracy and, just as important for some, convenience.

For this Designer's Toolbox, we'll introduce three tools that promise to streamline site assessments for base maps and topo maps, making it faster, more precise, and easily integrable with CAD software. These tools leverage new technology to offer high precision and ease of use, transforming how ground measurements and elevations are taken and utilized.

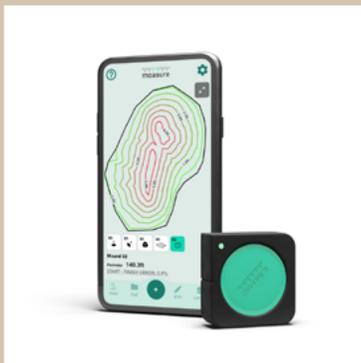
Moasure, for example, uses motion sensors like accelerometers and gyroscopes to measure distances and angles by detecting changes in position and orientation. This small handheld device works in conjunction with a mobile app, which is essential for operation. The app visualizes measurements and imports data into CAD software, enhancing workflow efficiency.

Emlid Flow, on the other hand, employs GNSS technology to achieve centimeter-level accuracy. This system includes a receiver and a mobile app that together capture precise positioning data. The app manages data collection and is compatible with various CAD software, allowing for easy integration into existing design processes.

Leica DISTO utilizes laser technology to deliver highly accurate distance measurements. While the device can function independently, pairing it with a mobile app unlocks additional capabilities like exporting measurements. The data from Leica

DISTO can also be imported into CAD software. These advanced tools represent a significant leap from traditional methods, offering accuracy, ease of use, and integration with common digital design tools. They allow landscape designers to capture and utilize site data more effectively, ensuring that their projects are both accurate and efficient from the start.

*Have you discovered a tool that has improved your workflow or become an essential part of your projects? Whether it's a traditional manual tool or a cutting-edge digital device or software, we'd love to hear about it! Share your experiences with us by emailing [newsletter@aplca.org](mailto:newsletter@aplca.org).*



### Moasure

Moasure employs motion sensors, including accelerometers and gyroscopes, to measure distances and angles. The mobile app is required for operation, enabling easy visualization and CAD data import.



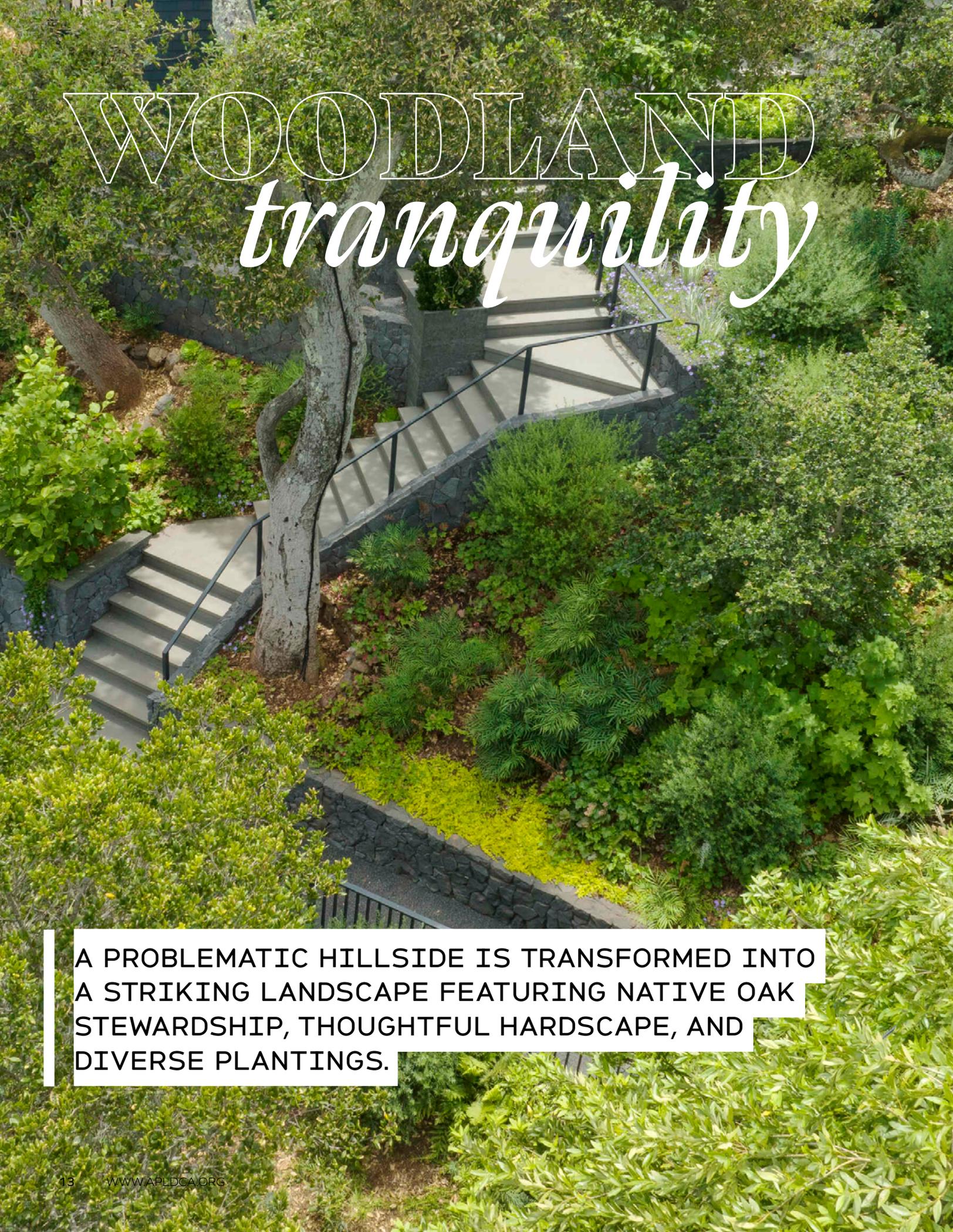
### Emlid Flow

Emlid Flow uses GNSS technology for centimeter-level accuracy in site mapping. The mobile app is essential for full functionality and ensures seamless data integration with CAD software.



### Leica DISTO

Leica DISTO utilizes laser technology for precise measurements. The mobile app is optional but enhances capabilities, allowing for easy data export and CAD integration.



# WOODLAND *tranquility*

A PROBLEMATIC HILLSIDE IS TRANSFORMED INTO A STRIKING LANDSCAPE FEATURING NATIVE OAK STEWARDSHIP, THOUGHTFUL HARDSCAPE, AND DIVERSE PLANTINGS.

**Left:** Aerial view highlights the new path through the Oak canopy. **Below:** Basalt walls, concrete stairs, cascading plants and lighting.

**DESIGNER:** Kate Webster

**COMPANY:** Katharine Webster Inc.

## *About the Project*

**YEAR COMPLETED:** 2020

**BUDGET:** Over \$100,000

**ZONE:** 9B

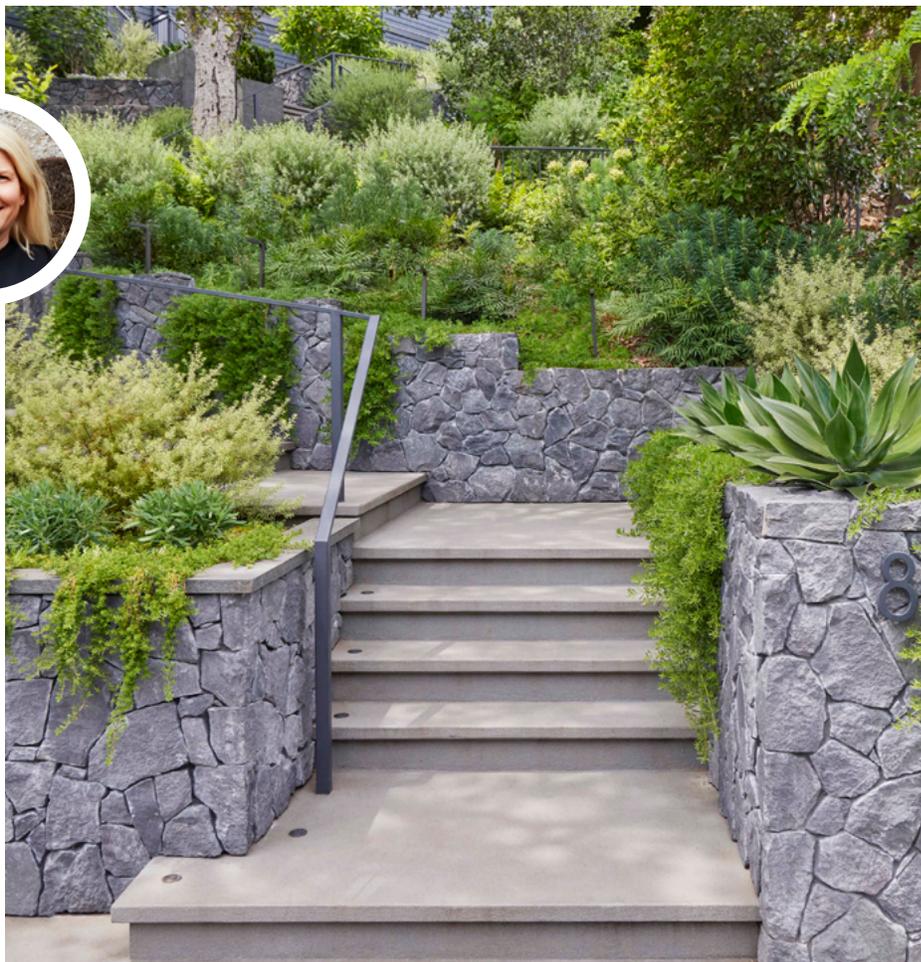
**LOCATION:** Sausalito, CA



**CONSTRAINTS:** The project involved transforming an ivy-covered, erosion-prone hillside while preserving the significant population of Coast Live Oaks and ensuring appropriate plant selection.

### **NOTABLE FEATURES:**

A carefully articulated staircase, striking hardscapes using concrete, steel, teak, basalt, and blended gravel, and diverse plantings including whimsical succulents and fire-retardant, native species.



THIS LANDSCAPE PROJECT IS A **2023 APLD GOLD AWARD WINNER** IN THE RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY OVER \$100,000.

**A** short twenty minutes from the hustle and bustle of the Bay Area, in USDA Zone 9b, one is greeted by a carefully articulated staircase that rises through an oak-studded hillside, bathed in nature. Ascending through

the garden feels like entering a modern treehouse, with the use of timeless and lasting materials: concrete, steel, teak, basalt, and blended gravel.

The variety of building mediums, tones, and textures celebrates architectural precision with warmth. The charcoal-colored natural stone, paired with chartreuse and glaucous-gray plantings, creates a striking contrast, while repeated blue notes bring a soothing coolness to the palette.

The client, a bachelor, sought a more



**Above:** Basalt wall planted with native Heuchera under Oak canopy. **Opposite page, from left:** Aeoniums fill the crevices adjacent to a basalt landing; Palette of cool grays and soft greens in custom planters; Tiered Westringia, Heuchera, and Magnolia around a fabricated basalt planter.

attractive path and friendlier planting solution from the street to his front door at a much higher elevation. He commissioned Kate Webster’s firm, Katharine Webster Inc., and the project architect to develop a collaborative solution.

Originally an ivy-covered hillside prone to erosion, the project presented a challenging but exciting opportunity for native oak woodland stewardship. The property, full of different vantage points—over the oak treetops, through the trees, and down the stairs—offers diverse experiences throughout the landscape. Protecting and honoring the significant population of Coast Live Oaks was of primary importance.

As the project unfolded, a satisfying

component was that the client developed a greater interest in plants, especially succulents, which whimsically gather along his new pathways. He grew with the project and came to appreciate the natural beauty of his property with the aid of Kate Webster’s symbiotic and collaborative design. A private, rear shaded patio, protected from deer, is dotted with apple trees and blended groundcovers, creating the notion of being cocooned in nature.

The scope of work included the new path layout around the oaks, hardscape material selection, planting design and plant selection of drought-tolerant, fire-retardant, and native plants, specimen tree and plant procurement, plant placement, and construction

*the client  
developed a  
greater interest in  
plants, especially  
succulents, which  
whimsically gather  
along his new  
pathways*





**Above:** Custom-fabricated steel planters ebbing with climate appropriate plants.

administration of the landscape.

Additionally, the work encompassed exterior lighting design and fixture placement to create a softer nighttime effect, as well as sourcing and purchasing decorative and functional elements. To add greening to hardscape-intensive areas, fiberglass planters by Greenform, Inc. were selected for the front deck and custom-designed galvanized and powder-coated steel planters for the rear terrace.

The collaborative nature of this project elevated both the final design and execution, resulting in a timeless landscape that celebrates both ephemeral and natural stone elements.

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CONTENT COURTESY  
OF **KATHARINE WEBSTER, INC.**

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHOTOS  
ARE BY **CAITLIN ATKINSON**



**Current page, from left:** Casual seating around a firepit dotted with fiberglass planters; A before photo by Katharine Webster, Inc. Property had tired paths with Sonoma rock and ivy; Conceptual plan.



## FEATURED GARDEN

GREATER  
L.A.  
DISTRICT



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEBBIE GLIKSMAN

THIS LANDSCAPE PROJECT IS A **2023 APLD SILVER AWARD WINNER** IN THE RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY OVER \$100,000.

**T**his vintage Palmer & Krisel home, yearning to be restored to its mid-century charm, received a comprehensive exterior makeover alongside a revamped landscape by Debbie Glikzman of Urban Oasis Landscape Design.

Debbie and her team began by stripping away the patchwork of previous updates, including an incongruous window and veneer stonework. They applied a smooth, rich charcoal gray stucco to the front and added a vibrant coral mid-century door with unique MCM light fixtures. Custom vertical cedar

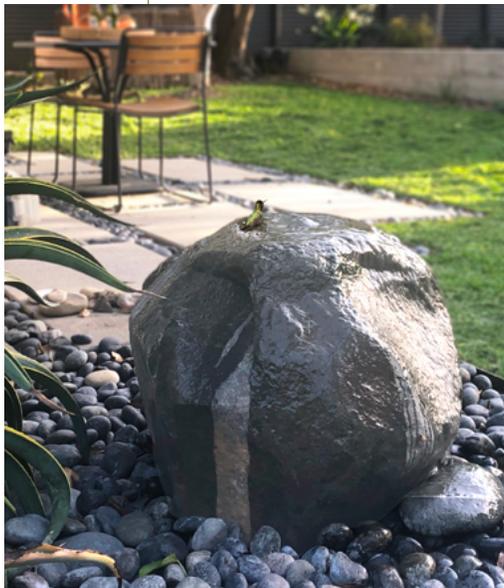
screens broke up the front walls' expanse, and a stunning new cedar garage door replaced the dated one. New concrete planters at the entrance hold an exotic collection of cacti, enhancing the home's curb appeal. A period-correct breeze block wall serves as a backdrop to the kitchen view, and an industrial charcoal corrugated metal fence provides privacy around the property. Sculptural agaves, succulents, and California native plants punctuate the front landscape, complementing the "arroyo seco" rain garden studded with boulders and branches.

In the backyard, the chaotic collection of trees was curated, prioritizing native Oak volunteer saplings. The uneven yard was graded into

**DESIGNER:** Debbie Gliksman  
**COMPANY:** Urban Oasis Landscape Design



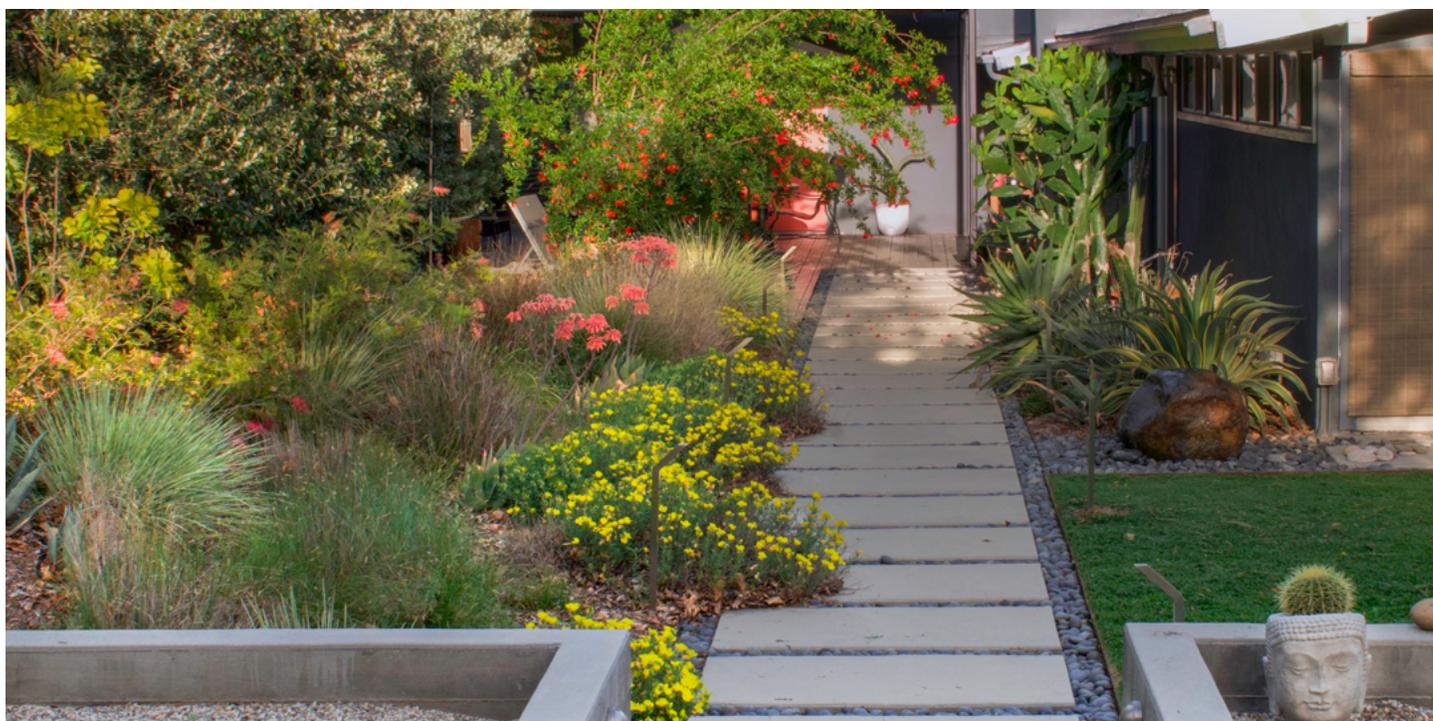
## *About the Project*

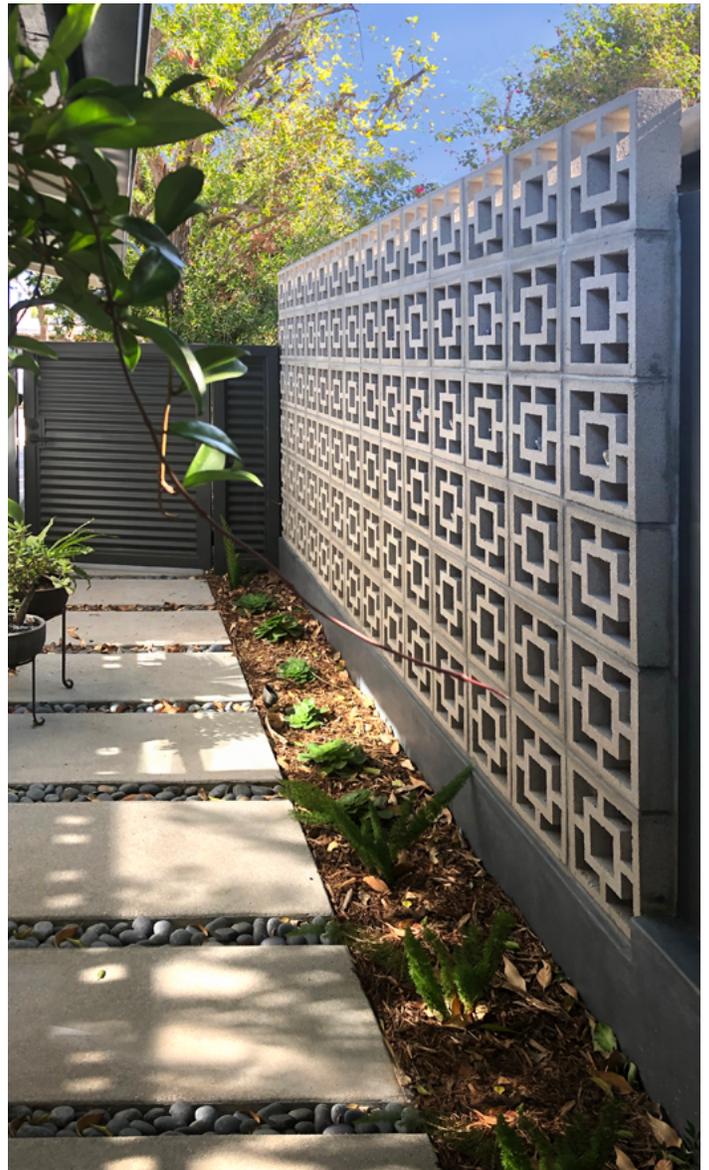


**LOCATION:** Woodland Hills, CA  
**ZONE:** 10B  
**AREAS:** Front and backyard  
**BUDGET:** Over \$100,000

**CONSTRAINTS:** The front and back yards were very uneven and difficult to use, with unattractive, poorly functioning hardscapes and overcrowded trees lacking smaller plant materials. Additionally, the vintage Mid-Century Modern house had several unsightly additions.

**NOTABLE FEATURES:** The new space offers diverse areas to enjoy, channels 100% of stormwater runoff into rain gardens, and creates a sustainable, wildlife-attracting, and peaceful retreat for the clients. The juxtaposition of the hardscape's straight lines with the softness of the plants adds beautiful contrast.







upper and lower levels with an industrial-style concrete retaining wall. Linear pavers lead through a rain garden filled with swaying grasses, culminating at a gracefully arching pomegranate tree. A bubbling boulder water feature adds soothing sound and attracts wildlife. A large steel and willow-roof pergola creates a shady dining space, while chaise lounges and chairs bask in the surrounding shade.

The transformation was completed with a bold and biodiverse selection of low-water, climate-appropriate plants, creating a vibrant and sustainable environment. An ethereal Palo Alto tree stands sentry in the upper level, where another serene seating area was created.

Sustainable elements were integral to the design, with 100% of rainwater runoff diverted into two large rain gardens, permeable hardscape elements, a water feature, native and climate-appropriate plants, including a

low-water Kurapia lawn, and drip irrigation with a smart timer. These practices have created a lush, wildlife-friendly habitat, making the garden a haven for birds and butterflies.

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*All content courtesy of Debbie Gliksman  
of Urban Oasis Landscape Design.*

# FEATURED GARDEN

BAY AREA DISTRICT



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS © JUDE PARKINSON-MORGAN

THIS LANDSCAPE PROJECT IS A **2023 APLD SILVER AWARD WINNER** IN THE RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY OVER \$100,000.

**S**kyline Meadow Farm is a masterful landscape design project crafted by Nina Mullen of Mullein Designs. Set amidst Oakland Hills, this multi-acre property serves as a private retreat for the clients and an inviting space for entertaining friends and family.

The clients' vision was clear: they wanted a sanctuary that accommodated ample parking for their guests, including space for a large truck to maneuver. Equally important was the need for a landscape that was climate-appropriate and incorporated essential

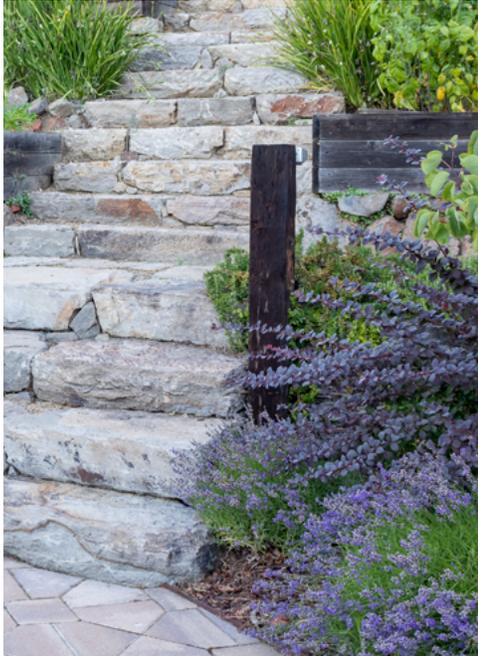
windbreaks. The paved driveway was a huge area with narrow 2-foot planting beds along the house, and the clients required enough pavers to park ten cars and allow a fire truck to turn around. This requirement necessitated creative solutions for expanding the beds and creating new planting islands, balancing functionality with aesthetic appeal.

Nina's design intent was to transform the property entrance into an inviting and beautiful arrival experience, counterbalancing the expansive, geometric-patterned driveway with lush plantings. The introduction of curves in the landscape elements was essential to soften the home's mid-century modern architecture, creating a more organic flow.

**DESIGNER:** Nina Mullen  
**COMPANY:** Mullein Designs



## *About the Project*



**LOCATION:** Oakland, CA

**ZONE:** 10A

**AREAS:** Front and backyard

**BUDGET:** Over \$100,000

**CONSTRAINTS:** This large four-acre lot in the Oakland Hills sits perched on an exposed knoll with panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay. The hilltop setting means that the landscape contends with both blasting sun and strong winds. Soil is primarily compacted clay.

**NOTABLE FEATURES:** The traditional lawn was transformed into a meadow-like bank of low-mow fescue and resilient, waterwise perennials. This feature exemplifies the project's commitment to sustainability and showcases Nina's ability to blend functionality with natural beauty.





The entrance, with its elliptical islands of planting beds, offers a warm welcome. In the backyard, a newly defined path of brown basalt stone steps leads to tiered vegetable beds, honey-producing hives, and a thriving orchard of citrus and stone fruit.

The traditional lawn in the back garden was replaced by a meadow-like bank of low-mow fescue and resilient, waterwise perennials like Salvia and Lavender. Taller plantings like *Arbutus* ‘Marina,’ *Rhamnus alaternus* ‘John Edwards,’ and various *Ceanothus* species provide effective screening and blend into the surrounding natural landscape, accentuating the panoramic views of the bay.

This expansive site allowed for the creation of additional enchanting spaces, including a new dining patio, a cozy fire pit area, and a rejuvenated water feature that now hosts a vibrant collection of koi. A meandering network of flagstone paths ties these spaces together, inviting exploration and relaxation. The result is a collection of thoughtfully designed



destinations, each marrying beauty with function.

Environmental responsibility was at the forefront of the design. Pollinator plants were introduced to support native wildlife and the property’s beehives. Permeable paving was used throughout, and locally sourced lumber was milled and utilized on-site, minimizing environmental impact.

Nina’s role extended beyond the initial design to include hands-on collaboration during installation. Her design has also continued to evolve, with ongoing involvement addressing other areas of the property as well.

Her expertise has brought to life a landscape that meets the clients’ needs and elevates the natural beauty of Skyline Meadow Farm, creating a timeless and serene retreat.

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*Landscape plan courtesy of Nina Mullen of **Mullein Designs**. All photos are copyrighted by **Jude Parkinson-Morgan**.*





# ADVOCACY CORNER

We advocate for many important causes that impact our members, profession, environment, and issues with respect to equity and justice.



**DEI**  
(DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION)



**EDUCATION**



**OUTREACH**



**LEGISLATION**

We're diligently planning a pivotal webinar focused on the latest updates in regulations and practices affecting landscape designers. This session is designed to arm you with essential information that impacts your professional rights and responsibilities.

#### Webinar Highlights:

- Understand the landscape of licensing and regulatory issues affecting your practice.
- Explore the proposed changes in

legislation and professional practice codes.

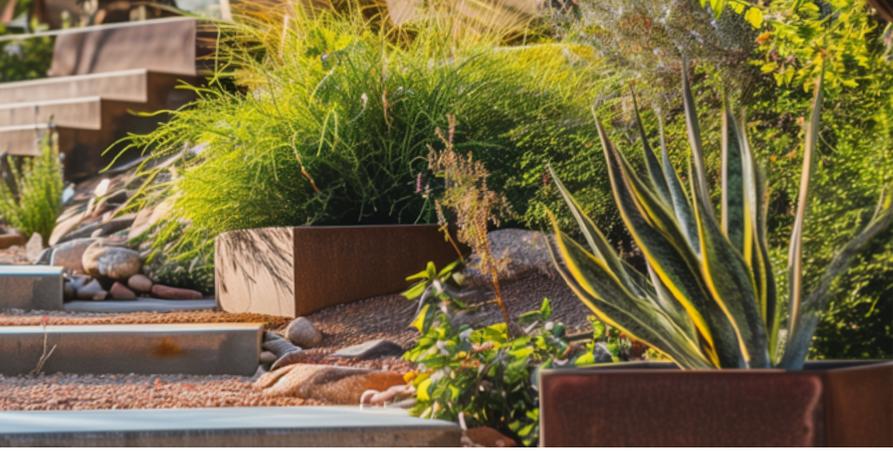
- Learn how these changes could impact your day-to-day operations and long-term planning.

Your involvement is crucial. As we navigate these changes, your informed voice and proactive engagement are key to shaping a favorable environment for all landscape designers. This is more than just a learning opportunity—it's a chance to actively shape your profession.

Please stay tuned for our newsletter announcing the final date in September. We're eager to see you there and discuss how we can collectively advance our professional standing and influence.

For more information on our Advocacy efforts, and to get involved, please contact:

[advocacy@apldca.org](mailto:advocacy@apldca.org)



What do YOU advocate for?  
The Advocacy Committee and its working groups give you a chance to make meaningful contributions, and to give your ideas wings!

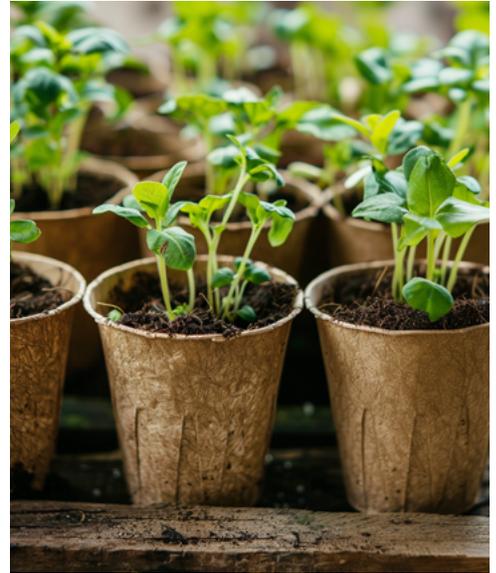


**ENVIRONMENT**

Plastic pots significantly contribute to the proliferation of plastic pollution. Through our Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet initiative we are raising awareness about the environmental costs of plastic horticultural pots to our earth and we are asking you to sign your name in support for more sustainable alternatives. We want

individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations that share our passion for reducing plastic use in the horticultural industry to get involved.

Visit the initiative's website to [sign the petition today](#).



**ADVOCACY CHAIR  
POSITION AVAILABLE**

Are you passionate about advocating for sustainable landscape design? APLD CA is seeking a dedicated individual to fill the vacant Advocacy Chair position. This is your opportunity to lead our advocacy efforts, promote sustainable practices, and influence policy. If you're a motivated landscape designer with a vision for the future, we want to hear from you!

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Represent APLD CA in advocacy initiatives.
- Collaborate with policy makers and industry stakeholders.
- Drive awareness on key issues affecting the landscape design industry.

Interested? Visit our [Advocacy Page](#) for more details and send an email to [president@apldca.org](mailto:president@apldca.org).

# FIRESCAPE

WRITTEN BY  
**JODIE COOK,**  
ASLA, SITES AP





Over 90 percent of WUI fires in California are anthropogenic, with a spike in ignitions occurring on July 4th.

# APING

ECO-FRIENDLY  
AND FIRE-RESILIENT:  
THE EVOLVING ROLE OF  
LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS

**LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS PLAY A DISTINCTIVE ROLE IN THE GREEN INDUSTRY.** We were among the first landscape professionals to adopt ecological design in residential communities and apply permaculture and watershed-friendly principles to ornamental landscapes. We have embraced the beauty of salvaged, recycled, and sustainable building materials and we continue to lead the native plant renaissance by designing residential gardens that restore degraded urban and suburban ecosystems. Our knowledge extends to the celebrated history and art of ornamental horticulture. Most importantly, we are fascinated by plants and delight in shaping the biotic networks that glue our world together.

Legislation aimed at preventing loss of life and property in wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire zones, designated by CalFire, challenges many established principles we have learned as professional garden designers. Foundation planting, massing, layering, fragrance, mulch, visual screening, and developing a list of tall, narrow plants for small spaces are just a few aspects of landscape design that must be reexamined, especially in light of defensible space legislation that enshrines ‘Zone 0’ into law for properties in very high fire severity zones. Enforcement mechanisms for existing homes impacted by this law are due in 2026.

Amendments to defensible space laws can be controversial because they can impact both long-cherished and newly designed landscapes and gardens. However, rules vary by municipality, so be sure to check with the local fire authority for the specific codes that



Screening plantings in narrow side lots may need to be reconsidered in high fire severity zones. These existing Monterey Cypress trees may need to be pruned or removed, and adjacent ‘laddering’ shrubs should be trimmed or taken out to maintain a 10-foot distance from rooflines.

Photo: by Jodie Cook

apply to your project. Fire science applied to residential landscapes is becoming more nuanced over time, even as development pressure in WUI zones continues unabated.

Unimpeded flying embers penetrating vulnerable points in buildings are a primary cause of life-threatening WUI fires in our state. Thus, retrofitting defensible space always begins with hardening the home itself and works outward concentrically

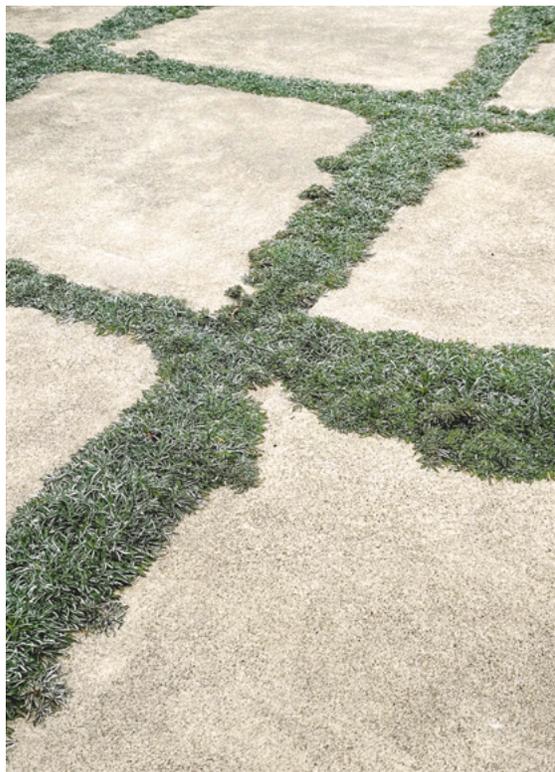


« Think native when planting succulents near structures, Dudleya pulverulenta. Photo by Jodie Cook.

toward Zone 2, which extends to the 100 foot mark or your property line.

Contrary to sensational headlines, climate change does not directly ignite fires, neither do our long Mediterranean summers, but these factors do create conditions that increase the risk and intensity of fires, such as prolonged droughts and higher temperatures. While our native plants do not ‘need’ fire, they have evolved alongside it.

In populated areas of Northern and Southern California, people inadvertently ignite fires at times that differ from natural historical fire regimes to which our ecoregions are adapted. Over 90 percent of WUI fires in California are anthropogenic, with a spike in ignitions occurring on July 4th. Effective early warning technologies are being developed to detect fires closer to their ignition points, long before they threaten communities. These new technologies will rightly shift the focus to ignition points, rather than preemptively clearing native wildlands of their plants, habitats, and ecosystems.



Soft underfoot, low-growing Dymondia margaretae in a permeable patio. Ideally, groundcover should be cleared and replaced with pea gravel directly adjacent to the outer walls or replaced with pea gravel in Zone 0. Photo by Jodie Cook.

>>CONTINUED

**WE ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO CREATE GARDENS OF THE FUTURE;** fire-resistant and ecologically rich while delivering our clients the functional, well-being-enhancing retreats they seek. This task requires not only an appreciation for plants and the ability to sensitively craft outdoor space, but an understanding of best practices for fire resilience and the determination to find innovative solutions to rigid design limitations. We don't want to break the rules, but it is perfectly fine to bend them toward the results we desire. Just as our greatest creative spark sometimes arises from the tightest budget, we can use these new restrictions to drive the creativity for which California designers are admired.

Rules related to defensible space zones have been extensively covered so I won't reiterate them here. Instead, I will offer ideas for creatively interpreting these spaces, hoping you will build on them to create something truly wonderful. Zone 0 (0-5 feet) and Zone 1 (to 30 feet) are perfect opportunities to include native plants in the residential landscape. In a lightly irrigated garden context, many native plants (even muskily fragrant plants like native salvias) can be colorful, wildlife-enhancing additions to our immediate environment. One challenge for designers lies in the area most restricted by defensible space guidelines: Zone 0.

Although Zone 0 is defined as a plant-free five-foot boundary around the home's perimeter, this boundary need not be a boring rectangle! It can have a sinuous, meandering, or geometric edge extending into the garden. These extensions could feature a potager using metal troughs, Corten steel, or other non-combustible, food-safe materials on a bed of crunchy pea gravel. It might feature a rain chain and naturalistic





« A 10-foot wide patio with an undulating edge abuts the house, and beyond it is an assortment of low, irrigated native plants (*Achillea millefolium* 'Cerise Queen,' *Epilobium* sp., *Satureja chandleri*, *Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince'). Masonry or stucco walls can act as fire breaks. Photo by Jodie Cook.

bioswale moving water gently away from the perimeter of the home, or it might include a recirculating water feature, or raked gravel sculpture garden. Zone 0 offers designers a silver lining by pushing patio seating away from its traditional location against the house and out into the garden, where nature can be intimately enjoyed.

Assembly Bill 3074, coupled with AB 38, gives the state a mechanism for enforcing defensible space laws, including Zone 0. In Zone 0, the ground plane cannot be covered with combustible materials like wood mulch, artificial turf, or wood edging adjoining the house.

Low, irrigated groundcover may be allowed in less severe fire hazard zones. Permeable paving can be artistically detailed or incorporate low groundcover plants, such as Kurapia or *Dymondia margaretae* (pg. 32) in the gaps. This area can also feature succulent ceramic container arrangements, boulder water features, or metal or ceramic statuary. While wood, upholstered, or plastic composite furniture is not allowed, it can include artistic iron garden benches or die-cut sheet metal screening.

Be cautious about filling the 0–30 foot zone with spiny cacti for water conservation and fire-resistance. Defensible space must provide a safe staging area for firefighters,

and spiky cacti do not accommodate this need. Additionally, wood or non-fire-resistant composite or plastic furniture should not be placed in Zone 0.

By embracing these challenges with creativity and expertise, we can design landscapes that are not only beautiful and functional but also resilient and safe for our communities.

*Jodie is passionate about a number of topics on sustainability and the future of Landscape Design & Architecture. To get in touch or find out more, visit her website:*

JODIECOOKDESIGN.COM

**Below:** Strategically placed boulders, low fire-resistant plants, and non-combustible surfacing in Zone 0. This zone is best considered as a 'no plant' zone, however spaced and irrigated low-risk plants may be acceptable.

**Bottom Right:** Sea glass, birds-eye gravel and leftover pool tile sparkle in a Zone 0 hardscape detail. Photo by Jodie Cook.





« Sphaeralcea 'Childerley' is a low-growing desert mallow.  
Photo by Jodie Cook.

Below: Malva 'Purissima'  
lends a tropical feel to  
California gardens.  
Photo by Jodie Cook.





*plastic  
wrapped  
gardens*

Artificial turf promises low maintenance and eco-friendliness, but it brings significant environmental and health hazards.

**Written by  
Stephanie Bartron**  
*CPLD, FAPLD, GLAD Sustainability Chair*

**Left:** Covering soil with plastic impairs or disrupts all environmental benefits of living soil with living plants.

**Right:** The raw pellets used to make artificial turf contain several chemicals and compounds that leach into our air, water, and soil.



**T**his week, I visited two newly flipped houses, each with gardens enveloped in plastic. One garden features a sparse scattering of “waterwise” plants set adrift in a sea of landscape fabric topped with gravel. The other garden, belonging to a multigenerational family expecting a new addition, is shaded by mature Chinese Elm trees, their leaves falling onto 2,815 square feet of artificial turf. I can only imagine the countless hours of leaf blowing required to maintain such tidiness.

Why did these house flippers cover the landscapes with plastic? Both properties already had existing, albeit outdated, irrigation systems, so it wasn't to avoid those installation costs. They were likely responding to market trends, catering to buyers seeking low water-use and low-maintenance gardens. Additionally, they might have been drawn to plastic's promise of perpetual perfection.

## DECEPTIVE VENEER

From the grocery store to our daily lives, nearly everything we buy is wrapped in plastic. It preserves, protects, and separates, making it easier to display socks or keep strawberries fresh. Perhaps the house flippers believed plastic-wrapped gardens offered similar appeal. Given that modest houses don't linger on the market these days, it likely wasn't about enhancing curb appeal for an extended listing. Instead, it seems their choice stemmed from the widespread belief that “lawns are a waste

of water,” while still satisfying the desire for lawns and open spaces—a case of both greenwashing and bluwashing.

Both gardens are environmental disasters from top to bottom. These petroleum-based products are made from new plastic, not recycled materials, thereby supporting the fossil fuel industry. They cannot be recycled, so pieces that don't wash into the oceans end up in landfills after their short lifespans of just 8-15 years. Artificial turf contributes to the Urban Heat Island Effect by absorbing and retaining heat, significantly raising ambient air temperatures day and night. It can also melt and is flammable.

Its fibers degrade and wash away; they contribute to microplastic pollution and leach toxic chemicals including PFAS and BPA into our air, water, and soil. Biodiversity and habitat loss, from birds to soil microbes, is also clear. These often-overlooked soil microbes are crucial for soil health and ecosystem stability, playing a key role in nutrient cycling and organic matter decomposition.

Artificial turf also negatively impacts watersheds. While it is advertised (and may start out) as permeable, the small pores quickly clog, causing the soil beneath to become lifeless, compacted and unable to receive or store water effectively, or at all, except where plant roots are present and irrigated. This



prevents stormwater capture and can lead to rapid, increased runoff and potential flooding.

Plastic landscapes are also a missed opportunity: they fail to capitalize on the potential environmental and aesthetic benefits that natural landscapes offer. Opportunity cost is defined as the loss of potential gain from other alternatives when one alternative is chosen over others. As designers, we understand the numerous environmental benefits that even a small residential front yard can offer.

Healthy living soil with living plants promotes watershed health, plant health, carbon and nitrogen sequestration, biodiversity support, ambient heat reduction, waste reduction, and nutrient cycling. Covering this soil with plastic impairs or disrupts all these benefits.

Every garden is an opportunity to enhance both aesthetic and systemic beauty. Just as a plastic-wrapped couch may appear pristine, plastic gardens are similarly wrapped in a thin veneer of perfection—with significant hidden drawbacks. A living lawn and a worn couch, despite their imperfections, will always be more inviting and comfortable.

Artificial turf also presents significant human health and safety issues. Lawsuits are common, with lawyers ready to take on cases. Athletes have sued over increased injury rates, and past lawsuits have revealed high lead content. New suits focus on increased cancer rates among athletes. Recent testing has shown that toxic PFAS are prevalent in both the rubber infill and turf fibers, despite industry denials.

« The grass-like strands of synthetic turf are typically made from materials such as polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and nylon.



**Above:** Property shaded by mature Elm Trees. Their leaves fall on 2,815 square feet of artificial turf. Photo by Stephanie Bartron.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

In 2023, CA SB676 (Allen) was signed into law. Previously, the state had prohibited local governments from banning residential drought-tolerant landscaping, including artificial turf. The law has now been revised to prohibit local governments only from banning “drought-tolerant landscaping using living plant material on residential property,” effectively allowing them to ban artificial turf. This means local governments can no longer require green lawns or ban living drought-tolerant landscapes, but they can ban plastic ones.

The LA City Council Motion 24-0602 (approved by the Energy and Environmental Committee and currently awaiting full council vote for approval) does not apply to residential landscapes. It focuses on public properties, including schools and parks, requiring an analysis of the full lifecycle costs for different types of turf surfaces. The motion aims to halt future artificial turf installations on city-owned property and develop plans to remove and replace existing synthetic sports fields.

Additionally, it encourages public agencies and utilities to incentivize the removal and replacement of artificial turf and promote California-friendly landscaping. If your clients are hesitant to remove existing artificial turf, rebates might soon be available to support them.

If you have clients still considering installing artificial turf, encourage them to research the health and safety risks to their family and the broader environmental impacts. If you are active in your local community, share this information and advocate against further installations and for the removal of existing artificial turf. From dog parks to preschools, parkways to pool patios, plastic-wrapped gardens are literally greenwashed and bluewashed, with many negative side effects.

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*To read more on this topic, Stephanie recommends the following article at [surfrider.org](https://www.surfrider.org).*



# the porous path

*A review of the technical and environmental advantages of pervious concrete.*

Words & Photos by  
Gün Ünsal,  
Vice President of APLD California

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PERVIOUS CONCRETE, a special form of conventional concrete, is distinguished primarily by its minimal sand content. This adjustment allows the material to maintain a porous structure, with voids large enough for water to percolate down at a rate of 3 to 5 gallons per minute per square foot of surface area. Many of you might have seen the demonstrations in videos or local horticulture classes where water flows through a sample placed under a faucet. It's quite remarkable to see in person! For a closer look, I recommend watching [this demonstration](#).

At a time when our groundwater reservoirs are diminishing and cities are experiencing subsidence—often accelerated by groundwater extraction—it's crucial to retain water on our sites and allow it to slowly seep through the soil. With large surfaces such as driveways and walkways, pervious concrete can handle heavy rains and play a significant role in recharging groundwater supplies. This percolation helps the underlying soil act as a filter. And as we know, water that is not fil-

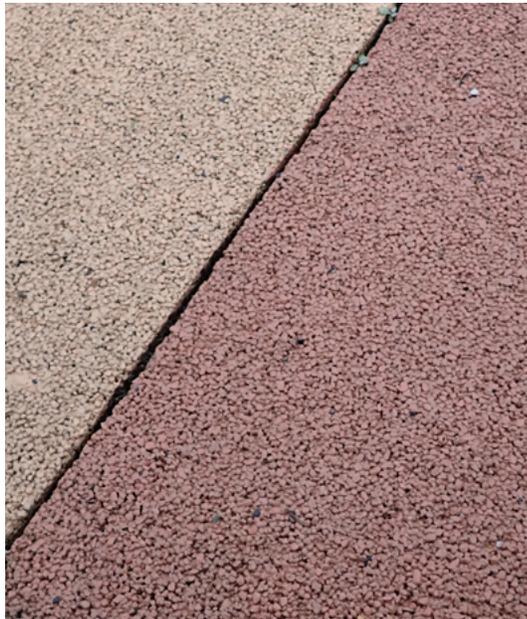
tered by soil or living material is simply polluted runoff that enters our local watersheds.

Considering the large percentage of hydrocarbons in urban runoff that come from materials like asphalt, replacing old, degraded asphalt paths and driveways with pervious concrete offers another compelling environmental benefit. Builders also benefit as they receive credit for permeable areas in new construction projects. Plus, it's easier for clients to maintain their surfaces; they can wash them down without worrying about heavily contaminated runoff.

For my clients, I felt the main issue might be the rather 'Rice Krispies'-looking texture of the sand-free concrete. Luckily, Ryan Marlinghaus of Pervious Products has developed [PerkTop](#), which has a finer, more attractive texture that can be poured on top of the pervious concrete in a thin layer in various colors. Although this layer contains more sand, it retains impressive permeability, according to Ryan, 200 inches per hour. It offers a palette of grays, tans and custom colors for those more particular clients.

If the strength and cost of pervious concrete is a concern, Ryan assures us that when installed correctly, its strength is comparable to that of conventional concrete and may even last longer due to reduced cracking.

Regarding costs, installations of PerkTop are roughly equivalent to those of ordinary pavers. And for those wondering about maintenance, any decrease in permeability due



PERKTOP PRODUCTS

–  
**Opposite Page:** Walkway in dark tan showing smooth texture of PerkTop. **Current page, from top left:** Pervious concrete base with a thin layer in gray; Two tone pervious driveway and walkway; Grays, Terracottas and Exposed Aggregate colors; Close-up detail of contrasting border application.

to clogging can generally be managed with regular pressure washing to remove any debris that has accumulated on the surface.

Pervious concrete offers a multitude of environmental and practical benefits for urban landscapes. By allowing water to percolate through its porous structure, it significantly reduces the amount of runoff that enters storm drains, which helps prevent pollutants from reaching water bodies and causing issues like algae blooms. This enhanced filtration capacity not only recharges the groundwater and prevents subsidence but also retains water on-site

to nourish local flora. Additionally, the surface of pervious concrete minimizes puddles and the risk of hydroplaning, making it a safer option for hardscapes. With aesthetic enhancements like the PerkTop option, pervious concrete also contributes to the visual appeal of the landscape, blending functionality with style.

Contact [baDistrict@aplca.org](mailto:baDistrict@aplca.org) for the permeable concrete webinar recording from Ryan Marlinghaus.

For pervious pre-made pavers, check out [Pacific Interlock Pavers](#).



# Curbing Light Pollution & Protecting the Night Sky

By **Bryce Carnehl**,  
*Specification Marketing Manager,*  
Hunter | FXLuminaire

## illuminating landscapes

**THE ROLE OF LANDSCAPE LIGHTING** is evolving beyond mere aesthetics and functionality to also include compliance with emerging legislative measures aimed at combating light pollution. As urban areas expand, the necessity to preserve the natural beauty of the night sky has spurred the introduction of Dark Sky ordinances.

These regulations are not just guidelines but are becoming integral to landscape planning, necessitating a deeper understanding and strategic implementation by design professionals. FXLuminaire, a leader in outdoor lighting solutions, recognizes the importance of these ordinances in shaping sustainable environments.

In light of California's recent legislative efforts, notably AB38\*, which aims to significantly reduce light pollution, there is a clear directive for the industry. This legislation, if passed, will enforce stricter controls on lighting installations, requiring them to not only minimize glare and skyglow but also conserve energy and protect nocturnal habitats.

Designers must now consider these elements meticulously to ensure compliance and enhance their project's ecological sensitivity. Dark Sky-compliant, low voltage landscape lighting has the upper hand in this new regulatory environment.

Operating at 12 volts, these systems are inherently safer and more adaptable to wet outdoor conditions. The integration of LED technology also maximizes energy efficiency, consuming up to 75% less energy than traditional

incandescent bulbs. This aligns with the energy conservation goals of dark sky ordinances while extending the longevity and durability of lighting installations.

For landscape architects and designers, the challenge lies in balancing the aesthetic appeal of outdoor spaces with environmental responsibilities. Adhering to dark sky-friendly practices, such as focused and layered lighting strategies, designers can achieve a harmonious balance that enhances visual appeal while keeping ecological impact to a minimum. Client education about the benefits of responsible lighting is also vital in fostering wider acceptance and adherence to these practices.

As the landscape of outdoor lighting continues to evolve with regulatory changes, embracing these principles will ensure compliance while promoting sustainability. By prioritizing energy efficiency, safety, and environmental responsibility, FXLuminaire helps designers create beautifully illuminated landscapes that respect both human and ecological needs, paving the way for more harmonious and sustainable communities.

- \* California's AB 38, aimed at curtailing light pollution, addresses multifaceted concerns including reducing the state's high energy costs, mitigating health and environmental impacts, and enhancing public safety. The legislation targets the adverse effects of inappropriate lighting—disrupting human circadian rhythms and altering wildlife behaviors—and establishes stringent standards for outdoor lighting fixtures to reduce glare, light trespass, and skyglow. By setting limits such as a maximum color temperature of 2,700 Kelvin and mandating shielded fixtures, AB 38 strives for a balance between ecological responsibility and necessary illumination for safety, thereby promoting both energy efficiency and night sky preservation. **It's important to note that this AB 38 is different from a previous AB 38 from the 2019–2020 session, which was related to fire safety and wildfire mitigation. The current AB 38 (2023–2024) is focused on light pollution control.**

**Hunter®**  
**FXLuminaire.**





Embrace sustainability with Lyngso by exploring products that help create eco-friendly gardens while reducing environmental impact.

# GREEN BUILDING BLOCKS

Words and photos courtesy of **Kan Parthiban, Lyngso Garden Materials**

**A**s environmental concerns continue to influence our choices, more people are seeking sustainable solutions for their gardening and landscaping needs. Lyngso Garden Materials, a family-run and employee-owned business based in San Carlos, California, is at the forefront of the sustainable and regenerative movement. With a commitment to providing eco-conscious products and services, Lyngso is helping gardeners and landscapers create beautiful and sustainable environments.

### ORGANIC COMPOSTS AND MULCHES

One of the standout sustainable products at Lyngso is their range of organic composts and mulches. These products are essential for enriching the soil, improving plant health, and conserving water. Organic Diestel Compost is excellent

for growing healthy vegetable gardens! Recycled products like Composted Mulch and Garden Compost are SB1383 compliant. Organic composts rich in microbiology are not only beneficial for your garden but also for the environment. By opting for organic composts, gardeners can reduce their reliance on chemical fertilizers, which often contribute to soil degradation and water pollution.

### WATER-WISE SOLUTIONS

Water conservation is a significant aspect of sustainable gardening, especially in areas like California, which frequently face drought conditions. Lyngso supports a variety of water-wise solutions like Greywater from Laundry to Landscape.

Their selection of decorative gravel and mulch also helps in reducing water evaporation from soil surfaces, maintaining moisture levels for longer periods. These products are perfect for creating a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape that thrives with minimal water use.

### NATURAL STONE

For those looking to add aesthetic appeal to their gardens without compromising on sustainability, Lyngso provides an extensive range of natural stones. Their natural stone collection includes options like flagstone, cobblestones, and boulders, ideal for creating durable and visually appealing garden paths, patios, and retaining walls. Additionally, their recycled mate-

rials, such as Class II Base Rock, offer eco-friendly alternatives for various landscaping projects, reducing the demand for new raw materials.

#### LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS

Lyngso also caters to sustainable construction needs with their selection of LEED building materials. From local Flagstones and Boulders to environmentally conscious tools, they offer materials that help minimize the environmental impact of construction projects. Using sustainable building materials not only reduces waste but also promotes the longevity and efficiency of structures, contributing to the overall health of our environment.

#### BIOLOGICALS AND ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Healthy soil is the foundation of a thriving garden, and Lyngso's biological products and organic fertilizers are designed to promote soil health naturally. Biologicals include beneficial microorganisms that enhance soil fertility and plant growth. Organic fertilizers, made from natural sources, provide essential nutrients without the harmful effects associated with synthetic fertilizers. These products support a balanced ecosystem, encouraging robust plant development and resil-



ience against pests and diseases.

#### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond providing sustainable products, Lyngso is dedicated to educating the community about sustainable gardening practices and supporting local non-profits and school gardens. They offer classes and workshops on topics such as composting, water conservation, and organic gardening. These educational initiatives empower customers with the knowledge and skills to make environmentally responsible choices in their gardening and landscaping endeavors.

#### LANDSCAPE SUSTAINABLY.

##### LANDSCAPE LYNGSO.

Lyngso Garden Materials is more than just a supplier of gardening products; they are a partner in creating a sustainable future. By

offering a diverse range of eco-conscious products and engaging the community through education, Lyngso is making sustainable gardening accessible and achievable for everyone. Whether you are a professional landscaper or a home gardener, choosing Lyngso's sustainable products is a step towards a greener, healthier planet. Visit Lyngso Garden Materials to explore their offerings and join the movement towards sustainable and regenerative gardening.



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# SUMMER/FALL CALENDAR

Submit an event to the Chapter Calendar, send updates or questions to:  
[calendar@aplדca.org](mailto:calendar@aplדca.org).

You can find more upcoming events at  
[aplדca.org/apld-events](http://aplדca.org/apld-events).



## IN-PERSON EVENT

### SAN DIEGO DISTRICT SUMMER SOCIAL

Thursday, August 8 | 4PM - 7PM  
The Bellora House, Escondido

Kick back and chill with your designer friends at our annual Summer Social! Check out a beautiful garden, complete with a waterfall, an urbanite patio and hugels! Bonus: a pool for a quick dip and hang out poolside with good friends and new friends who have recently joined APLD, San Diego. More via the link below.

[Reserve Your Spot Here.](#)

## WEBINAR

### THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE: 5 PRINCIPLES OF RETORATIVE DESIGN

Thursday, August 22 | 5:30PM - 7PM  
Online Event | 1.5 CEUs

Join our webinar with UC Davis associate professor Haven Kiers to explore innovative landscape architecture, integrating contemporary planting design with ecology, aesthetics, and sustainable practices. Learn about her projects and research on green infrastructure and its environmental, technological, and cultural impacts.



[Register Here.](#)

## WEBINAR

### INTRODUCTION TO BIOMIMICRY: LEARNING FROM NATURE'S GENIUS

Wednesday, September 18  
3PM - 4:30PM  
Online Event | 1.5 CEUs

Biomimicry is a new discipline that studies nature's best ideas and then imitates these designs and processes to solve human problems. Biomimicry asks the question: What would nature do? The goal is to create sustainable products, processes, and policies by learning from and "listening to" nature. Hosted by Jacques Chirazi, Certified Biomimicry Professional.

[Register Here.](#)



## SITING A SWIMMING POOL ON A SLOPE AND MORE

Wednesday, October 30 | 2PM - 3PM  
 Online Event from APLD Virtual Chapter

Designing and siting a swimming pool on a sloped site is a challenge but we can use slopes and grade changes to our advantage. This webinar features design solutions that are available to enhance a swimming pool setting on a slope. Wall and step details will be shown. Before and After photos will be included. Dimensions and furniture requirements are addressed as well as material selections. Hosted by Jan Johnse, award-winning principal at Johnsen Landscapes & Pools in New York.

[Tickets Available Here.](#)

## INTEGRATING DESIGNS THAT SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY

Thursday, September 12 | 5PM - 6PM  
 Online Event from APLD Virtual Chapter

In today's world of decreasing insect and bird populations, and increasing invasive species, we can all do better in our home landscapes. This presentation features real landscape plans showcasing sustainable practices that everyone can incorporate into their own design practice.



[Register Here.](#)

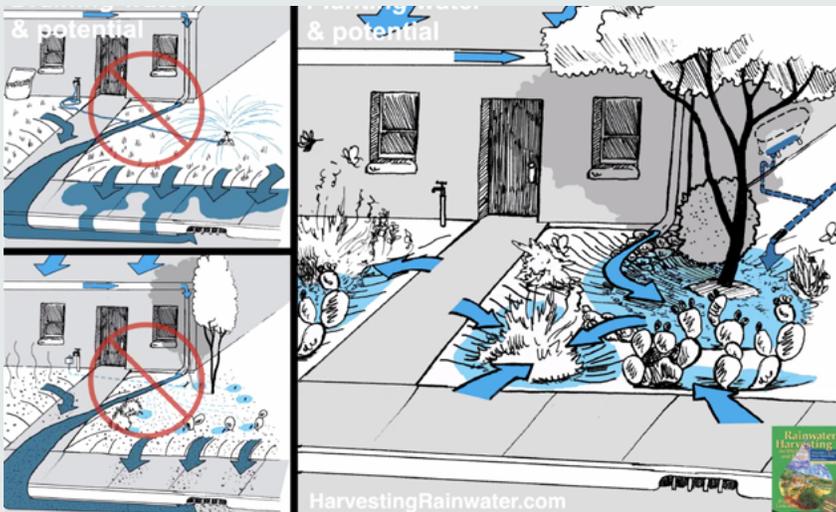
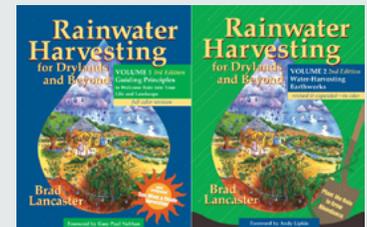
### EVENT RECAP



Photo by Jade Beall

### PLANTING THE RAIN TO GROW ABUNDANCE WITH BRAD LANCASTER

In this virtual lecture on July 9th, Brad Lancaster emphasized the use of 'sunken bowls' as a crucial design implementation for managing stormwater. These vegetated depressions capture and hold runoff, allowing it to infiltrate the soil slowly, which reduces erosion, recharges groundwater, and improves water quality through biofiltration. By planting native and drought-tolerant vegetation within these bowls, stormwater is absorbed and pollutants are naturally filtered, creating a sustainable and effective water management system. Lancaster highlighted the importance of strategically placing these bowls in areas where water naturally flows, enhancing both landscape aesthetics and ecological health.



[harvestingrainwater.com](http://harvestingrainwater.com)

Lancaster also spoke on key concepts from his book *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond*. He discussed the principles of starting at the highest point of a property to maximize water capture, using earthworks like swales and berms to manage water flow, and integrating water harvesting with other sustainable practices such as greywater recycling and habitat creation.

The lecture underscored the multifunctional benefits of rainwater harvesting, from conserving water and improving soil health to supporting biodiversity and building community resilience against climate extremes.

For more practical tips on implementing sustainable water management practices, visit Brad Lancaster's website and explore his books at [harvestingrainwater.com](http://harvestingrainwater.com).

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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



**At APLD California, collaboration and community are at the heart of everything we do. This newsletter is created by landscape designers, for landscape designers, and your input makes it truly special. Here's a brief summary of what to expect inside each issue:**

**Insightful Articles:** Discover the latest trends and best practices in landscape design from industry experts.

**Upcoming Events:** Stay updated on workshops, webinars, and networking opportunities.

**Member Spotlights:** Get inspired by the creative works and stories of your peers.

**Legislative Updates:** Learn about new laws and policies impacting our industry.



**Your voice matters! Here's how you can get involved and help shape the content of future issues:**

**Submit Articles:** Share your expertise and experiences with our community.

**Submit Feedback:** Let us know your thoughts on this issue and what topics you'd like to see in the future.

**Join Discussions:** Engage in our online social channels and [discussion boards](#) to share ideas and collaborate with fellow designers.

**Get in touch:**

Email us your stories, suggestions, and feedback at [newsletter@apldca.org](mailto:newsletter@apldca.org). Your contributions are essential to ensuring our publication remains relevant and valuable to all members.

