



City of Ventura

Cemetery Memorial Park Master Plan

September 17, 2008



Katherine Spitz
Associates, Inc.

NARDULI
ART AND ARCHITECTURE
STUDIO

Project Team

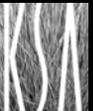
Katherine Spitz Associates, Inc. -
Landscape Architecture and
Planning

Susan Narduli Studio - Art and
Architecture

City of Ventura



Bidy Mason Park

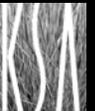




Pico Garnier Historic Area



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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Church of Our Saviour





ONE THING SOLDIERS KNOW IS THE EARTH

It is their protector under fire, their ally in attack, their home, their grave. Bodies break apart. Minds collapse. But the earth endures.



INVITED COMPETITION

At the southern end of the wall is a dedication:

From 1936 to 1938, two thousand, eight hundred American men and women volunteered to defend the democratically elected government of Spain against a military rebellion backed by the fascist dictatorships of Germany and Italy. In this, the Spanish Civil War, some eight hundred Americans lost their lives.

This monument honors the legacy of the Americans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who saw that the fight for democracy is the fight of all free people.

"There is a no-man's-land between conviction and action into which the great majority of humankind never ventures."

Edwin Rolfe, poet and soldier



CONCEPT DESIGN BY NARDULI

This project starts with memory and earth. A passage slopes into the ground, bounded by a wall, dropping away from the workday plane of the plaza.

Lights along its base wash over its surface. At night, the wall will subtly mark the site of the monument from the outside, and light the passage from within.

As the path falls away, the slope of the wall follows. Converging with the wall is a rank of trees, a meadow for the breeze. Poplars are planted in Spain to provide shelter from the wind. They change with the seasons, from dark green to brilliant gold — all winter, their branches form an intricate lattice against the sky.

The way of the wall is revealed in concrete, its surface unadorned to reveal the stone and aggregate and an interwoven tapestry of text.

The intermingled words of Ernest Hemingway and Pablo Neruda create a fabric of English and Spanish. The texts feature two different kinds of hope.

The Hemingway is in a voice that has already passed through great suffering. It is a realization of the natural world's eternal power, a recognition that the human spirit partakes of that power.

Tyrants may have their day, but "the black trees will come to life with small green leaves and there will be happiness on the apple trees and on the figs and on the vines. This living the world will be a good and happy way to live again."

The Neruda starts in a very different place — in the desolation of the aftermath, cruelty is rampant, the only imaginable hope is a dream of ruin for the other side. But in that perverse morning, hope arrives. And "you have caused to be reborn the lost faith, the absent soul, confidence in the earth."

In differing ways, both writers are puzzling the faith in humanity. Their words flow together, two rivers meeting, informing each other like rain, the rainwater will flow from two directions, around and over the words, to enlighten the poplars.





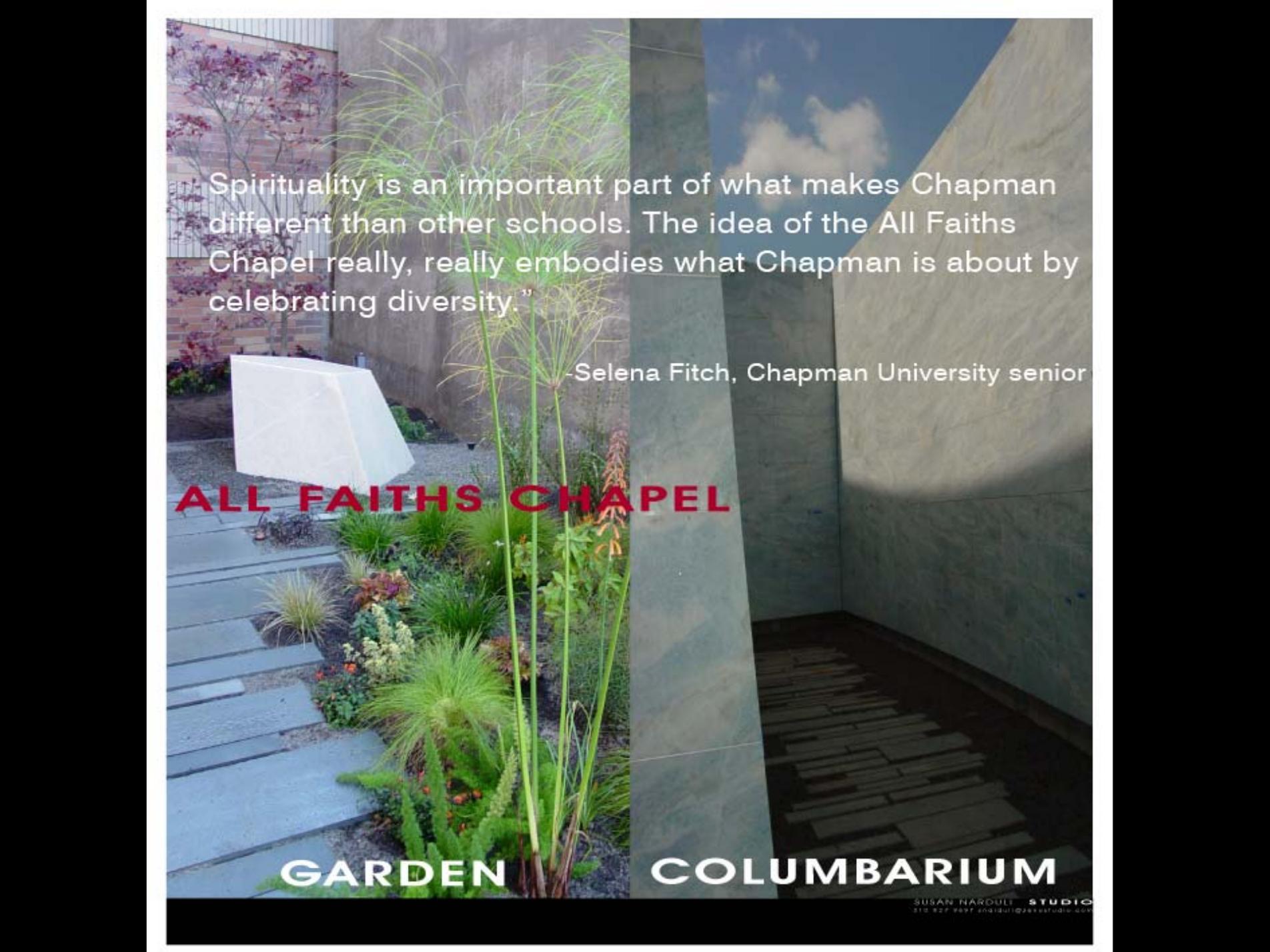
**BELMONT VETERAN'S
MEMORIAL PIER
LONG BEACH**



- Through the purchase of memorial benches and medallions, the memorial is a public project that is created, in part, by the public.

- **Public meetings and dialogue with community stakeholders played a vital role in the success of the project for the city of Long Beach**





Spirituality is an important part of what makes Chapman different than other schools. The idea of the All Faiths Chapel really, really embodies what Chapman is about by celebrating diversity.”

-Selena Fitch, Chapman University senior

ALL FAITHS CHAPEL

GARDEN

COLUMBARIUM

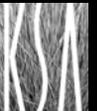


These soils are not eternal, far from it.
They are young.

William Bryant Logan



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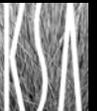
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Cemetery Memorial Park

Project Background



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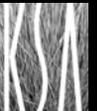
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A Place to Remember - Cemetery Memorial Park



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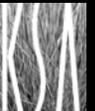
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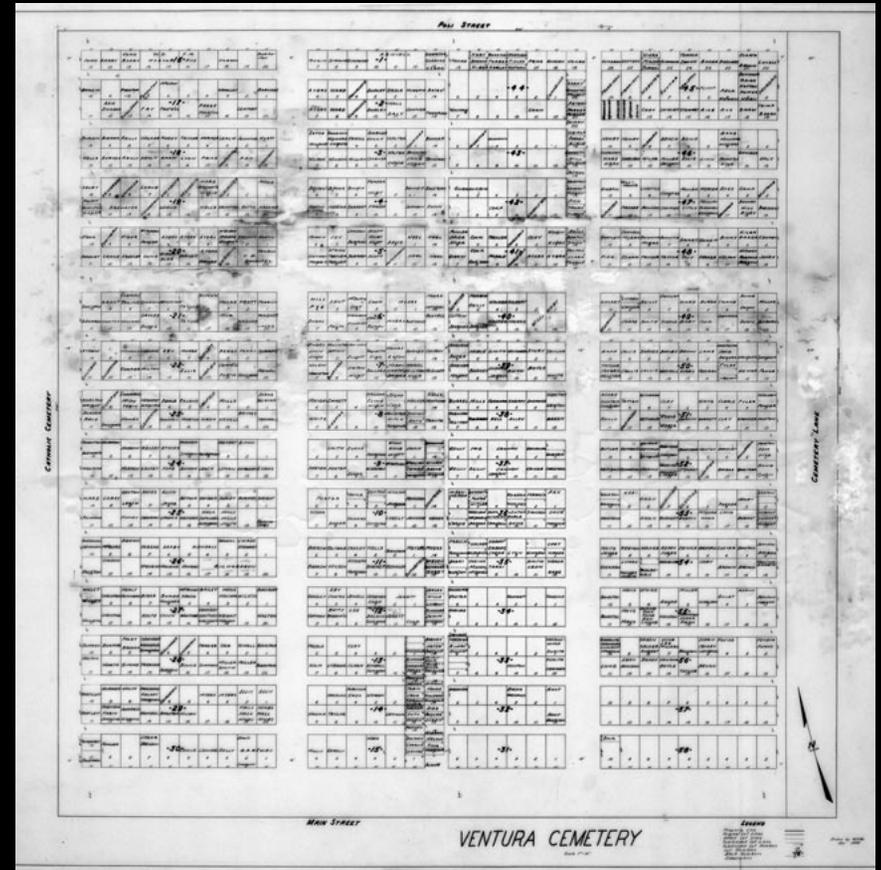
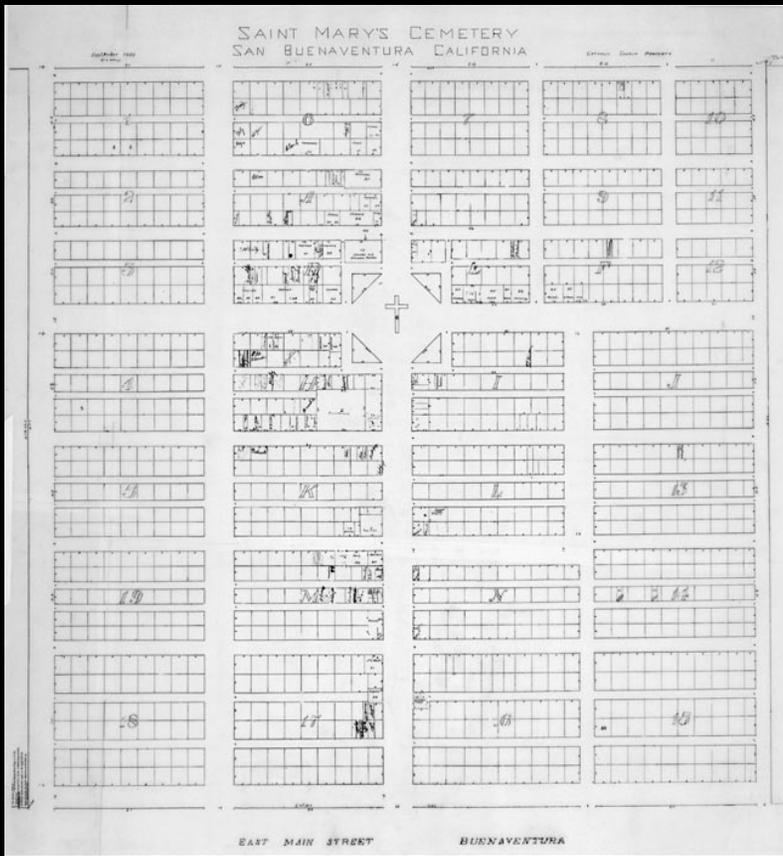
St. Mary's Cemetery and Ventura City
Cemetery - Founded 1862, 1889



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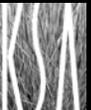
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St. Mary's Cemetery and Ventura City Cemetery - Founded 1862, 1889



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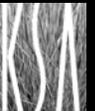
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Ventura City Cemetery and St. Mary's
Cemetery - 1949



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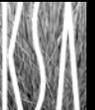


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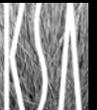
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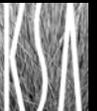
Landscape Goals and Objectives

1. Create a befitting memorial or commemorating public area enhancement
2. Enhance Veteran's memorial flagpole area
3. Repair rock wall and stairways
4. Replace and add new perimeter landscaping
5. Add benches
6. Address parking area and alley
7. Address stormwater



Memorial Goals and Objectives

1. Create a Memorial Park that is a place of honor
2. Retrieve and display as many of the existing headstones as possible
3. Install signage acknowledging history and religious significance of Cemetery Memorial Park
4. Determine the location of the deceased and provide maps



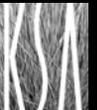
Community Meeting

September 27, 2007

- Introduction of design team
- Project background and precedents
- Community comments



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History of Memorial Landscapes



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THE WAY WE REMEMBER...

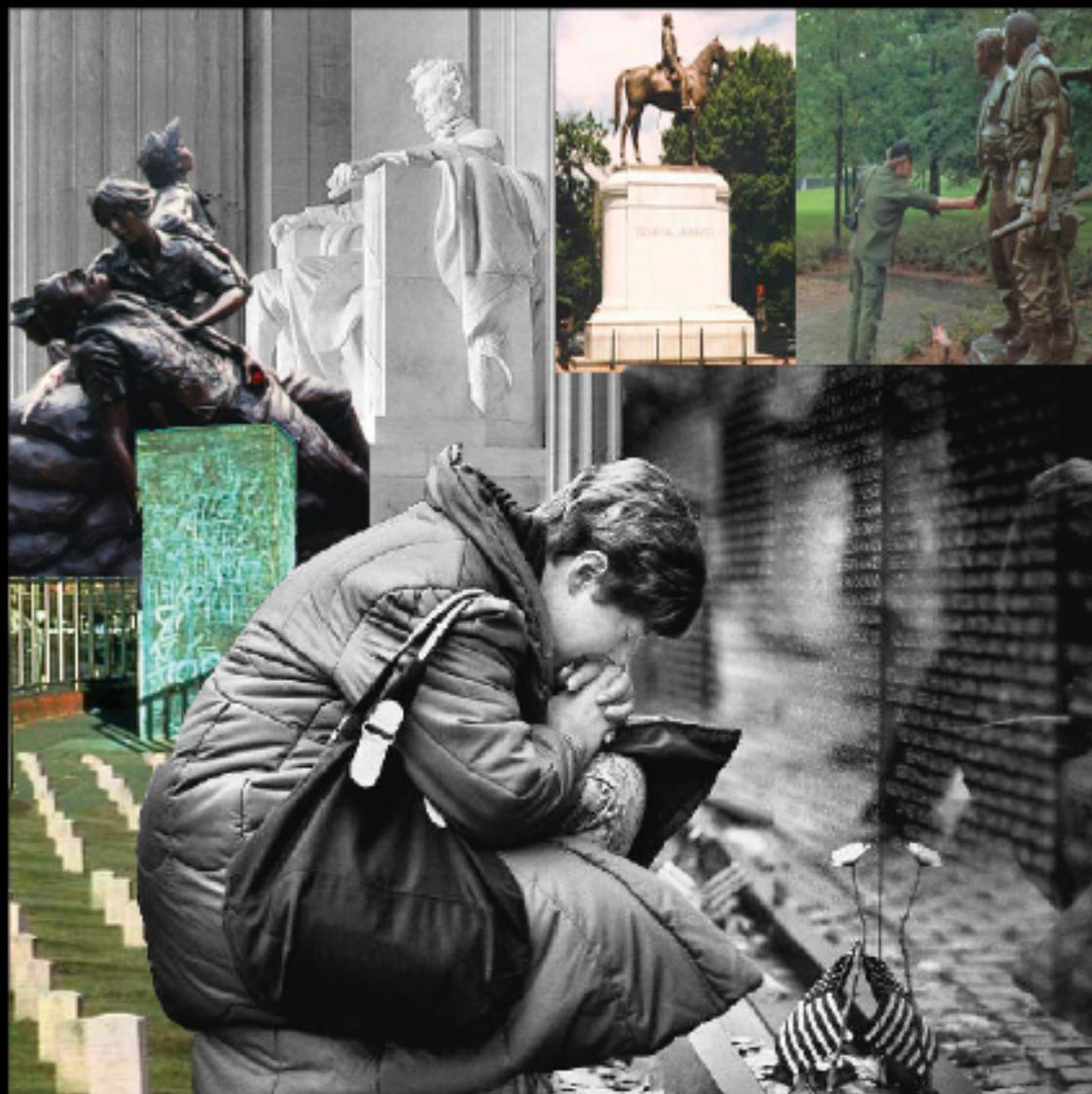
➤ OBJECTS AND STATUES

➤ WALLS AND PROCESSIONS

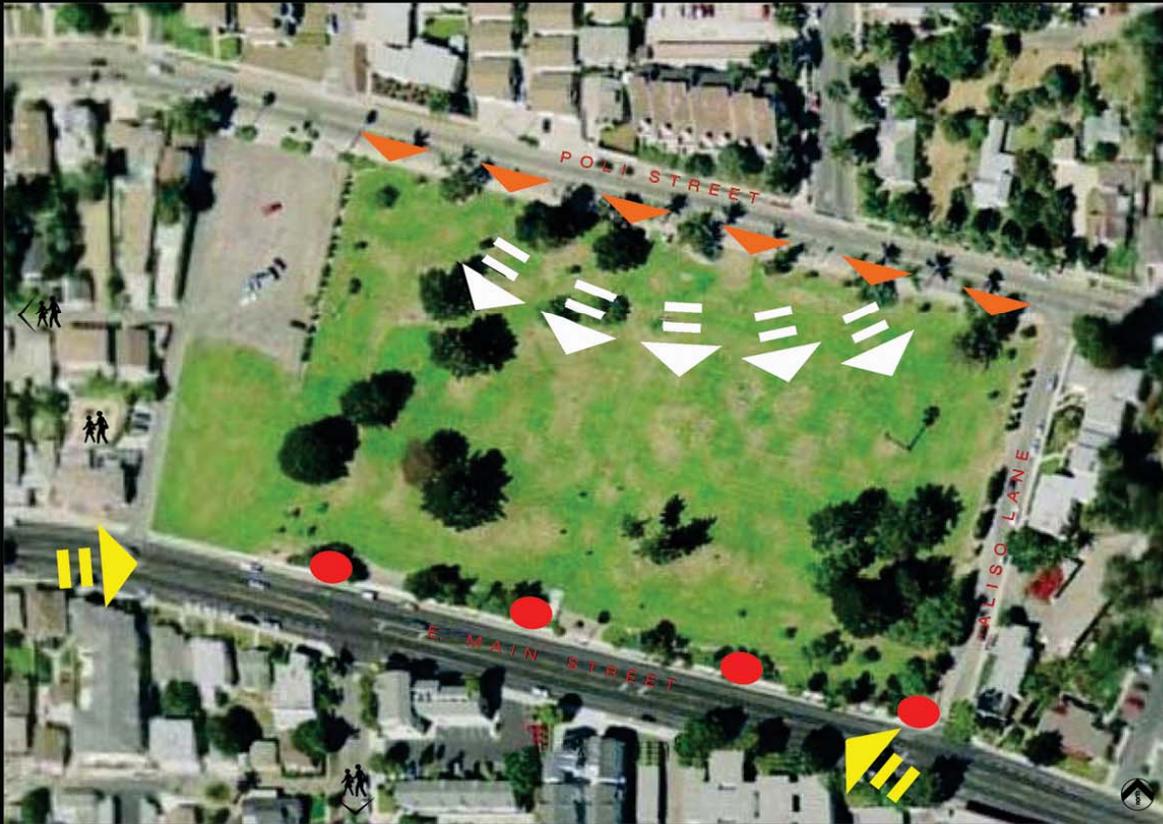
➤ MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE

➤ EPHEMERAL & VIRTUAL

➤ VERNACULAR



site analysis



- formal entry point
main pedestrian
- ▲ access
- ≡ view
- ≡ view

existing trees:

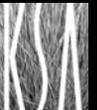
- Cupressus species
- Pine species
- Schinus molle
- Liquidambar
- Prunus species
- Phoenix canariensis
- Washingtonia



south view



north-east view

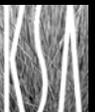




Existing Conditions



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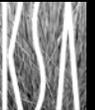


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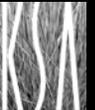


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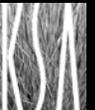
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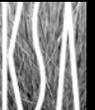


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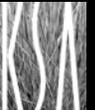
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



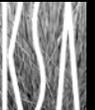


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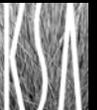
Community Meeting Sept 07

Community comments

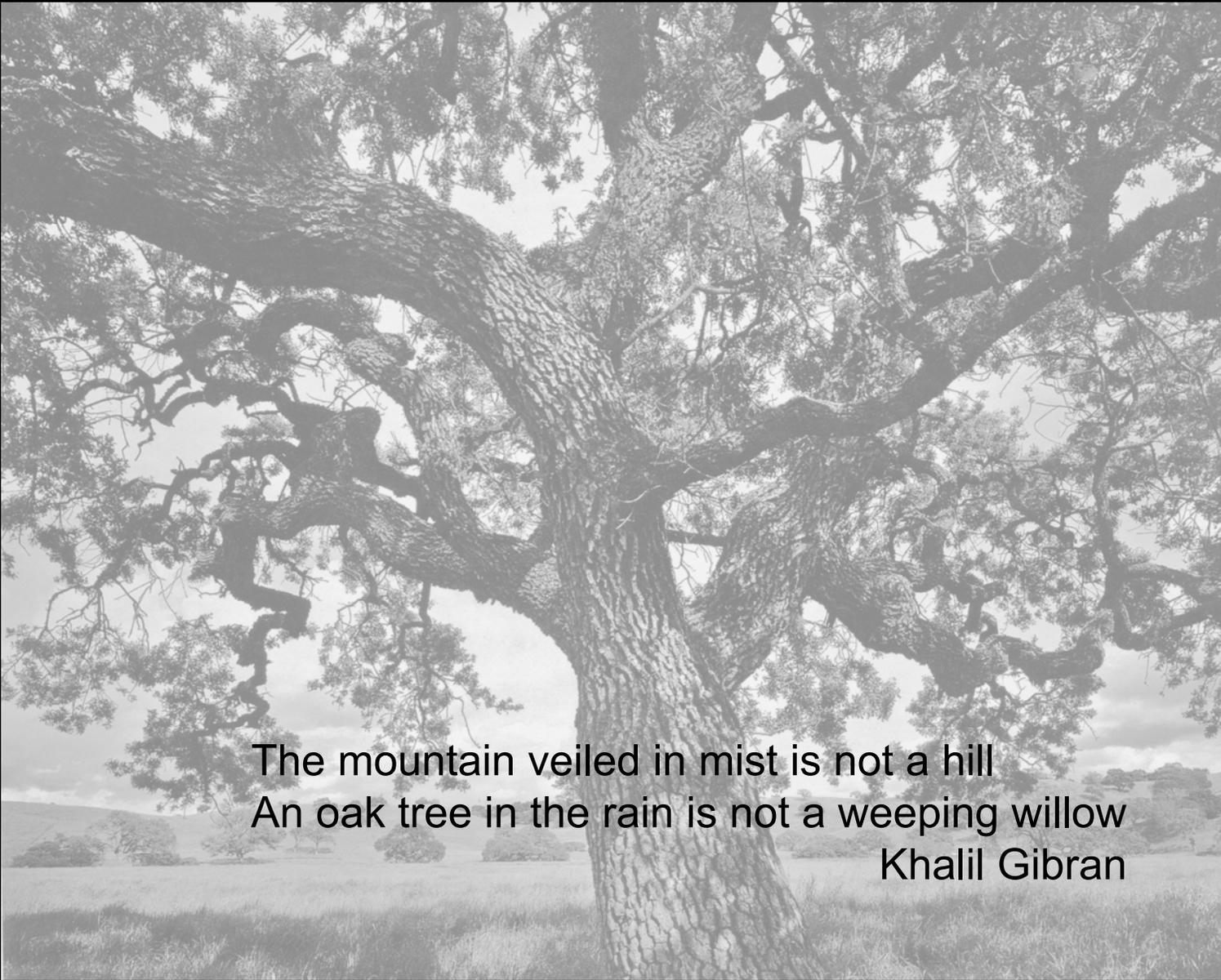
- Design should be sensitive to local history and issues
- Honor the deceased and acknowledge the history of the site
- Continue park as passive use space, not active use
- Maintain open feeling of site that park users currently enjoy



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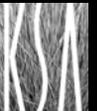
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



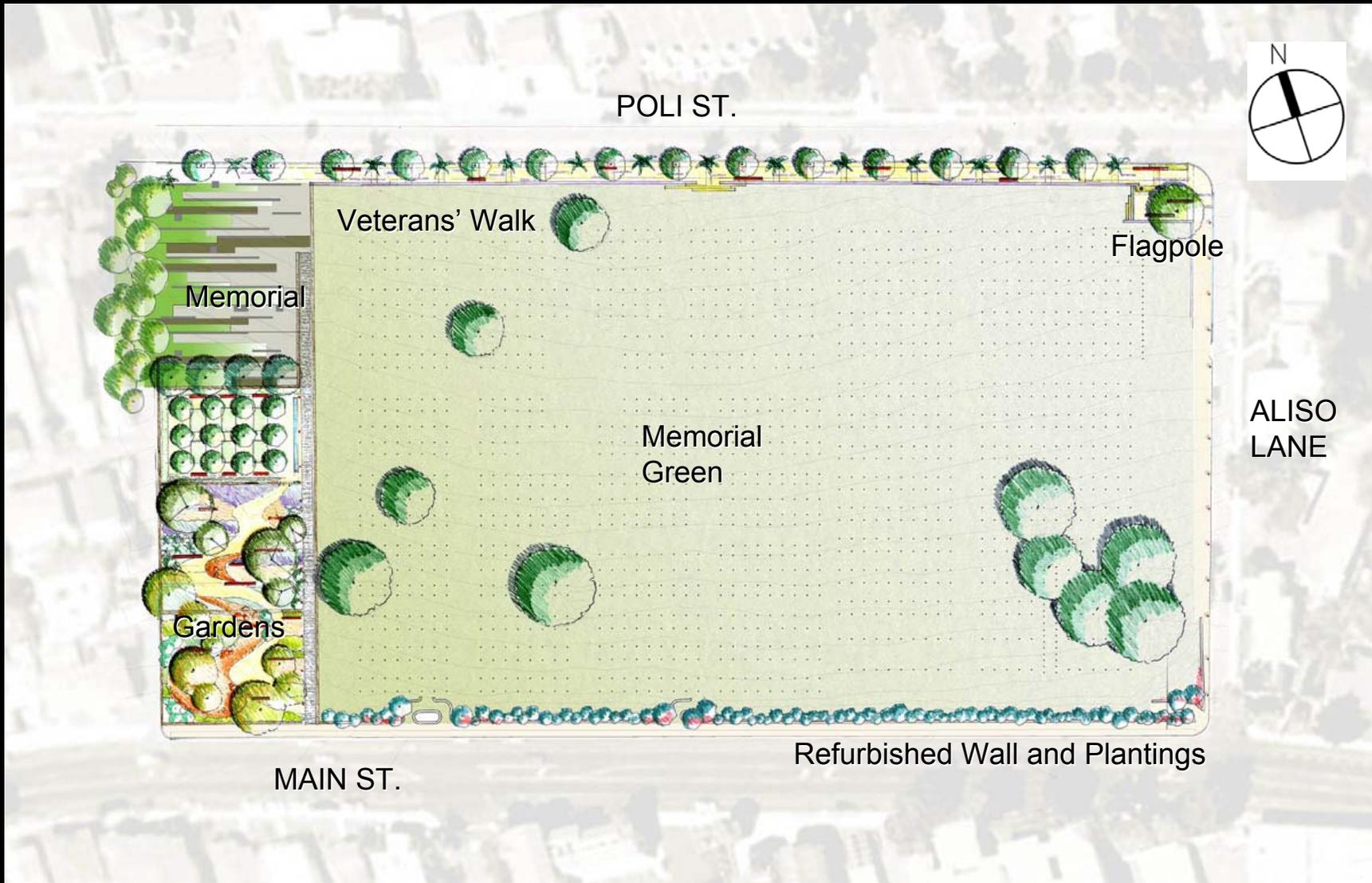
The mountain veiled in mist is not a hill
An oak tree in the rain is not a weeping willow
Khalil Gibran

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Landscape Master Plan



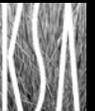
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1. Memorial Concept



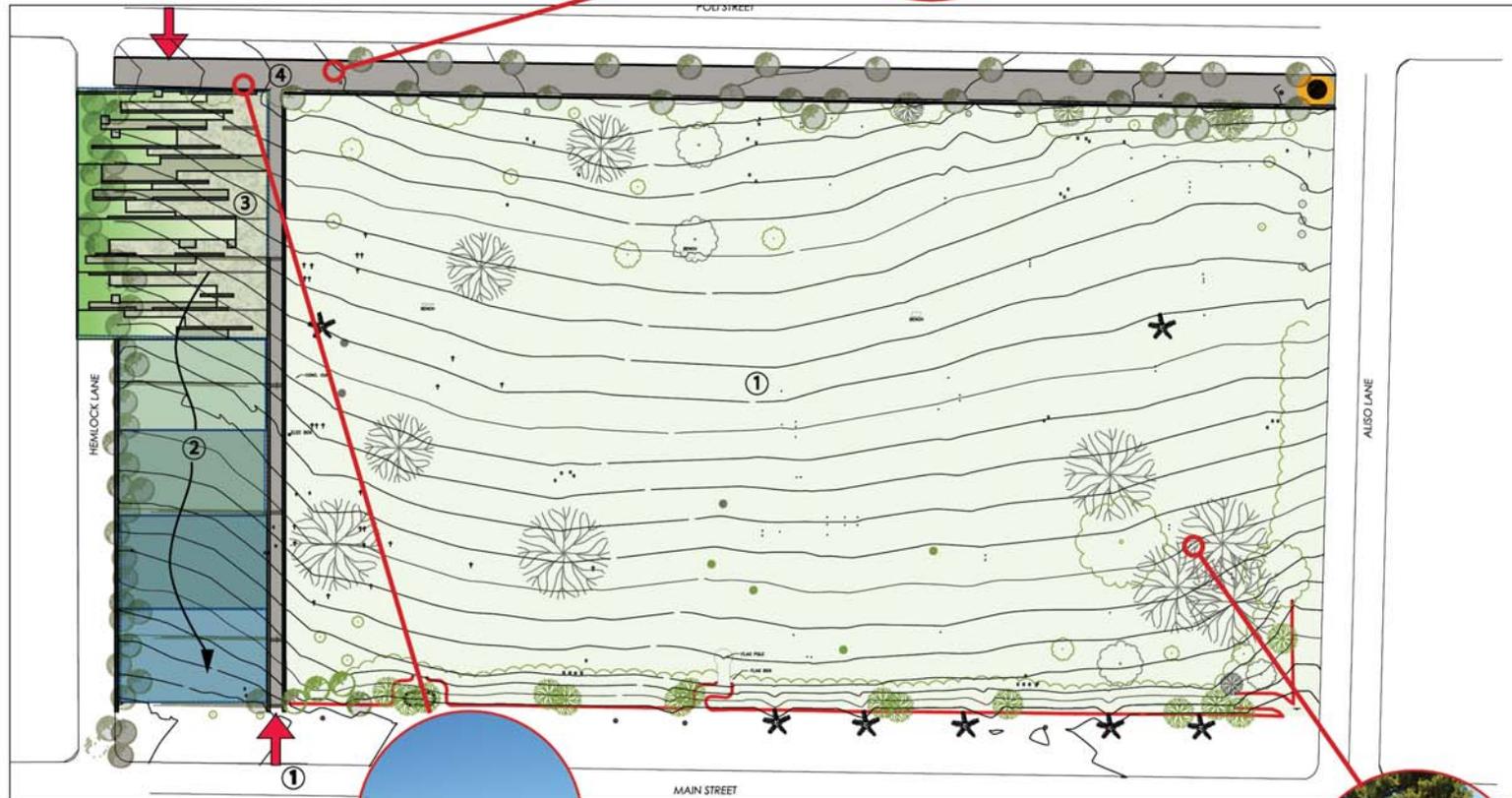
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

PROJECT APPROACH > SITE CHARACTERISTICS

SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD



- 1. MARKERS
- 2. GARDENS
- 3. MEMORIAL
- 4. VETERAN'S WALK

VIEWS TO OCEAN

SHADE TREES



MEMORIAL WALLS



Kazimierz-Dolny Cemetary and monument, Poland



Police memorial, Australia

FIELD CONDITIONS



Langemarck mass grave site, Germany

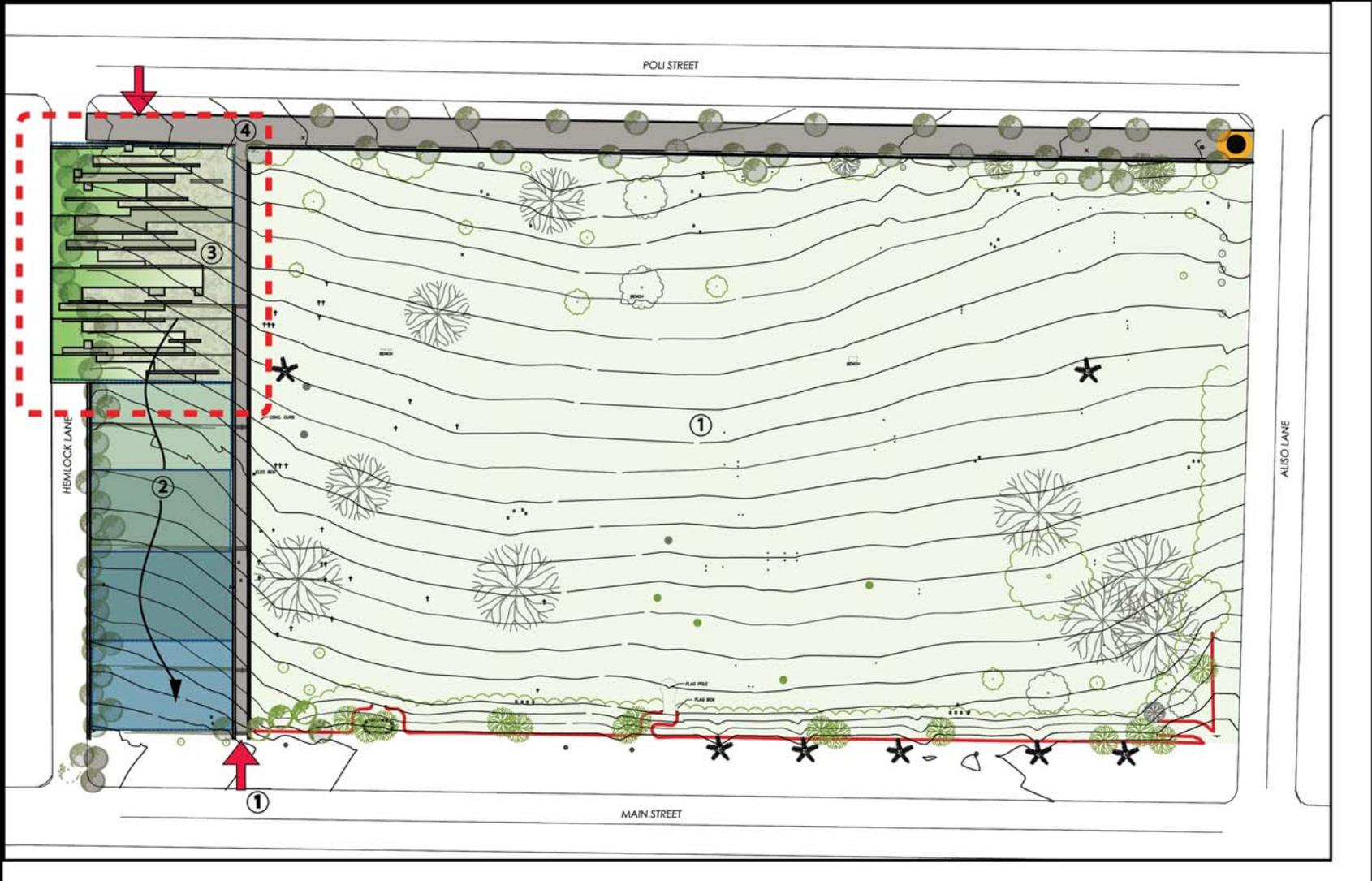


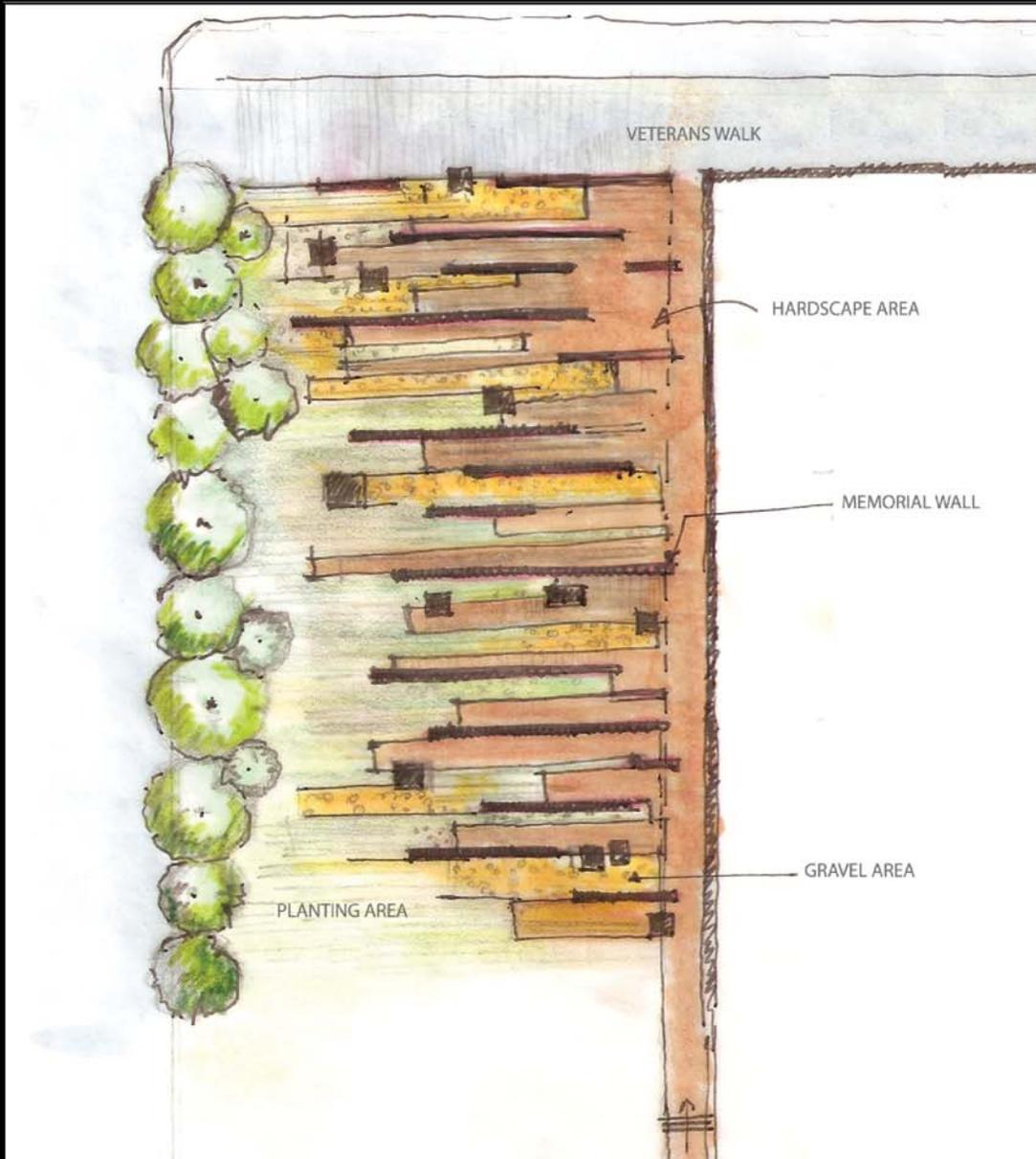
Pentagon memorial,
Washington, DC



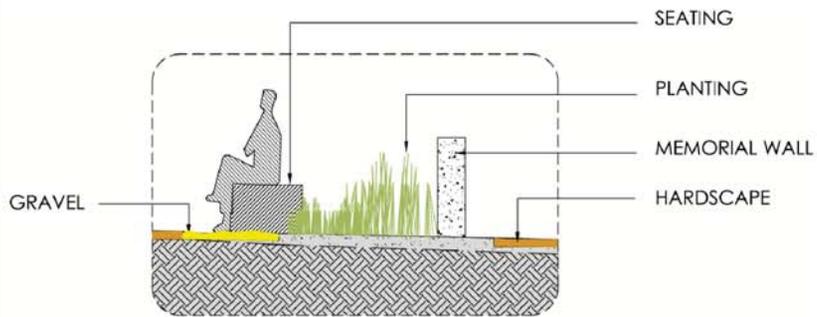
The AIDS memorial Grove, San Francisco

PROJECT ELEMENTS > MEMORIAL

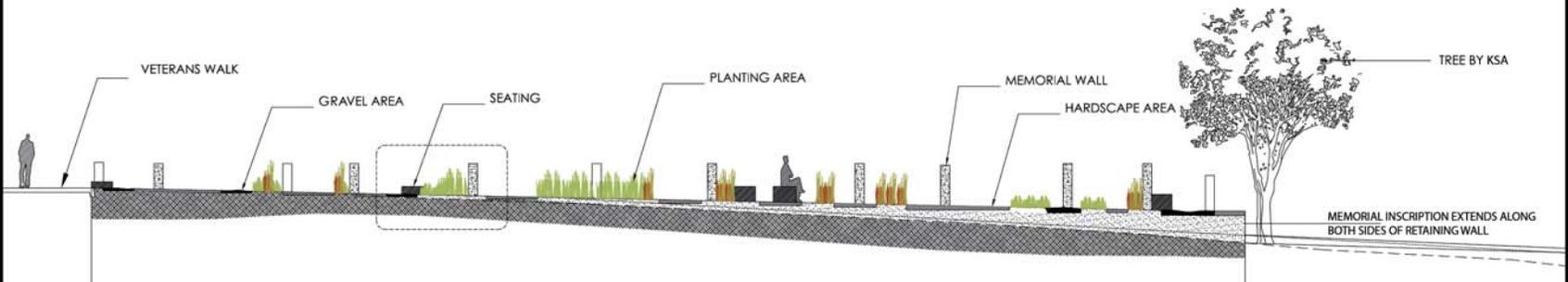




The plan weaves together concrete pathways, low ground cover, and landscaping to create a backdrop for seating and low walls, inset with the headstones.

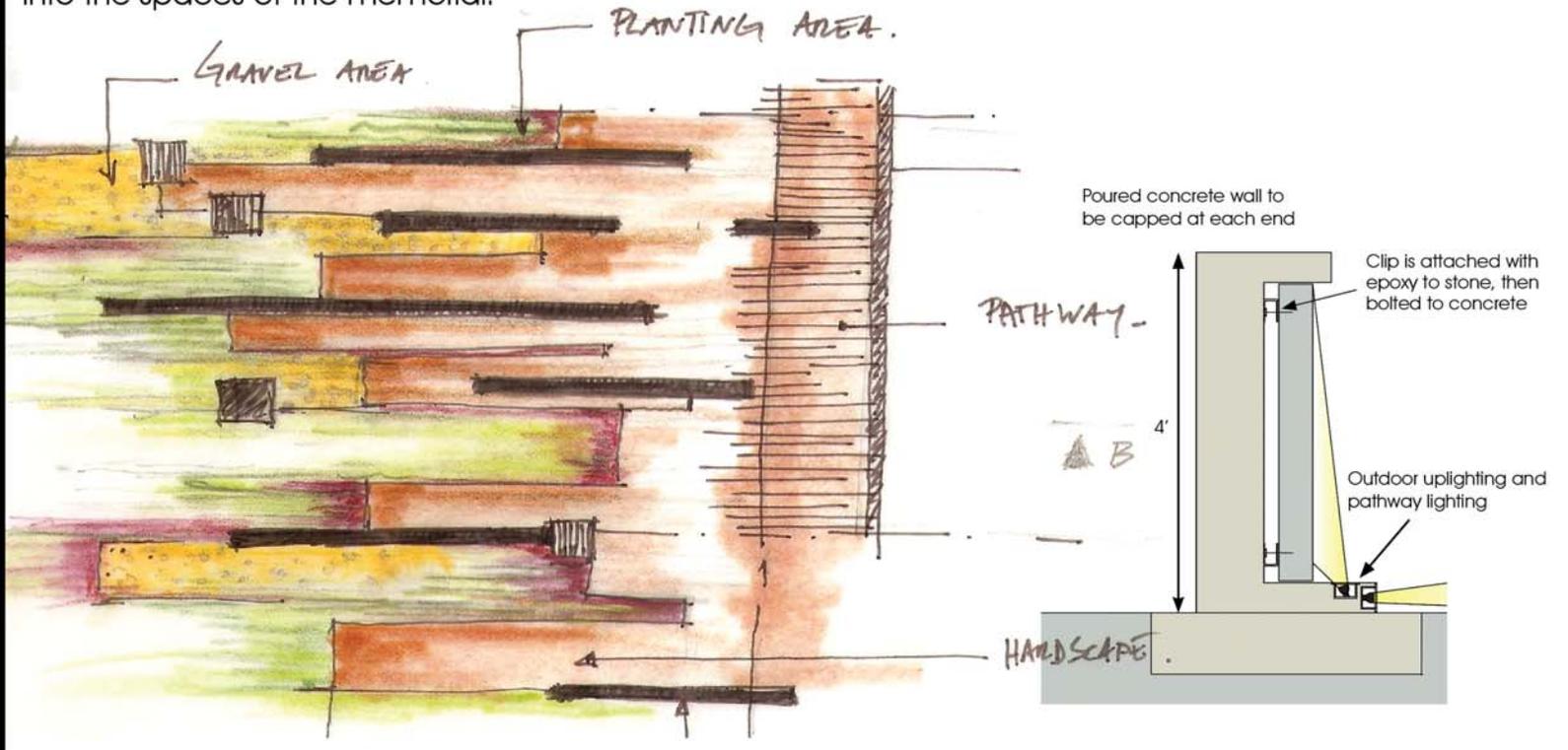


The memorial follows the gentle slope of the site and leads the visitor into the garden courtyards



PROJECT ELEMENTS > MEMORIAL

Stone, concrete, gravel, and planting come together to bring the textures of the natural world into the spaces of the memorial.



stone



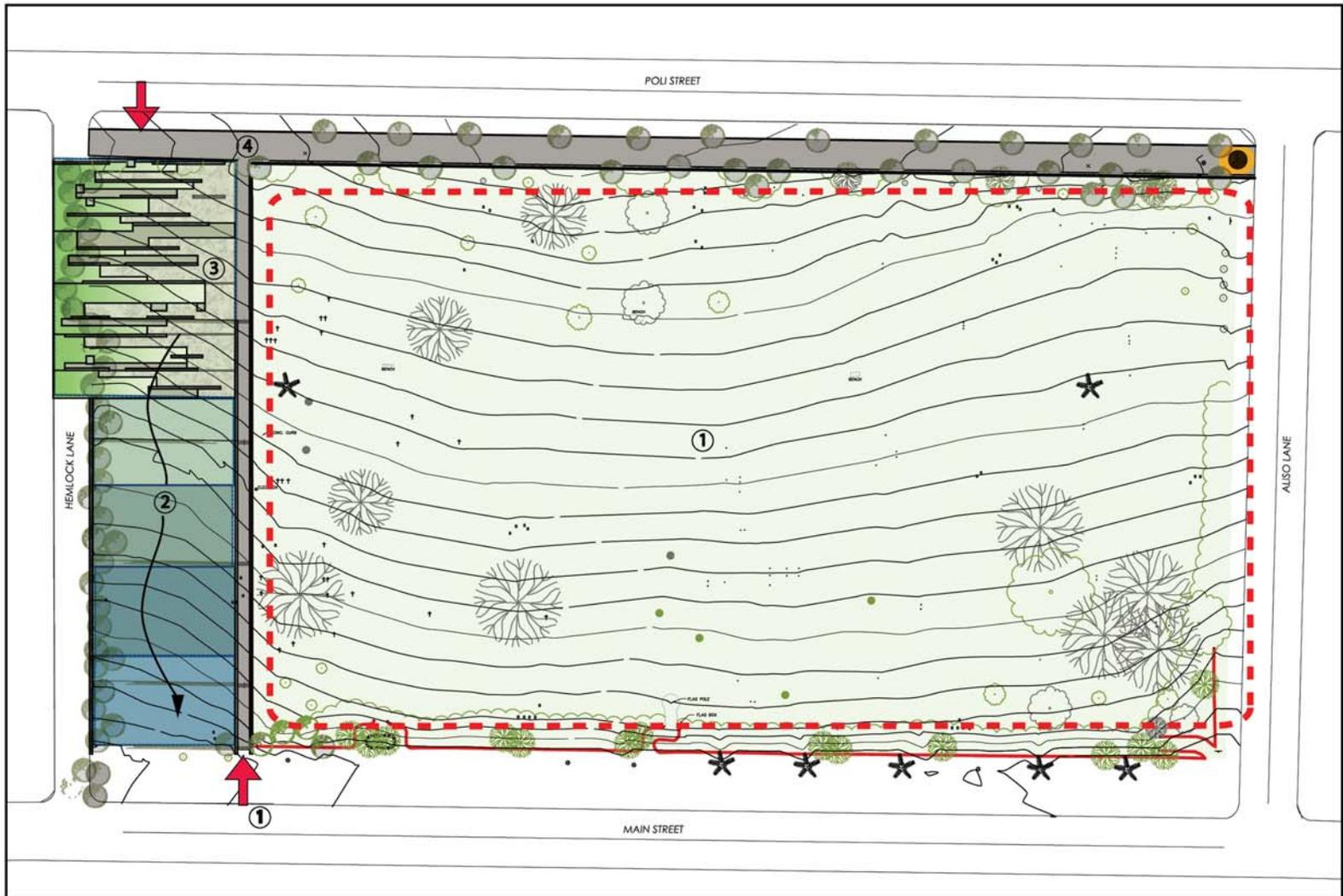
pea gravel

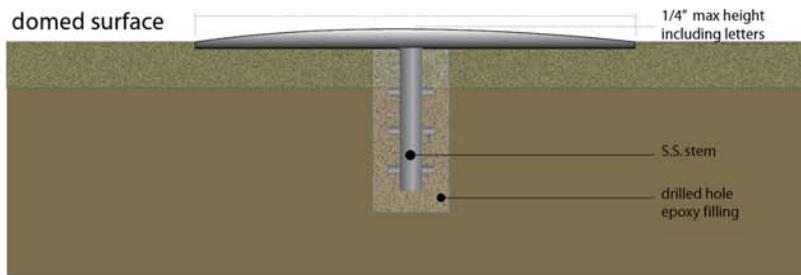
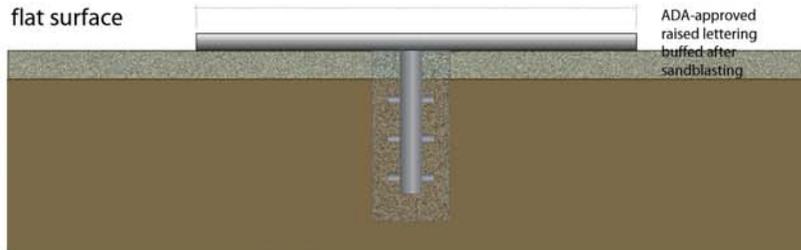


low groundcover









The markers will be slightly domed and each will be anchored by a concrete stem.



WHITE BRONZE

The division between the Catholic and Protestant cemeteries will be made visible through a change in material for the markers.



DARK BRONZE

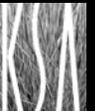
Additionally, religious affiliation will be noted on each individual marker



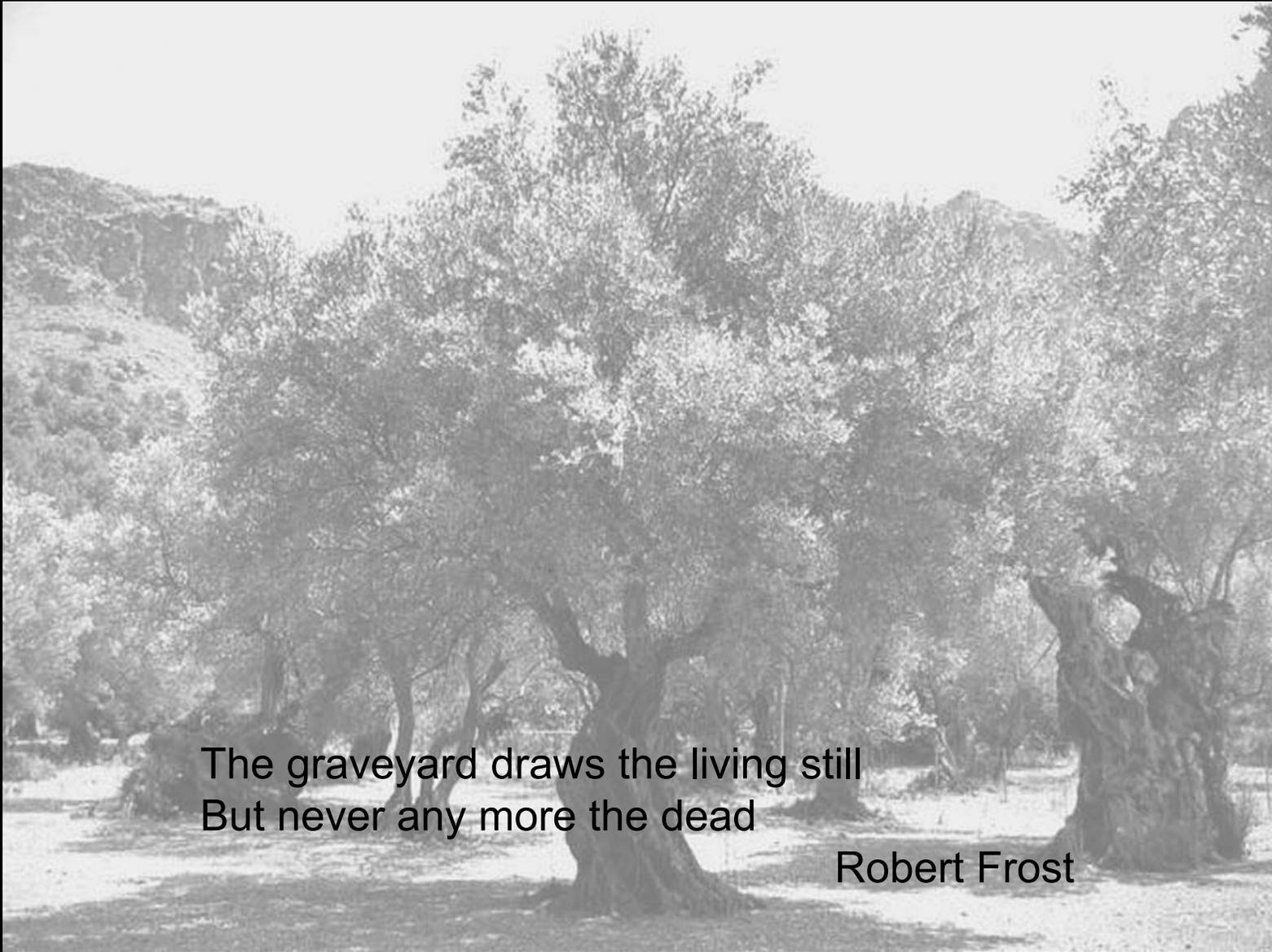
2. Landscape Master Plan



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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

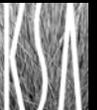


The graveyard draws the living still
But never any more the dead

Robert Frost



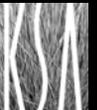
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Goals

- Commemorate history
- Respect the burial sites
- Connect park with community
- Create welcoming access
- Provide comfortable gathering areas
- Sustainability and stormwater

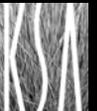


Opportunities

- Beautiful open site with views of ocean and coast
- Mature trees and well maintained turf
- Historic stone wall gives site character
- Close to downtown and historic core
- Celebrate Ventura's natural beauty and rich history



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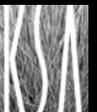
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Constraints

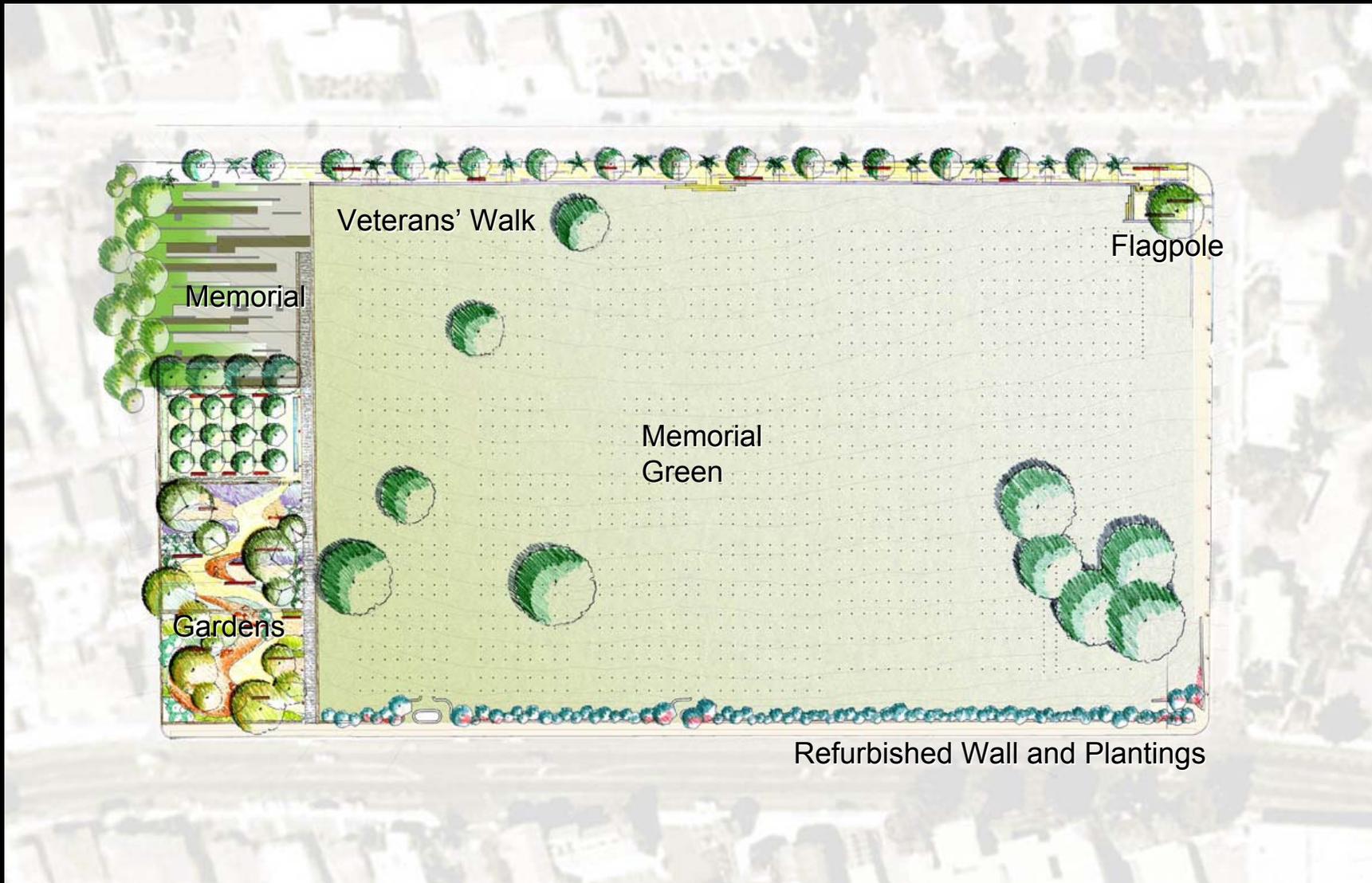
- Burial sites limit landscape changes
- Mantain open feeling and views
- Stormwater management



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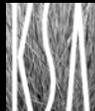
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



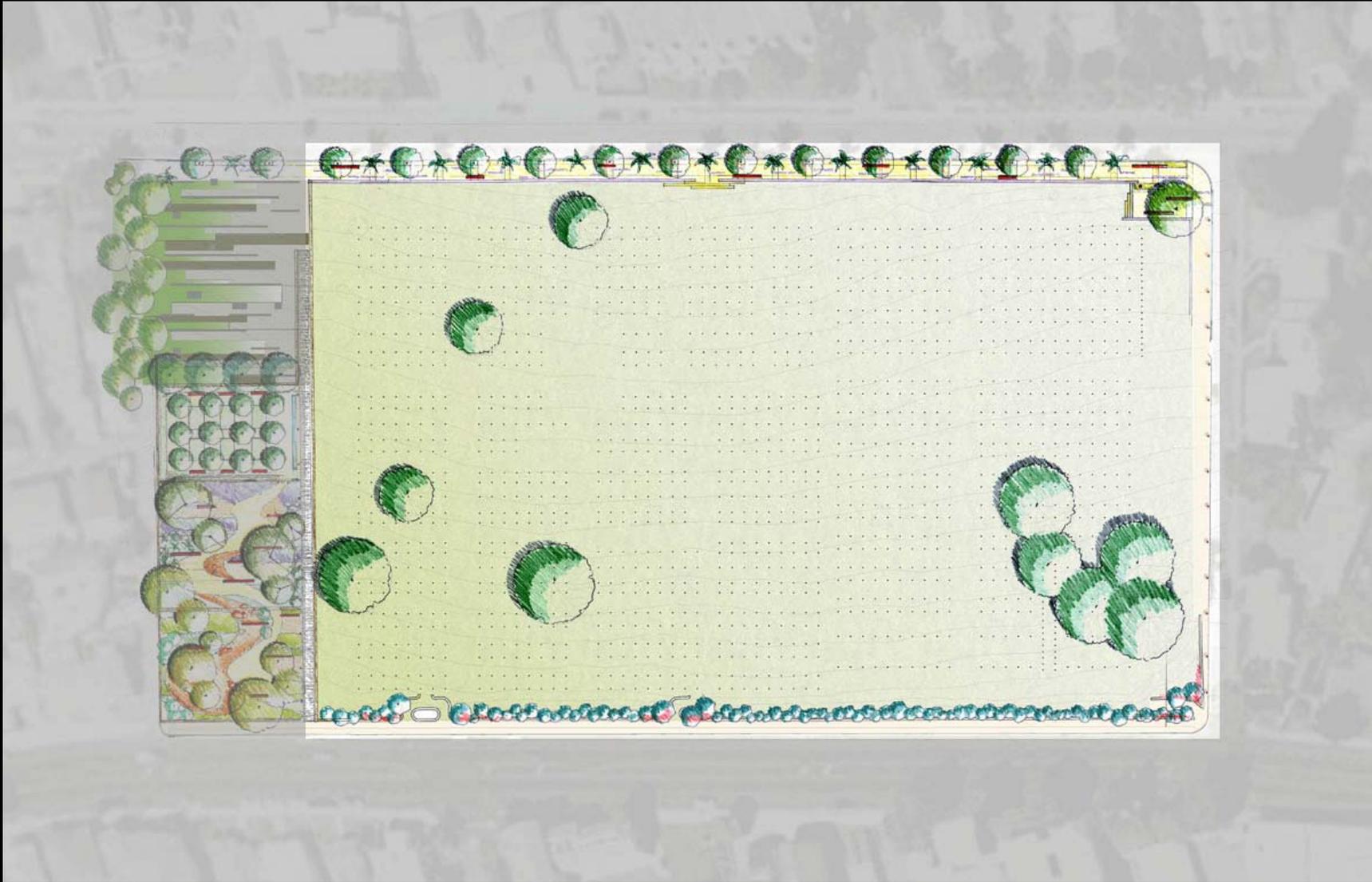
Landscape Master Plan



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Main Lawn Area





Terraced Memorial Gardens

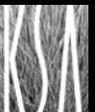




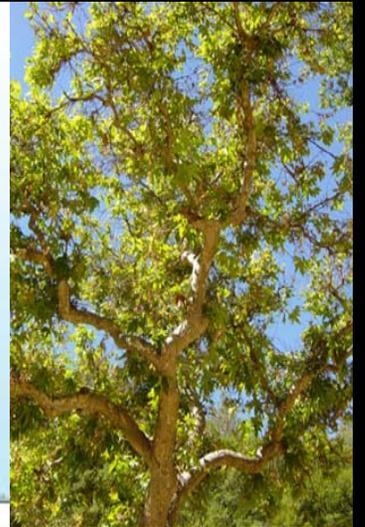
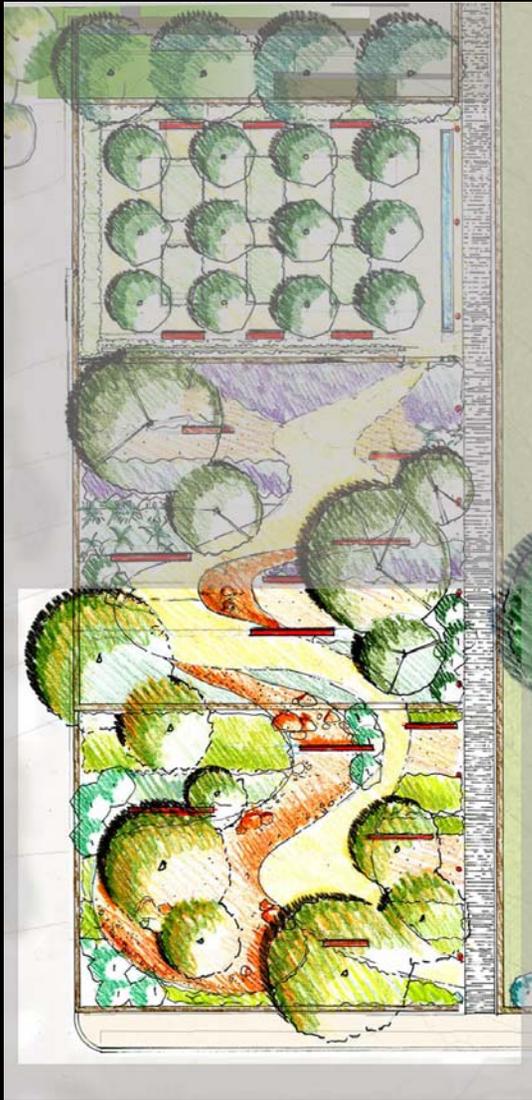
Terraced Memorial Gardens - Section



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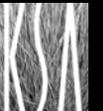
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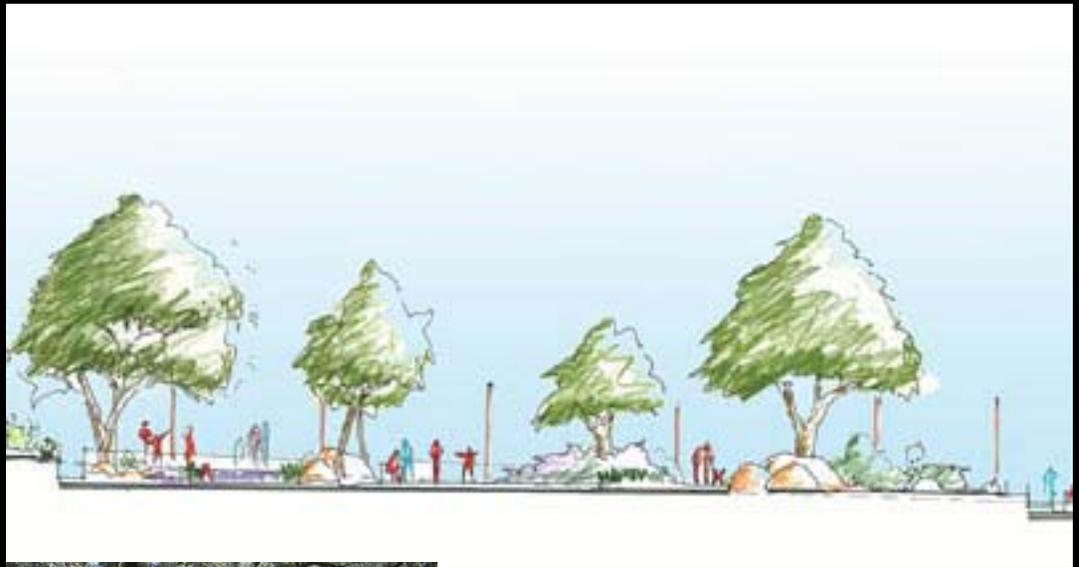
Terraced Memorial Gardens - Riparian Garden



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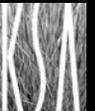
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



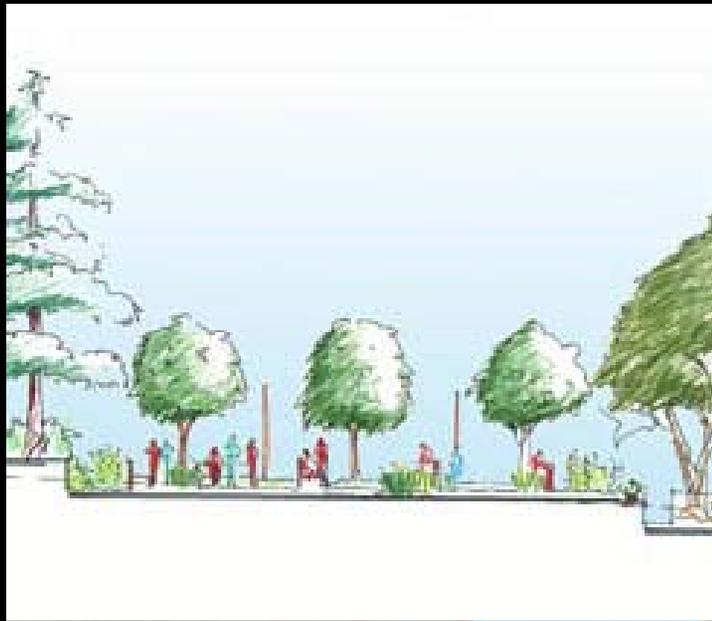
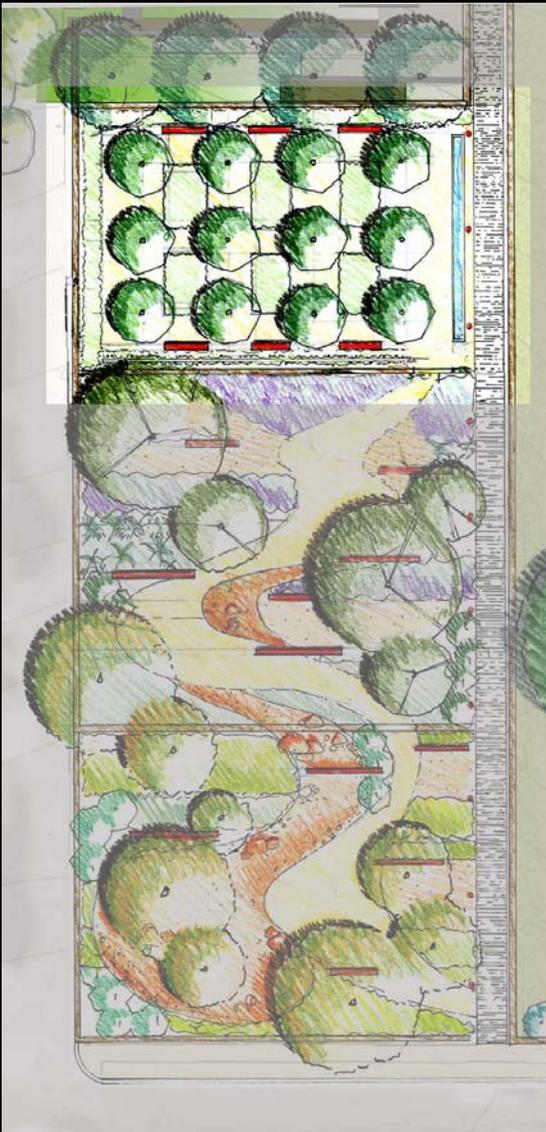
Terraced Memorial Gardens - Oak Grove



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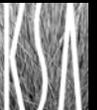
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



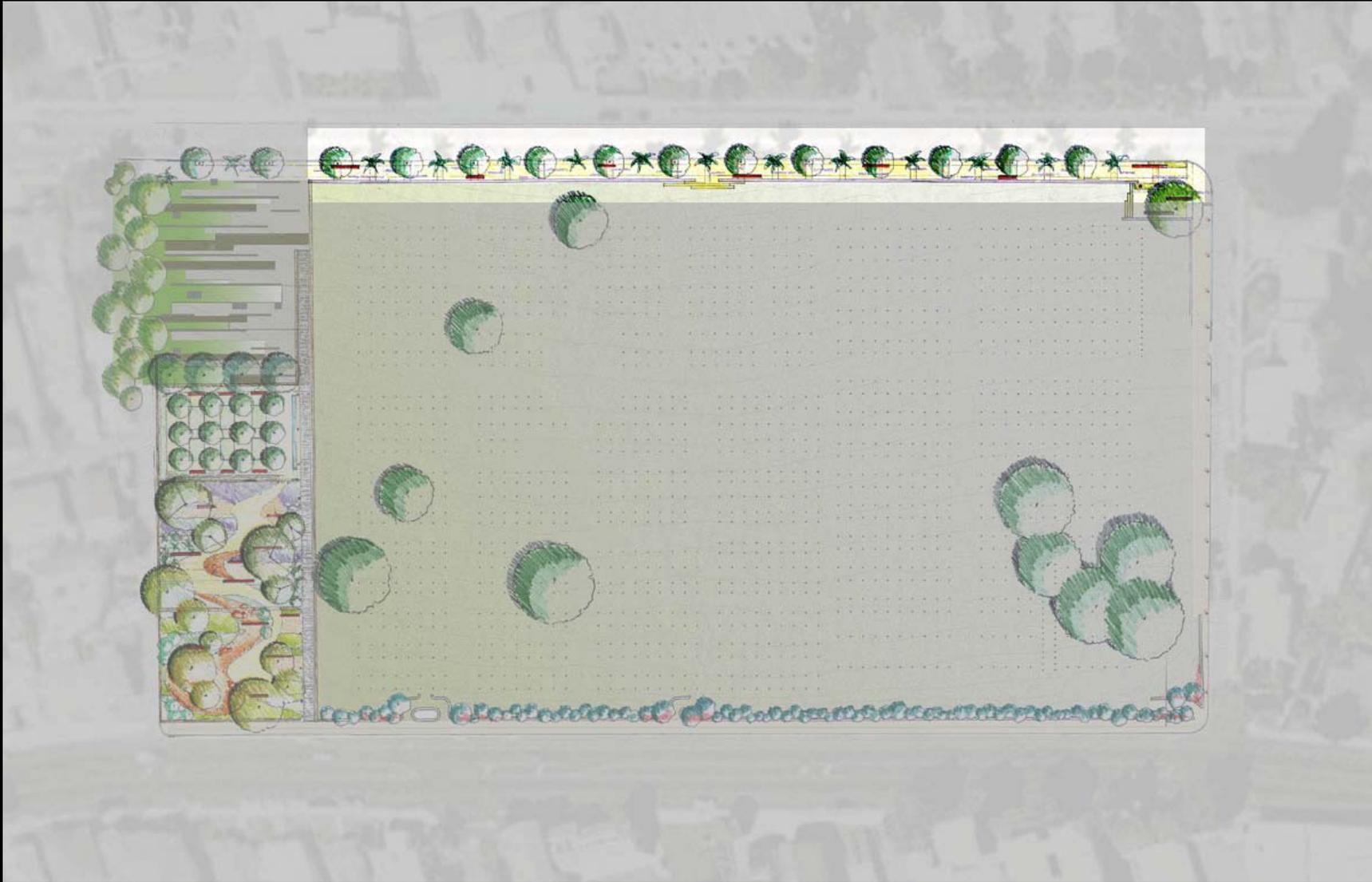
Terraced Memorial Gardens - Orchard



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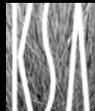
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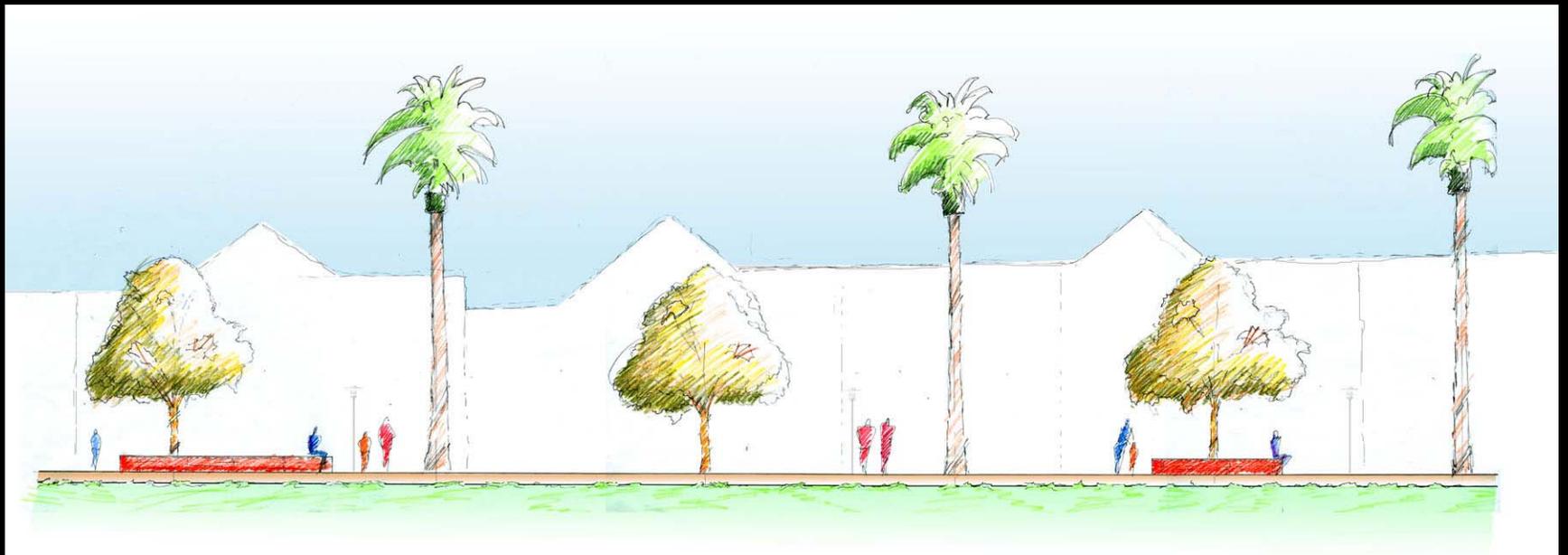
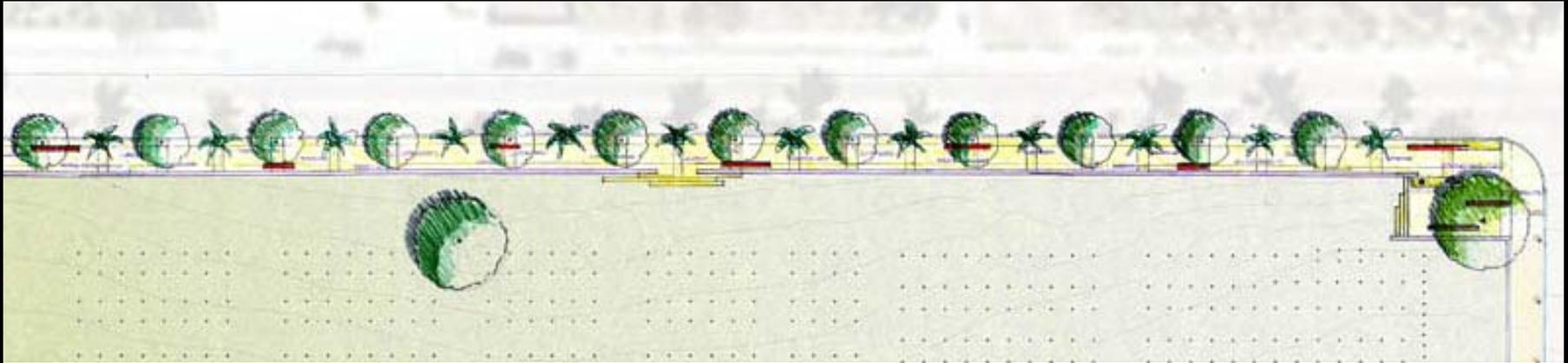


Veteran's Walk and Flagpole



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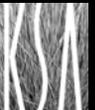




Veteran's Walk and Flagpole



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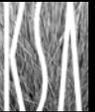
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



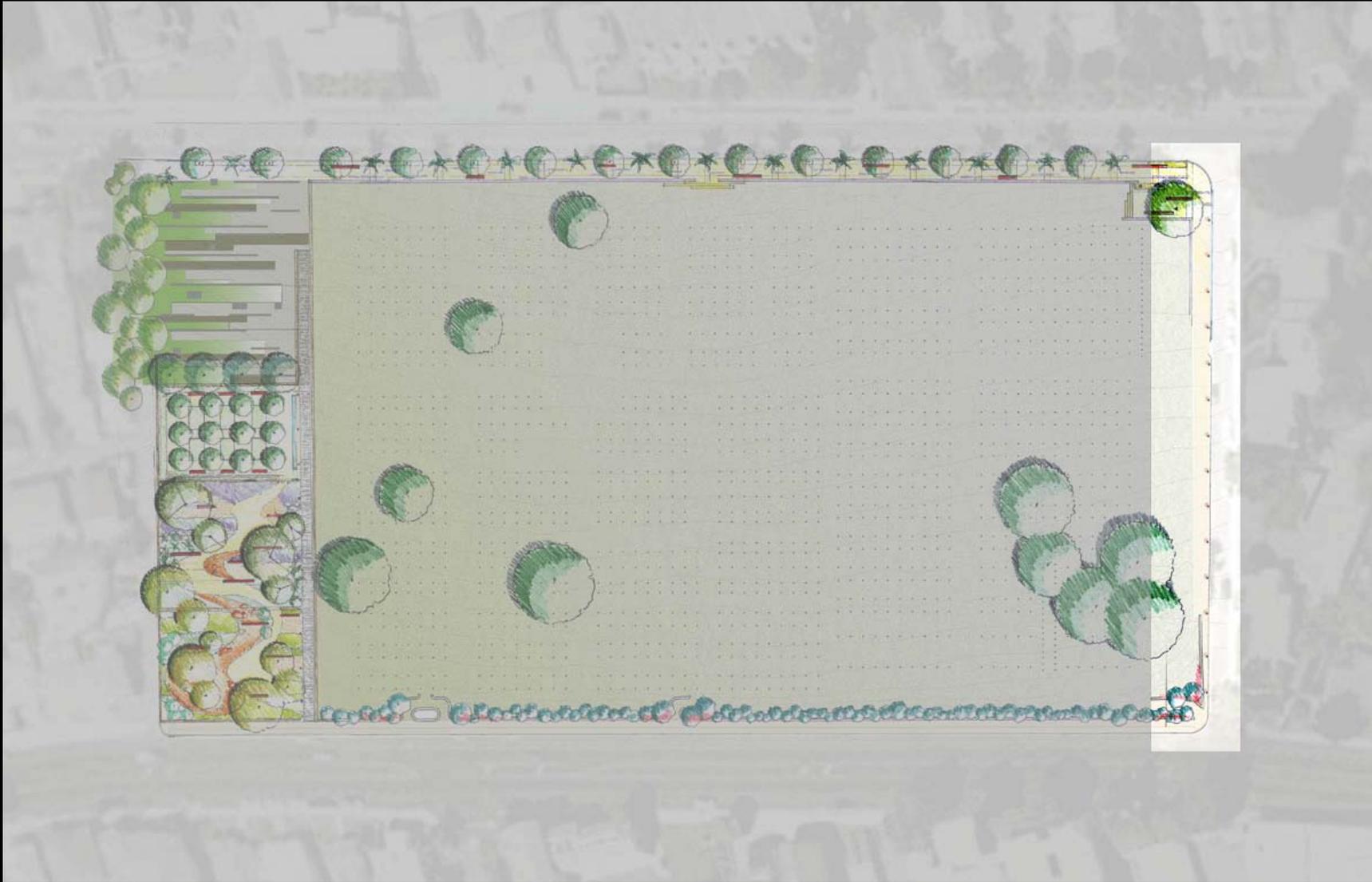
Veteran's Walk



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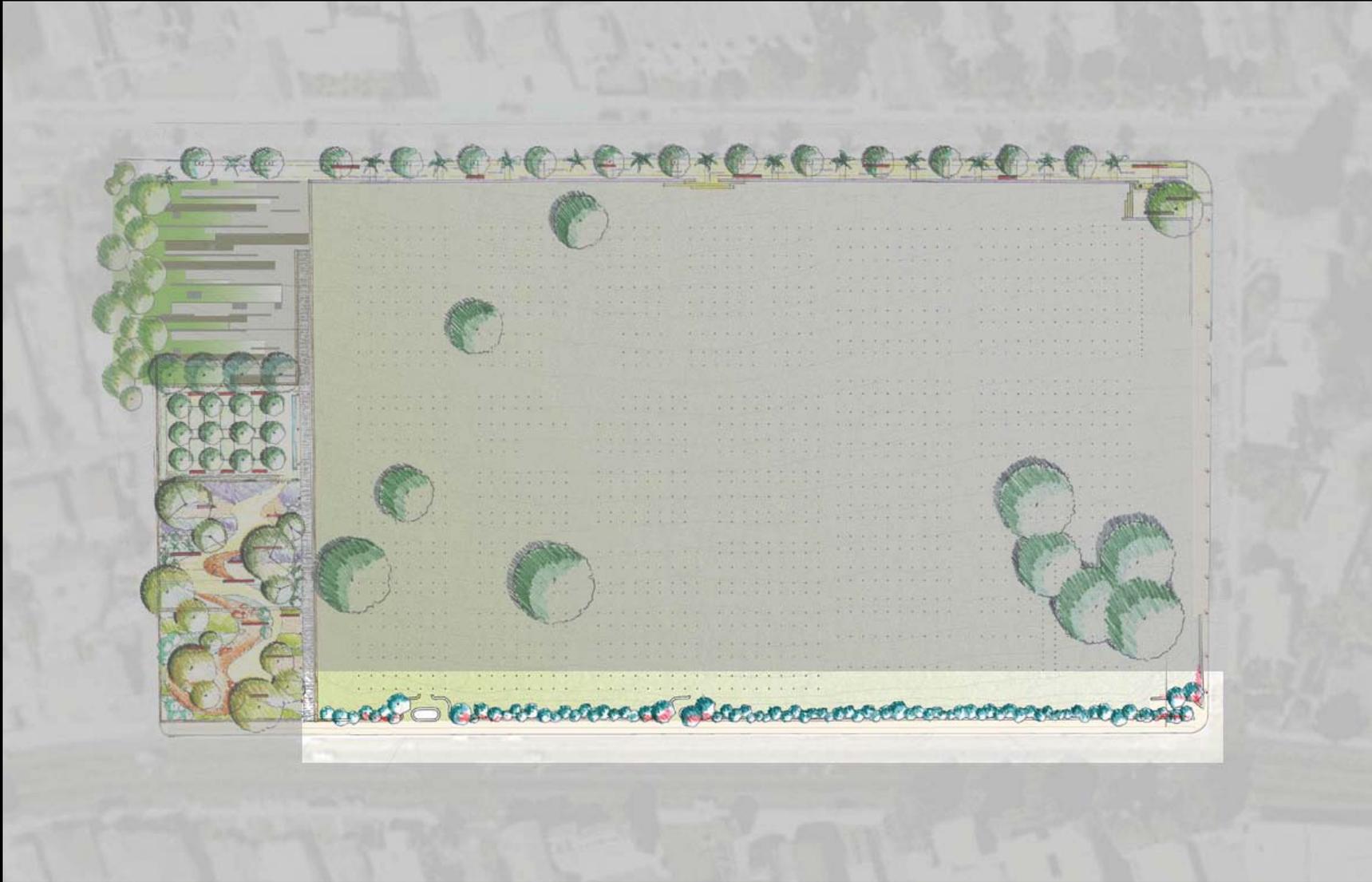


LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



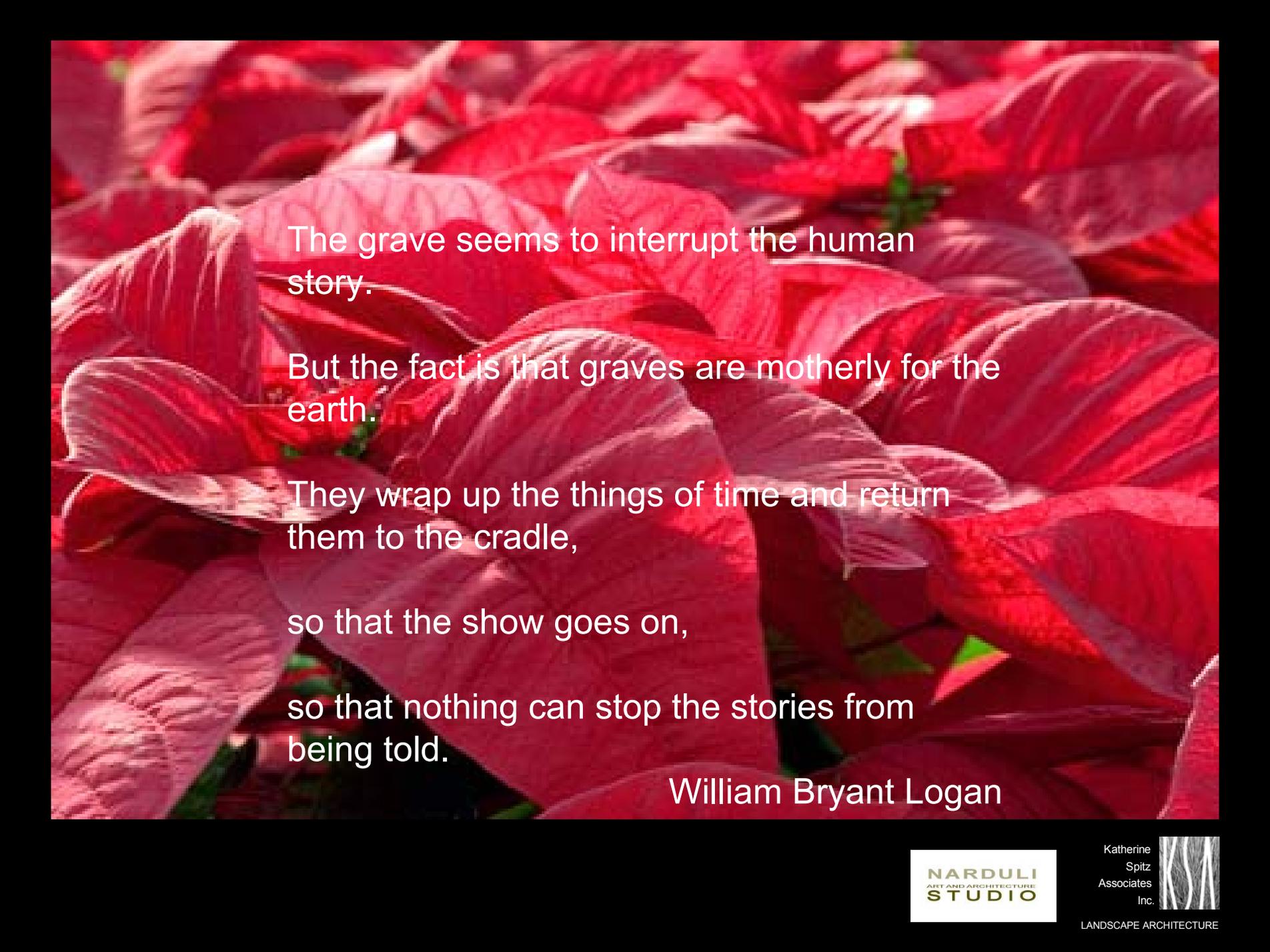
Aliso Lane pedestrian lighting





WPA Wall and Planting Refurbishment





The grave seems to interrupt the human
story.

But the fact is that graves are motherly for the
earth.

They wrap up the things of time and return
them to the cradle,

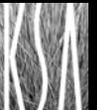
so that the show goes on,

so that nothing can stop the stories from
being told.

William Bryant Logan

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City of Ventura

Cemetery Memorial Park Master Plan

September 17, 2008



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