

Sunnylands Center and Gardens

RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIFORNIA

YEAR 2006-2011

SIZE 9 acres

USE Botanical gardens, interpretive exhibits, dining, performance lawn, event terrace, walking trails, labyrinth garden

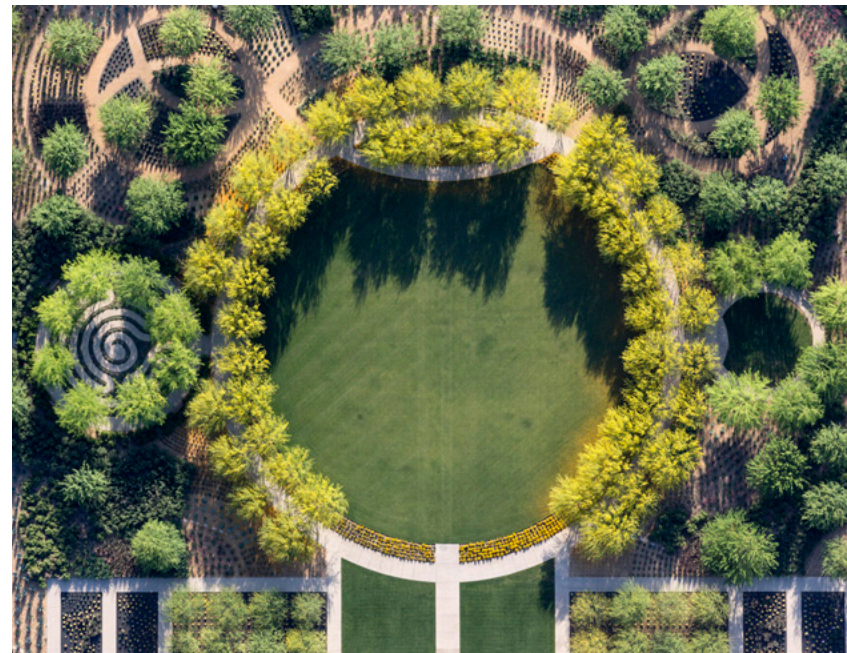


“The landscape architecture and the project’s cutting-edge approach to sustainable design and management take inspiration from the desert environs. The project’s landscape architect, Jim Burnett, describes the approach as ‘intelligent beauty,’ which celebrates rather than ignores the arid climate.”

- RACHEL BEREY, TOPOS MAGAZINE



Sunnylands Center and Gardens is a desert jewel—an oasis of peace and refuge within Rancho Mirage’s urban sprawl that celebrates the life and legacy of Walter Annenberg and his wife Lenore. 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 transition to geometric precision nearer to the building.



- + 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.
- + The planting design features 53,000 hand-picked specimens from over 50 arid-landscape plant species chosen for their sculptural character, seasonal interest, and habitat value.
- + Cutting-edge water efficiency measures throughout the LEED Gold site allow the garden to thrive using only 20% of its water allocation from the Coachella Valley Water District.

MAJOR AWARDS

- 2012 American Society of Landscape Architects National Honor Award
- 2012 ASLA Texas Chapter Honor Award, Design