

CUSTOM CONTENT

Consider the Context



Combination of native and naturalized plants provide plenty of color and nectar for pollinators.

Every green space in the city, no matter how small, is part of a greater picture. Despite all the stuff we've bulldozed and paved over, the city is a habitat with an ecology of its own. We share the places where we eat, gather, and relax, with animals that are also doing those same things. When designing these places, we should keep in mind we are doing our part in shaping a habitat - one with a network of relationships that spreads across the city unseen. Predators, prey, and pollinators live out an epic daily drama that passes by largely unnoticed. The green spaces of a city stitch together to create a variety of stages where these roving actors inhabit and perform throughout the cycles of the seasons. This quilt of parks, plazas, gardens, and even balconies of the city, is not a patchwork isolated in space. It is yet part of an even larger picture that includes rural areas and wild lands.

As designers, we can make decisions to strengthen this interconnectedness. We can plant native plants; which provide familiar food, shelter, and nest material for a variety of wild life. We can use pervious paving, to ensure rainwater sinks into the ground to replenish it. We can even use water captured from HVAC (literally from thin air) to provide water to a parched landscape. As we learn more about the relationships around us, we discover more ways to make design interact in a positive way with nature.



The Campus on Village La Jolla, a recently renovated mixed-use property with hospitality, medical, office, and education space near the UCSD campus.

Let's embrace the connection that our urban spaces have with our wild lands. Let's envision a city where the plants that we use and the materials we choose respond and interact with our biome. Let's blur the dividing line between native landscape and urban landscape, so that we no longer fixate on the division, but instead the interconnectedness of the land.



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