Playa Vista Central Park

Playa Vista, CA

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 nine-acre park consisting of sports courts, playground, soccer field, botanical gardens, water features and a band shell, which 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. Richly landscaped courts and roof gardens are integrated 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 lawn and performance pavilion surrounded by bosques of shade trees. Colorful sports courts and an imaginative children's garden beyond seem to float in the middle of a nearby lake and provide a unique identity to the park.

Client

Playa Vista Capital

Size

9 acres

Dates

2008 - 2011

Team

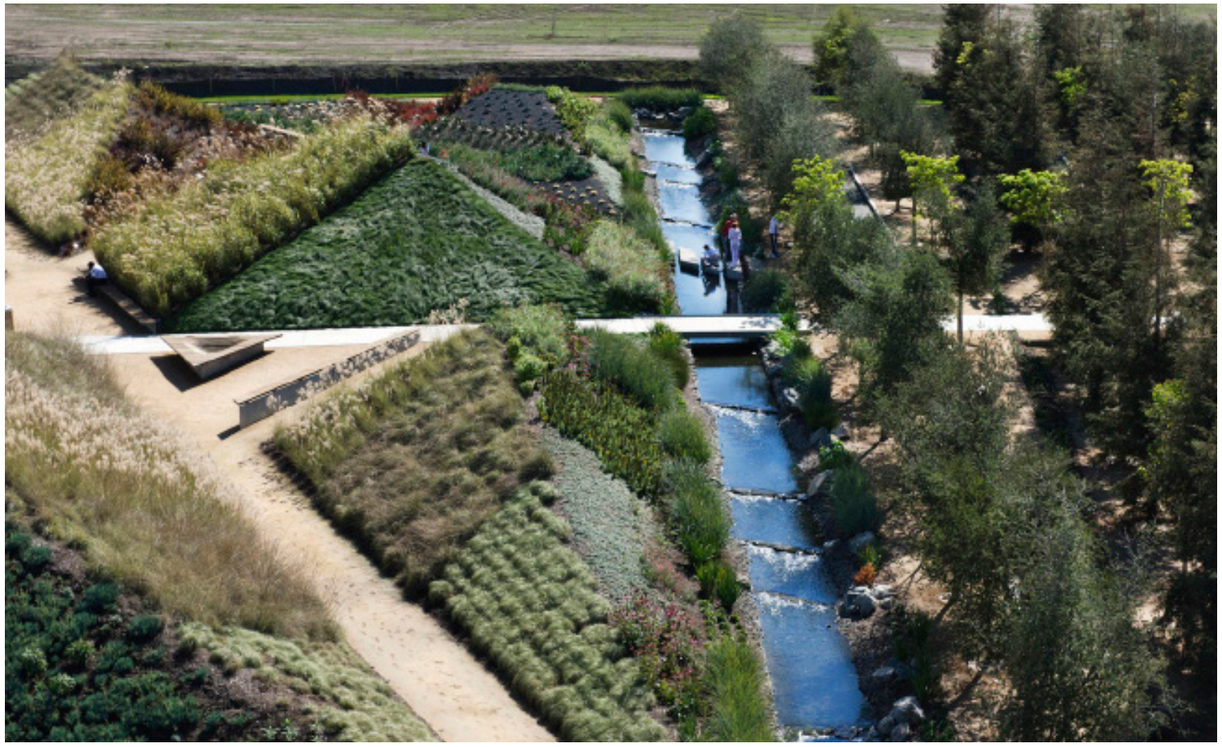
Michael Maltzan Architects

Awards

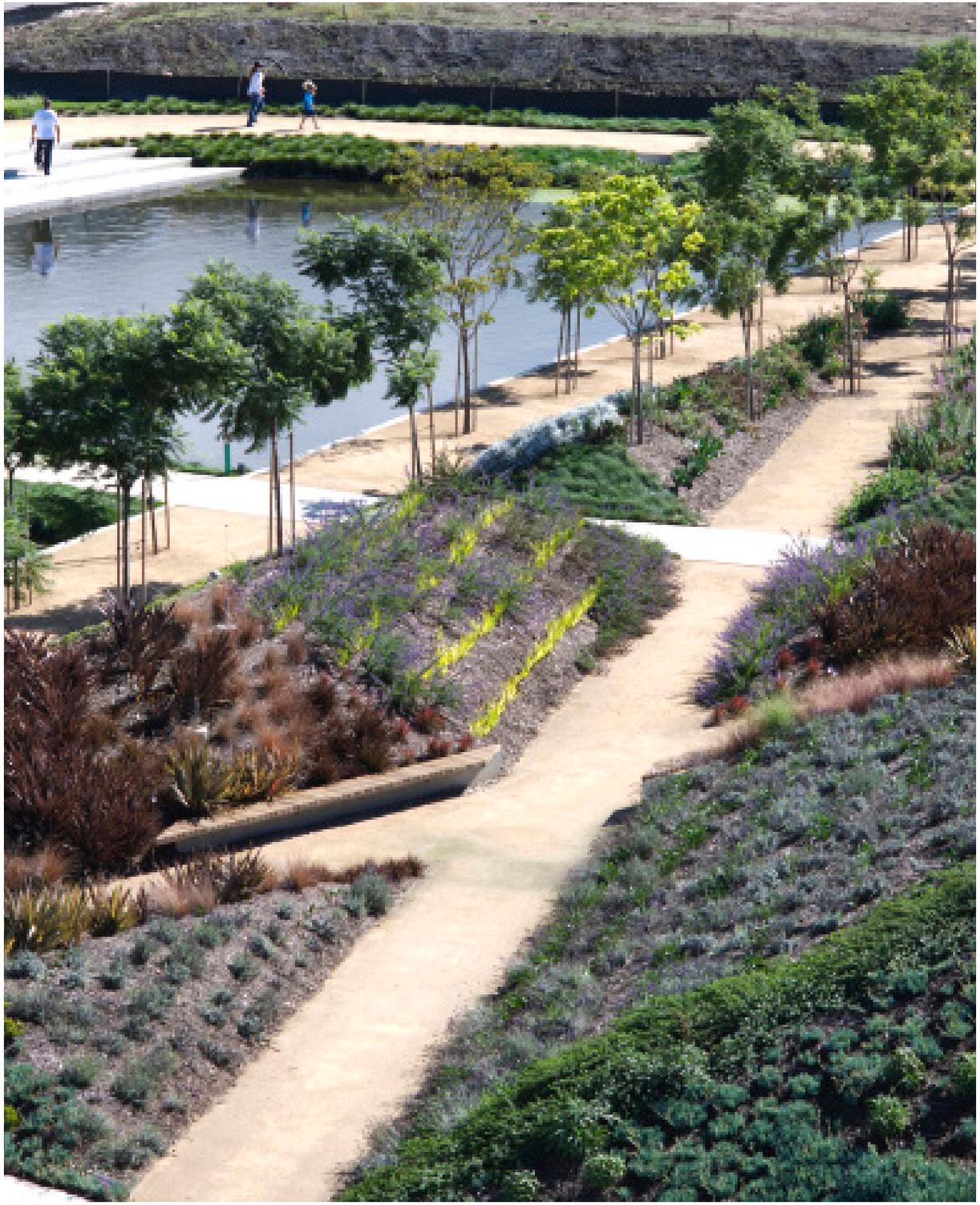
AIA-California Council 2011 Merit

PROJECT NAME

A series of sustainable planting brighten the park while withstanding the California climate.



Natural paths and native planting greet guests upon arrival.



Sustainability

The project redevelops a former Howard Hughes' Aircraft facility. The design was inspired by the foothill landscape of southern California, adding hills, mounds, and native flora.

LAND

The 7.9-acre park has bands of programmed space uniting the office complex. The program includes a basketball court, soccer field, playground, bosque, bocce courts, berm gardens, and a band shell with an amphitheater lawn.

PLANTING

636 trees were planted.

100% native and adaptive species were used.

A runnel connects the park to a larger system. Water is pulled from the Los Angeles River and moved to wetland ponds, which provides aeration and filtration before being dumped into the ocean.

SOCIAL

The design makes the space more pedestrian friendly, by providing patterned vegetation with a series of paths.

User satisfaction based on digital reviews: 3.5 stars on Yelp, 4.6 stars on Facebook and 8.1 out of 10 on Yelp.

CARBON, ENERGY & AIR

The trees sequester 76,320 pounds of carbon annually, which offsets nine cars per year **

ECONOMICS

There was an increase in property value due to project installation.

The design offers cost savings for the client through reduced maintenance.

*The tree average for water interception is 500 gallons. American's use an average of 100 gallons of water per day (EPA's water trivia facts).

**120 pounds of CO2 per tree annually (This number is based on an average from the National Tree Benefits Calculator) One car produces an average of 8,320 pounds of CO2 per year (The Code of Federal Regulations - 40 CFR 600.113).

Client