OJB Landscape Architecture focuses on creating landscapes that transform perspectives, evoke emotional responses, and create unique and unforgettable sensory experiences. The firm’s work imaginatively unifies the relationship between landscape and architecture, ensuring unique compositions satisfy the demands of both form and function.

OJB’s thoughtfully composed projects have established the firm as a leader in its field and one who challenges the conventional boundaries of landscape architecture. With context and function always in mind, OJB’s design practice conceives original and inventive landscapes that mitigate site challenges with creative and innovative solutions.

The firm’s work has a strong emphasis on designing landscapes that promote healthy living. OJB believes landscapes have the power to heal and restore cities and their communities. Through the creation of fascinating and functional public spaces, OJB’s projects have restored connections between disparate neighborhoods and their residential, cultural, and business districts. Their imaginative designs and world-class programming efforts capture the hearts of all ages and demonstrate their commitment to the aesthetic and economic transformation of our cities.

Jim founded the Office of James Burnett in 1989 in Houston, Texas. While modest, the firm’s early projects were thoughtful and composed, quickly establishing OJB as a leader in the field of landscape architecture. By 2003, OJB opened a second office in San Diego, CA. The new location expanded OJB’s reach to the West Coast, and the firm quickly grew. OJB opened its Boston office in 2013 and its Dallas office in 2018 and now employs 68 professionals throughout the firm.

OJB’s unique organizational structure allows team members from different offices to collaborate closely on projects nationally; facilitate knowledge sharing among staff; and the ability to provide a high level of professional services for clients.

OJB has received more than 90 design awards, including the American Society of Landscape Architect’s 2015 Firm Award, consecutive Urban Open Space Awards from the Urban Land Institute recognizing Myriad Botanical Gardens in Oklahoma City, OK (2015) and Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, TX (2014), and three Honor Awards from ASLA for Sunnylands Center & Gardens in Rancho Mirage, CA, the Brochstein Pavilion at Rice University in Houston, TX, and the Reid Residence in Houston, TX. James Burnett was also the recipient of the 2016 ASLA Design Medal.
KLYDE WARREN PARK
DALLAS, TX

Klyde Warren Park was created over one of the busiest freeways in Texas. The freeway had severed the city’s two largest cultural districts for many years. Restoring the connection has transformed the city by bridging the gap and creating a new heart of downtown. Acting as a common ground for the surrounding museums and businesses, Klyde Warren Park is a vibrant and well-programmed urban park.

Bisected by the existing Olive Street bridge, the park is organized by a sweeping pedestrian promenade that features a continuous canopy of specimen pond cypress. The promenade draws visitors through the park past a botanical garden, a children’s garden with an interactive water feature, a reading room, and an event lawn. A large public plaza adjacent to Olive Street connects the restaurant terrace, the performance pavilion, and the casual take-out pavilion to the street and features an interactive fountain feature.

The park has measurably decreased noise and air pollution in the area and increased activity for businesses and cultural institutions. Moreover, real estate and property values surrounding the park have seen a steady increase since the start of construction. Klyde Warren Park has gracefully reconnected the city, and has become an integral and endeared open space in Downtown Dallas.
“I have found the OJB team to be creative, diligent and responsive to our evolving needs. Since opening in Oct 2012, public interest in the park has exceeded our expectations.”

Jody Grant, Chairman
Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation
“...The Office of James Burnett has delivered something radical - 5.2 acres of green space laid across an eight-lane highway...The project’s success has far exceeded projections, with attendance averaging 12,000 to 15,000 visits per week.”

Laura Mirviss
Architectural Record
Pioneering a new ecological aesthetic for arid landscapes in the southwest, Sunnylands Center & Gardens is a nine-acre desert jewel amid Rancho Mirage’s conventional, thirsty sprawl. The new Interpretive Center and Botanical Gardens celebrate the cultural legacy of publisher, diplomat, and philanthropist Walter Annenberg and his wife Lenore, whose adjacent 200-acre estate has long been a retreat for U.S. Presidents, foreign dignitaries, and celebrities. Working closely with Mrs. Annenberg, OJB created a collection of museum-quality garden spaces that invite discovery and reflection.

Organic and free-flowing at the edges of the site, the lines of hardscape surfaces and planting beds take on a geometric precision adjacent to the Center. Located past a gracious entry drive and formal auto court, Frederick Fisher and Partners’ 15,000-SF LEED Gold-rated building houses exhibition space, a café, a theater, and a gift shop. The Center’s western windows frame a breathtaking view over an event terrace and lawn to the 10,000-foot-high San Jacinto Mountains beyond. To the right and left of the terrace, twin reflecting basins mirror the expansive desert sky, lower the ambient temperature, and fill the area with the relaxing sound of water. More than 1.25 miles of walking trails lead visitors past the circular event lawn, beneath flowering palo verde desert trees, to a labyrinth garden, a performance circle, and interpretive displays of native plants.

The planting design features 53,000 hand-picked specimens from over 50 arid-landscape plant species chosen for their sculptural character, seasonal interest, and wildlife habitat value. Cutting-edge water efficiency measures throughout the site allow the garden to thrive using only 20% of its water allocation from the Coachella Valley Water District.
“The landscape architecture and the project’s cutting-edge approach to sustainable design and management take inspiration from the desert environs. The project’s landscape architect, Jim Burnett, describes this approach as ‘intelligent beauty,’ which celebrates rather than ignores the arid climate.”

Rachel Berey
Topos Magazine
Vol 83 / 2013
A key component in Oklahoma City’s Project 180 public works program, the renovation of Myriad Botanical Gardens has transformed 15 quiet, underutilized acres of open space into a highly-programmed urban park and the center of downtown public life. Two decades after its original opening, the park’s Crystal Bridge conservatory, lake and gardens were popular for portrait photography; but limited accessibility, a lack of programming and a public perception that the garden was unsafe discouraged repeat visits. The Office of James Burnett worked with a broad coalition of public and private stakeholders to re-envision the park as a vibrant and iconic setting for the city’s civic and cultural events.

The framework of the park evolved to preserve over 300 high-value specimen trees and to direct on-site stormwater to the renovated central lake, where it supplements irrigation. Permeable and inviting along its edges, the garden draws visitors onto a tree-lined promenade that loops through botanical plantings around the lake’s upper rim. Quiet, shaded berms to the northwest overlook the 28,000 SF Great Lawn and a sculptural bandshell by Gensler’s David Epstein. Along Hudson Avenue to the west, a grove of Sycamores buffers the street while providing flexible garden space to support Oklahoma City’s annual Festival of the Arts. To the south, an interactive water feature marks the entry to a children’s garden that balances active play with natural learning. A dog park, a fountain plaza, and a restaurant with outdoor dining enliven the eastern portion of the site.

Extensive programming by the Myriad Garden Foundation utilizes the park’s garden rooms year-round for concerts and plays, weddings and galas, sports and fitness events. Since its 2011 re-opening, the park has welcomed more than a million visitors annually and catalyzed downtown economic development, earning it a 2015 ULI Urban Open Space Award.
The children’s interactive water feature includes programming that recreates an Oklahoma thunderstorm as expressed through playful water design.
“The renovation of Myriad Gardens has exceeded my expectations and become the new heart of downtown Oklahoma City. The design has revitalized this important public space by creating a series of interconnected public plazas, courtyards and garden spaces that are flexible, functional and attractive year-around.”

J. Larry Nichols, Executive Chairman
Devon Energy Corporation
Levy Park is a highly programmed 5.9-acre urban park located within the residential development project in the Upper Kirby District of Houston. The Upper Kirby Redevelopment Authority, a public-private partnership, hired OJB to design a world-class urban park.

Programming for the park includes a performance pavilion, two large event lawns, a community garden, several water features, and a dog park to ensure that the gardens offer something for everyone. A generous promenade circling the park connects a games area, play berms, decomposed granite seating courts, and a food kiosk. Several mixed-use residential and office buildings sit across the street and are united with the park by the surrounding renovated streetscapes. At the heart of the park is a winding children’s garden, which among its playful fountains and tree houses, sits several 40-70-year-old legacy live oak trees that were relocated on-site.

The renovation of the park into an amenity-rich, open, green space has been warmly embraced as the perfect addition to the neighborhood and a catalyst for economic development.
The Park at Lakeshore East is a 5.3-acre urban park that is the central amenity of the 28-acre Lakeshore East development in Chicago’s Inner Loop. Overlooking the confluence of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, Lakeshore East is a $4B redevelopment that includes 4,950 residential units, 1,500 hotel rooms, 2.2 million GSF of commercial space, 770,000 SF of retail space and an elementary school.

Two sweeping promenades serve as the primary circulation across the site, and each features a series of fountain basins, seating areas, and ornamental gardens. An extension of Field Street’s axis, the Grand Stair offers a commanding view of the park and accommodates the 25’ grade differential created by Chicago’s three-tiered transit system. Additional amenities include a children’s garden, dog park, and event lawn.
“The design, which evolved, exceeded our expectations and produced a botanical garden incorporating very creative landscape features and elements... Throughout the development of the park, the Burnett firm was readily available at a moment’s notice. The design and resulting cost met our budget parameters and timing.”

Joel M. Carlin
Lakeshore East LLC
Located on a 4.1-acre site in the heart of San Diego’s growing East Village neighborhood, East Village Green is anticipated to be a highly-programmed urban park that will include a wide range of public amenities identified through a series of public workshops led by the Office of James Burnett. Currently an industrial neighborhood in transition, the East Village is anticipated to evolve over the next decade to a mixed-use community of nearly 30,000 residents. This new urban park will be the signature open space for the neighborhood and is envisioned as the hub of community activity.

As selected by the General Public during the outreach process, the “Central Green” plan proposes a three-phase approach to the design that organizes the park into a series of central open spaces surrounded by park amenities. The first phase of construction includes the 60,000 SF west block and an additional 20,000 SF of City-controlled property on the eastern superblock. Also included in this phase is a 2-story, 300-car underground public parking garage. Phase two may include an additional structure or a subterranean utility substation whose construction would ultimately enable the third and final phase of park improvements.

Client: Civic San Diego
In 2013, the estate of Carolyn and Maurice LeBauer gifted the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro with a bequest to create a new urban park for “the benefit and enjoyment of the general population of Greensboro, particularly children and their families.”

Located on a 4.5-acre site in the heart of downtown Greensboro, the park’s final implementation will realign key downtown streets to encourage a stronger relationship with the upcoming Steven Tanger Performing Arts Center and will become the heart of a new cultural arts district.

The park is organized around a concert lawn and performance pavilion that will be crowned with a permanent installation from renowned Boston-based artist Janet Echelman. The actively programmed park will also include a significant children’s garden and interactive water feature, dog park, reading room, games area, a croquet lawn, and putting green. It is anticipated the park will be financially self-sustaining. In addition to including several food and beverage kiosks, it will also accommodate the wide range of festivals and other civic-scale events from the greater Greensboro area.

Client: Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro
Size: 4.5 acres

Located on the former site of Howard Hughes’ aircraft facility, Playa Vista Central Park is part of the last entitled development sites remaining in the Los Angeles area. Conceived as a public art installation, the park is organized into a series of distinct landscape experiences unified by a central spine and linear bands of specimen trees.

A central 9-acre park consisting of sports courts, playground, soccer field, botanical gardens, water features, and a bandshell, it serves as the social hub for the campus. Each parcel has park-front access or direct views to the central green providing a strong relationship between architecture and landscape architecture. Richly landscaped courts and roof gardens are integrated in with the proposed and historic buildings providing tenants with easy access to the famed outdoor environment of Southern California.

Marked with signature benches and earth forms, the entry plaza greets visitors to the park before leading them into a berm garden that features bold installations of regionally-appropriate plant material. Central to the park is a function lawn and performance pavilion surrounded by bosques of shade trees. Colorful sports courts and an imaginative children’s garden seem to float in the middle of a nearby lake and provide a unique identity to the park.
SPEARHEADED by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) the I-35E/US 67 Project intends to develop long-term improvements to the southern gateway corridor in Dallas County. The project aims to improve safety, relieve congestion, address roadway deficiencies, and improve system linkages along approximately 11 miles of Interstate 35E and US 67. Adjacent to the Dallas Zoo, The Southern Gateway Deck Park aims to reconnect and revitalize the Oak Cliff neighborhood by constructing a highly programmed, 5.8-acre park over I-35.

This transformational endeavor will bring vital green, open space to South Dallas. Similar to Klyde Warren Park, The Office of James Burnett has been tasked with the development of an amenity-rich, yet flexible plan designed to accommodate a wide spectrum of users. OJB has proposed areas for passive and active recreation with community-requested amenities including a skate and recreation area, bike rental kiosks, food and beverage areas, restrooms, an open-air performance pavilion, a dog park, a children’s garden, multiple water features and an iconic sculpture which will anchor the park. Most significantly, the Southern Gateway park’s design will be the reflection of the neighborhood which surrounds it, a nod to the unique character of Oak Cliff.
North Houston Bike Park encompasses more than 22 acres, centrally located between Downtown Houston, The Woodlands, and Kingwood, Texas. The Greater Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority hired OJB to design this one-of-a-kind, world-class bike park following the completion of the ten-acre North Houston Skate Park which lies directly to the north. The creation of this area has already provided a benefit to the local community and impacted development in the neighboring region.

The focus for the North Houston Bike Park is to provide something for everybody, whether it’s novice or expert riders, visitors, or spectators. Programming for the park will include a BMX track, a welcome center, 25,000 SF of concrete bike bowls, a performance pavilion with large event lawn, an urban riding plaza, large and small pump tracks, a tot track, a dirt jumps track, and off-road trails with break-out areas for various skill work.

OJB has incorporated sustainable elements into the space-efficient design. The starting ramp sits atop the park’s 2,500-SF Welcome Center. Another unique element is the pedestrian bridge which is situated on top of rideable planters and allows visitors to traverse the bike bowls. Visitors can take advantage of this distinctive vantage point with birds-eye views of the riders below as well as tree-top sightlines extending to the south end of the park.

North Houston Bike Park was recently selected as the site of the 2020 UCI BMX World Championships.

Promenades run from the north to the south, framing the event lawn and creating a variety of pedestrian gathering spaces. Bike activity happens to the east and west of the promenades ensuring an active experience for all visitors.
Westfield Century City is a $700M upgrade to the existing outdoor mall in the heart of Century City in Los Angeles, CA. The re-imagined experience features 422,000 SF of new retail space punctuated by 70 new high-fashion streetside boutiques for a total of 220 prestigious shops and restaurants.

The design team’s holistic approach integrated architecture, interior design and landscape architecture, creating an unparalleled retail experience. The plazas, terraces, gardens and water elements featured at Westfield Century City are foundational to the overall retail experience in Southern California and inject unique sensory encounters for the modern-day shopper.

A tranquil urban oasis is fostered by canopies of palm trees floating above pools of water that create subtle movement of reflected light and shade. Pathway planting throughout the project features climate appropriate specimens selected for their sculptural and textural qualities. Raised planters, olive trees and outdoor fire pits are layered effortlessly to provide cozy lounging areas for visitors to gather and relax day and night. Green walls and trees planted on structure are showcased on every level of the project as are hanging planters that feature a variety of aromatic plants and flowers.

As the centerpiece of the project, the Atrium is a state-of-the-art entertainment and events venue that affords flexible space for a variety of programs including performances, fashion shows and art exhibits. Two 50-year-old heritage olive trees were carefully preserved and transplanted at the event terrace and are accentuated by a water feature that adds reflected light to the space. Movable planters allow for ever changing points of interest and activities. The landscape design pays particular attention to each entry to the project, drawing the shopper in through groves of olive trees adorned with whimsical lighting at the West Santa Monica Boulevard entrance and offering a distinctive hanging vine planter at the East Santa Monica Boulevard entrance. The entry at Constellation Boulevard employs geometric paving and sculptural landscape elements. While each entry corridor is visually unique, an exposed aggregate-honed concrete paving provides continuity throughout the project. The perimeter streetscape features stunning desert museum Palo Verde trees that celebrate a cohesive modern architectural vision for the project. Bold and lush planting vignettes extend into the parking garage to create a green vertical core in a space typically dominated by concrete and hardscape.
Situated on the edge of downtown Los Angeles, blocks from the Staples Center, the Metropolis Residential Towers is a mixed-use complex consisting of 1,250 luxury residential units with two floors of high-end retail along the street. Located over the parking garage and between the two towers is a 60,000 SF amenity deck with dramatic views of downtown and views west to Hollywood Hills. This California Modern inspired amenity deck features a lap pool, spa area, event pavilion, activity lawns, dog park, and children’s play area, all situated in a richly landscaped garden. Event terraces are located midway at each of the towers and feature outdoor kitchens, gathering areas, a small event lawn, and rich ornamental planting.
The JW Marriott Austin is an upscale boutique hotel in downtown Austin. Situated on an open fifth level terrace, a deck featuring a pool and amenities offers guests multiple options for outdoor activity.

Providing the backdrop for the deck is a series of green wall columns, planted with vines, along the south facing façade of the building. Private cabana rooms are nestled within the columns, while chaise lounges offer more social seating out on the open deck. The various lounging areas are located around the pool and outdoor bar. Raised and flush planters, canopy trees, and an outdoor fire pit all provide interest for users. Open, flexible-use space is available via an artificial turf-lawn function space on the western side of the deck.

The design of the deck spaces is accentuated by attention to details and materials, such as the use of plants with interesting textures, cool paving, and attractive landscape lighting. The amenity deck is a flagship feature of the JW Marriott Austin Hotel.
A sensitive blend of modernism and tradition, the new and renovated facilities and gardens at Craig and Kathryn Hall’s Napa Valley winery expand their sizable production capability and provide a world-class hospitality destination for their growing brand. OJB worked with the Halls to create a five-acre garden that invites exploration of this beautiful working landscape, accommodates the winery’s many special events, and provides a refined setting for the significant sculpture collection.

A renovated entry along Highway 29 employs specimen shade trees, exuberant perennial plantings, and a signature sculpture to draw visitors through the working organic vineyards to a new auto court organized around a magnificent preserved valley oak. A straight sightline connects this tree with the main entry to the new Visitor Center. Located along this walk, an arrival court beneath a grove of shade trees serves as a gathering area for winery tours.

Signum Architecture’s state-of-the-art, 30,000-SF Visitor Center features the Hall’s extensive collection of modern art throughout reception areas, public and private tasting rooms, and a ground level demonstration kitchen that opens onto a dining and event terrace.

The winery hosts music, culinary, and cultural events on a 6,500-SF Great Lawn adjacent to the renovated Peterson-Bergfeld historic building. At the vineyards’ edge, a gravel terrace with a long granite reflection basin, umbrellas, and lounge chairs affords spectacular views of the Mayacamas Mountains. Low limestone walls divide the northern gardens into discrete rooms dedicated to cut flower production, an organic kitchen garden, and the Olive Grove which doubles as a rotating gallery for art installations.

Client: HALL Wines
Team: Signum Architecture, Summit Engineering, HLB Lighting Design, Fluidity Design Consultants, NICOLEHOLLIS, Jesús Moroles, Sweeney and Associates
Art: James Arp
Located on 210 acres of fragile land in the Texas Hill Country, The Crossings is a destination spa and wellness center overlooking beautiful Lake Travis. With 70 guest rooms distributed across eight lodges, The Crossings campus also features a carriage house, welcome center, sanctuary, dining hall, and numerous landscape amenities.

Incorporating green design elements was a high client priority. OJB limited impervious paving across the site to maximize the amount of rainfall that percolates through to the Edwards Aquifer. Both rainwater and effluent are harvested on-site to feed the irrigation system, and most materials on the site are locally sourced. With the exception of the two highly manicured areas near the Visitor Center, the site is planted extensively with native or drought-tolerant material.
CityCentre Houston is a 47-acre, mixed-use development where exceptional public spaces and streetscapes integrate the many offerings - offices, residences, hotels, restaurants, retail, conference, fitness, cinema, and structured parking - into a cohesive whole. When the Midway Development Group purchased a failing shopping mall on 37 acres at the intersection of two major Houston highways (two more parcels acquired for later phases added ten additional acres), they engaged OJB to guide and implement their vision for a complete, walkable urban destination.

The heart of CityCentre is the public plaza enclosed by the 13-story Hotel Sorella to the west, by one and two-story restaurant and retail buildings to the north and south, and by the five-story CityCentre One office building to the east of Town and Country Boulevard. An intimate event lawn, water and fire features, and outdoor seating for ground-level restaurants extend the hospitality atmosphere of the hotel out into the landscape, making it ideal for a variety of programmed and spontaneous outdoor activities. The plaza’s paving pattern flows into and across the boulevard to CityCentre One. The design captures additional capacity for special events when the street is closed to automobile traffic.

Throughout the site, carefully detailed paving patterns, planting islands, curbs, and grade changes calm traffic and prioritize pedestrian movement. This inviting and well-used series of outdoor spaces and streetscapes is integral to the success of CityCentre, which was featured in an Urban Land Institute case study and is becoming a benchmark for mixed-use urban developments.
“From master-planning to construction details, OJB rose to the complex challenges of this project...The myriad of popular events and activities that we host at CITYCENTRE speaks of the ability of OJB to create flexible, usable spaces that bring people together and provide meaningful experiences.”

Jonathan Brinsden
Executive Vice President
Midway Companies
Developed as a key element of the “Vision for the Second Century” strategic plan, the Brochstein Pavilion has transformed the Central Quadrangle into the social center of the Rice University campus. The 6,000-SF pavilion offers light refreshments and features a 10,000-SF covered outdoor terrace. Set in a field of decomposed granite, a grove of 48 allée lacebark elms responds to the grid of the building and organizes the space between the Pavilion and the adjacent Fondren Library.

Two low concrete fountains define the space under the canopy, and movable seating accommodates impromptu gatherings of students and faculty. Additional plantings of live oaks and improved pedestrian paths reinforce the existing framework of the Quadrangle.

Client: Rice University
Size: 10,000 SF
Cost: $7.2 M
Dates: 2007-2008


Awards: ASLA National Design Award
ASLA Texas Chapter Merit Award
AIA National Honor Award
AS&U Architectural Citation

Photographer: Hester + Hardaway
“The award winning landscape design of the Brochstein Pavilion, including a newly-constructed café and central gathering space, introduced a wonderful water feature and movable furniture to Rice. The furniture concept has been enthusiastically embraced by students, faculty & visitors, which we are now implementing in other key areas of the campus.”

Barbara White Bryson, FAIA
Associate Vice President Facilities and Engineering and Planning, Rice University
“Susan and I have received many favorable comments regarding the landscaping at the Rice Pavilion and we have enjoyed seeing students and faculty using the outside at least as much as those inside. The building is certainly outstanding, but it is the landscape that really makes it successful.”

Raymond Brochstein
The Brockman Hall for Physics is an 111,000-SF facility housing classrooms, laboratory space, lecture halls, and administrative offices for the Physics Department as well as physicists from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Rice University in Houston. Driven by Rice University’s belief that some of the most important moments on campus are instances of informal discussion and debate outside of the classroom, the design of the building and landscape seeks to provide a multitude of spaces for lively and inspiring conversation.

Sheltered from the sun by the building overhead, a ground-floor courtyard features a reflecting pool, raised ipe terrace, and enhanced plaza with movable furniture. OJB was also asked to redesign the “Courtyard of Science,” an interstitial space between the wings of Brown Hall to the south. A grove of honey mesquites organizes the space and intimate decomposed granite courtyards with movable furniture create a number of social spaces.
The Annenberg Center for Information Science and Technology at the California Institute of Technology provides a modern center for collaborative research and instruction in the disciplines of science and engineering. The facility represents Caltech’s sustainability initiatives and is LEED Gold certified. The landscape surrounding the building reflects this environmental ethic and exhibits a substantial departure from the traditional Pasadena ornamental palette.

Palo verde trees structure the building’s entry plantings, which are organized into a series of planks to echo the adjacent glass facade. The shrub understory heavily focuses on water conservation and is comprised of a number of succulents and ornamental grasses. The project also includes a significant social component through its provision of decomposed granite seating areas and movable furniture, which are used for casual outdoor gatherings. The new environmental aesthetic, with its concomitant water conservation benefits, is being enthusiastically embraced by the campus community.
In Spring of 2012, Baylor University announced that they would retire the 60-year-old off-campus stadium and build a new on-campus facility. The 93-acre site selected for the new stadium sits along the Brazos River, developing the centerpiece of Baylor’s sports programs along the riverfront. A sweeping pedestrian bridge spanning the river connects the stadium site to the university campus. The location creates a stronger connection to the main campus giving students the opportunity to walk from classrooms and dorms to sporting events and offers visitors a unique game day and tailgating experience.

OJB provided planting and irrigation design for the landscape around the stadium, including planting beds, turf, native grasses, seeded areas, and indigenous plants. The irrigation design reduces water consumption and waste associated with typical irrigation practices for the conservation of natural resources.

OJB introduced a new planting palette, including ornamental grasses and wildflowers, which is atypical of what has been done traditionally at Baylor. Geotextiles and native plantings were used for erosion control around the river and also served to foster habitat creation and biodiversity. A double row of heritage live oaks was incorporated into the design as the key pedestrian shading and scaling feature for the stadium. This promenade included special planting and seating areas for students, fans and alumni.

The large sweeps of planting were influenced by the curvature of the bridge and the river’s edge. This new planting palette, along with the live oak “ring” around the stadium and tailgating areas, distinguishes the stadium side of the campus.

OJB designed the walks and spaces around the stadium, creating better pedestrian circulation and allowing for programmed spaces. These spaces included the stadium promenade and a landscaped plaza designed with trees, ornamental planting and shaded courtyard areas to accommodate the high volume of pedestrian traffic during sporting events.
Partners HealthCare System is Massachusetts’ largest employer, hospital network, and physician’s organization. Partners consolidated administrative operations from multiple sites into a new 850,000-SF office building at Somerville’s Assembly Row development.

Assembly Row, a mixed-use project being developed by Federal Realty Investment Trust, is planned as a 45-acre redevelopment of former industrial property. Located along the Mystic River in what is now Somerville’s Assembly Square, the historic site once housed a Ford Motor Co. factory.

OJB designed a landscape that inspires restorative experiences and alternately fosters employee and community engagement. A private roof deck / dining terrace offers intimate outdoor seating with expansive city views framed by groves of whitespire birch. The project centerpiece is the 2.5-acre open space which includes a variety of amenities for Partners’ employees and the general public. Looking to become a benchmark for sustainable strategies in the region, the campus employs best management practices for water conservation, the use of native and adaptive plant materials, and local/regional building materials throughout the site.

Partners HealthCare Campus is the first LEED Gold certified facility in New England under the v4 rating system.

Client: Partners HealthCare System
LEED: Gold

Team: Gensler, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, BuroHappold Engineering, Haley & Aldrich, HLB Lighting Design, Ryan Associates
Burbank Studios is a legacy Hollywood broadcasting center and home of the former NBC Studios. Master planned by Gehry Partners, Worth Real Estate Group redeveloped the 1920’s and 50’s era studios into a 35-acre state-of-the-art film and TV broadcast facility.

Largely an industrial film production center, OJB has re-imagined the face of The Fairway Building, the largest and most central studio building on-site, to include a 630-foot by 40-foot linear courtyard and garden workspace.

The complete east face of The Fairway Building, formerly a loading dock, has been broken into eight programmed terraces which house games, seating and dining areas, micro-lawns, and collaborative seating spaces. The historic awnings which sit atop the plinth loading dock, have been selectively peeled back to reveal the existing canopy frame structure. Trees sit on structure and at grade to lead guests and tenants into the space, while a vertical vine cable system supports greenscreens to offer a semi-transparent enclosure within the courtyard. A series of five water features stretching the length of the site provides visual interest and cools the space, while vibrant ornamental planting counters and complements the industrial architecture and creates a welcome respite from the harder surroundings.

The courtyards serve as a breakout and collaboration space for the three tenants within the building and act as a social and visual hub. The Fairway Building set the bar for the inaugural phase of Burbank Studios’ redevelopment.
Located in the University Town Center district of San Diego, La Jolla Commons is an 18-acre, three-phase office and hotel development organized around a two-acre green space. Hines Interests engaged OJB to develop the central garden in conjunction with the phase two tower, a 13-story, 300,000-SF Class A commercial office tower and one of the largest Net Zero buildings in the United States. Working with notable Los Angeles architect Paul Danna, OJB created a campus with a relaxed Southern California atmosphere and resort-style amenities.

Sweeping pedestrian promenades define the function lawn and organize circulation between the two office towers, the expanded on-site parking structure, and an additional parking structure across Executive Drive. A basketball court and putting green are located at the perimeter of the site, while interior amenities include a dining terrace, a gravel court with a fire feature and lounge chairs, and a shaded plaza with a reflecting basin and movable furniture.

The landscape design contributes to the Net Zero certification by employing Low Impact Design strategies. Site grading directs runoff from the curbless entry drive and parking areas into a linear bioswale that runs the length of the park. The planting design incorporates sweeping masses of jewel-toned succulents and drought-tolerant grasses appropriate to the Southern California climate.
Developed as a component of the 64-acre Playa Vista master plan, this 6.5-acre office development features structured parking and four separate buildings totaling 325,000 SF of Class A office space. Richly detailed courtyards utilize combinations of paving materials and drought-tolerant plants to create a unique mood and identity for each building entry.

Third-floor terraces built over the garage deck are shared by the building tenants and feature modest event lawns, seating areas, ornamental planting, and sweeping panoramas of the Santa Monica mountains to Downtown Los Angeles. Each building also features an extensive green roof planted with regionally-appropriate plant materials and a small private terrace to minimize the impact of thermal heat gain and stormwater runoff.
This 2.25-acre space is a simple yet elegant composition of lawn, shade trees, and special water features, that acts as a foreground for the podium, Winter Garden, and tower. A cascading wall of water enhances the entry experience and buffers the park from the activity of the plaza and street.

Organized around a living pool teeming with aquatic life, the informal dining terrace overlooks a public green that accommodates 1,500-2,000 people during special events. Along the north edge of the lawn, rich plantings and a series of overflowing fountain features insulate private courtyards from the activity of the park. At the western edge of the park, an elegant pavilion rises from a skin of water and provides a space for special events as well as the activities of the everyday lunch crowd.
“OJB was instrumental in the initial landscape planning and design efforts for Devon Energy’s headquarters in downtown Oklahoma City...Jim’s firm is client focused, works diligently to understand the vision of their clients and then translates those into creative, functional design solutions.”

J. Larry Nicols
Executive Chairman
Devon Energy Corporation
On this 94-acre campus, carefully detailed outdoor spaces creatively manage the site’s stormwater and create a serene setting for seven buildings, housing administrative offices, research facilities, a cafeteria, a childcare center, and a wellness center. This design renovation consolidates disparate facilities from across the Houston metropolitan area into a new-world headquarters on the site of an existing manufacturing and shipping facility. OJB worked closely with the architect to ensure that the overall design was environmentally responsible, preserved the site’s unique character, and created a home for the many programmatic needs of the people working there.

New structures are located towards the interior of the site, preserving forest canopy along the perimeter and insulating personnel from manufacturing operations. Large interior stands of trees were preserved and more than 500 new trees were planted to give scale, shade, and separation on this very large site. The buildings are organized around a central lake that serves as amenity and focal point for the campus while managing its runoff. Adjacent to the lake, wetland systems planted extensively with native vegetation provide additional detention and create wildlife habitat.

Artfully arranged around the buildings, waterways, and islands, a series of compatible outdoor use areas – gravel terraces, hardwood decks, and trellis-shaded walkways – invite users out into the landscape to relax, play, and socialize. Throughout the campus, the sweeping elliptical lines of the lake are echoed in the design of water features, walkways, decks, and planting beds.
The new 2.7-acre GE campus in Boston is located on the edge of Fort Point Channel in the City’s Seaport District. The site of the campus, named Innovation Point, is part of a complex that once housed New England Confectionary Co. (NECCO). This project will serve as a catalyst for the execution of the 100 Acres Master Plan and as a benchmark for future waterfront and public realm development in the area.

The new three-building campus will include two renovated five-story brick warehouses, a 12-story tower designed by Gensler, and various public spaces. The campus will include the Museum which will display the inspirational evolution of GE’s past, present, and future; a Community Work Lounge; a casual restaurant space; and a pedestrian-only plaza that will serve as the life center of the campus and an activity hub for employees and public users.

The campus features 1.5 acres of public outdoor space, which includes an expanded harborwalk, creative seating areas, waterfront overlooks, and a flexible lawn for temporary uses or just relaxation. A series of steps and accessible paths from the harborwalk to the plaza provide connectivity and access, drawing people to the site and the interior spaces which will be developed with public engagement in mind. The functional landscaping design will mitigate sea level rise and manage rainwater, while simultaneously showcasing sustainable innovation and creating an active and appealing public waterfront. There is also a large rooftop garden and several roof terraces which incorporate environmental systems to capture and reuse stormwater.

The new GE campus project aims to create a more sustainable, active, and connected environment that both activates and integrates into the surrounding Fort Point area.
The renovation of the GT “Mickey” Leland Federal Building and Plaza significantly improved the energy performance and sustainability of the building and landscape and provided a much needed improvement to the quality of the spaces. The project is LEED Platinum Certified and was funded as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

The new pedestrian-friendly plaza helps create a memorable identity, offers a secure environment, and provides an inviting outdoor amenity for tenants and visitors.

A sweeping promenade from the northeast to the southeast corners serves as both the primary circulation into the building and generative framework of the plaza. This gesture is reflected in the curved architecture of the new lobby facade and the adjacent concentric tunnel which leads to offsite parking. These elements act to hold the edges of the plaza to the west and provide a contrast to the verticality of the building facade.

Outdoor congregation terraces are created within the plaza. The terraces are defined by a change in paving material, large shade trees, planting beds, and architectural seating elements—all of which reinforce the curving plan geometry. The change in paving material serves to provide a more tactile experience in the terrace as well as providing the opportunity for greater permeability. The large shade trees mitigate the harsh Texas sun. The architectural seating elements incorporate mounded berms of feature planting. Green roofs highlight the top of the new lobby to provide additional visual interest when viewed from above.
Located on a 1.5-acre parcel in Houston’s Museum District, the 38,000-square foot Asia Society Texas Center serves as the home to Asia Society the leading educational organization promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia and the west. Asia House is sited to take advantage of the distant Houston skyline. The Center uses business, policy, education, outreach, art, music, dance, theater and cultural programming to promote an understanding of the Asian culture within the greater Houston community.

Visitors are welcomed by a landscape that adheres to a thoughtfully executed minimalist ethic. The front yard includes a simple plane of ground cover and heritage oaks that frame views to the main entry and serves as a venue for special events. At the rear of the building, an alley of bald cypress trees form a vertical hedge that hold the view of the second level Green Garden.

A series of three individual gardens are located on the second level of the building. The Water Garden Terrace features a water skin that reflects shadows from two heritage oaks and the Houston skyline. Misters produce fog that rises over the edge of the Water Garden, obscuring the ground plane. The Stone Garden is a contemporary simple plane of gravel and black timber bamboo that serves as a backdrop to rotating pieces of sculpture and event displays. The Sculpture Garden is accessed from the central meeting room that is lined with a continuous unobstructed wall of glass. A generous terrace is held be a sloped carpet of ground cover with stone sculptures carefully placed in the composition.

Additionally, the site was designed with environmental longevity in mind with trees intercepting 40,000 gallons of storm water runoff on-site and sixty-six percent permeable surface on the building block. Native plants blend with Asian inspired flora to offer visitors a transition into the space and add to the authenticity associated with the mission of the center.
OJB worked with the City of Oklahoma City to renovate the streetscape in the downtown area. Project 180 presented the opportunity to revitalize and completely renew the urban core of Oklahoma City. The streetscape and street improvements encompass more than 180 acres of the Central Business District, including the alignments of 17 streets. Nearly eight miles of streets were updated with new intersections, pavement, site amenities, continuous street trees, and abundant on-street parking. OJB directed the efforts of a large subconsultant team to narrow downtown streets, create habitable street environments, and establish streetscape design standards.
The Christ Hospital landscape master plan is designed to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for patients, visitors, and staff. Reflecting the cultural personality of Cincinnati and the rich historical signature of the Mt. Auburn neighborhood, the landscape respects and pays homage to the past while celebrating the future.

A series of landscaped courts dedicated to a wide array of departments and users provides outlets for gathering, waiting, reflecting, and healing. Implementing cutting-edge sustainability practices, an optimized campus experience, and enhanced accessibility and circulation all contribute to the ultimate success of the design. By encouraging expansion and responsible growth, the landscape master plan creates a benchmark for the healthcare experience.

Client: The Christ Hospital
Team: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Fosdick & Hilmer, Champlin Architects, THP Limited, Schuler Shook
Awards: BSLA Honor Award in Design, 2017
Envisioned as a mixed-use development, Arboleda will be a premier model for sustainable development in San Pedro Garza Garcia, which serves as an important corporate center in Monterrey, Mexico. The master plan will create a new urban center on a 26-acre site next to the Campestre Golf Club with dramatic views of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

At the core of the project, the leaf shaped park serves as a significant outdoor area, providing a distinct open space and a rich experience for the public and residents. The development will include a vibrant commercial zone and a secure, private residential area, both organized around a central park.

Arboleda offers a diverse variety of site programming. Residents will live in three towers and smaller scaled villas in the residential area and two midrise apartment buildings in the commercial district. This lively, walkable district for business and entertainment will also include office towers, office gardens, restaurants, stores, café bistro, a performance pavilion, a hotel, and a cultural center. The clubhouse will link the commercial and residential zones and will be an amenity for all.

Highlighting the projects' emphasis on sustainable design, it will be compliant with LEED for Neighborhood Development, a system of design which integrates the principles of smart growth, urbanism, and green building.

Client: One Development Group
Size: 26 acres
Cost: Confidential
Dates: 2009-2020
Team: Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, HKS, KMD Architects, JSa Arquitectura, RDLP Arquitectos, Fountain Source, HWA Parking, Quentin Thomas Associates, Environmental Design
“I have had the pleasure of working with OJB on two significant projects in Monterrey, San Pedro Nuevo Leon, Mexico. One Development Group commissioned their services for SOFIA, a highrise luxury residential project... Impressed by their expertise, quality of work and the relationship fostered with ODG - we contracted their planning services for Arboleda, a sustainable, mixed-use project on a 25-acre site in one of Latin America’s most prestigious suburbs.”

Patricio Garza, Director
One Development Group
Sited on a three-acre parcel located between Pearl Street, Olive Street, and Klyde Warren Park, Park District is a new 900,000-SF, mixed-use project in Uptown Dallas. The 20-story office tower and 33-story apartment tower, slated for completion in January 2018. The towers will feature Class A offices, luxury residences, ground-floor retail, extensive below-grade parking, and a plaza designed by OJB. Park District Tower will provide tenants with efficient floor plates, multiple outdoor terraces, a state-of-the-art fitness facility, a full conference facility with meeting rooms, and a grand lobby with luxury hotel-like space for informal meetings. In an effort to integrate Park District into the existing fabric of the neighborhood, the vast majority of office, residential, and visitor parking will be located in a below-grade garage to allow relief along Klyde Warren Park. The project’s design emphasizes strong connections to Klyde Warren Park with wide, inviting sidewalks, park-like landscaping, and a large, walkable plaza with valet pick-up and drop-off.
The Union, scheduled to be completed in 2018, will become a popular mixed-use destination at the heart of the exciting and the emerging Dallas neighborhood, Victory Park. The Union will include a Class-A office tower, residential high-rise, retail, restaurants and a large public open space. This 800,000 SF development’s premier location at Field Street and Cedar Springs Road makes it easy to get to nearby attractions that include the Dallas Arts District, American Airlines Center, Klyde Warren Park, The Ritz-Carlton, Uptown, Downtown and more.

The 23 floor high rise apartment building provides residents with a luxurious 8th floor amenity deck that includes a resort-style pool, shaded seating, a fitness center and plenty of gathering and entertaining spaces with glamorous views of the city and lively plaza below.

The signature element that will make The Union a vibrant destination is the striking 21,000 SF central plaza, lined with appealing restaurants and retail that reach right out to the street, creating an inviting experience. The plaza will include a performance green, an abundance of places to sit and relax, 4 beautiful water features, and large trees that provide plenty of shade.