THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
MISSION STATEMENT

The Drachman Institute is the research and public service unit of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona dedicated to environmentally sensitive and resource-conscious development of neighborhoods and communities. The Drachman Institute focuses its research and outreach activities on the proposition that housing is the building block of neighborhoods and neighborhoods are the building blocks of communities. The work of the Drachman Institute therefore targets the development of demographically diverse neighborhoods, rich in environmental amenities and built from good-quality, well-designed, regionally-appropriate housing that conserves land, energy, and water. It is our contention that good quality and innovative architectural design and technology, sensible community planning, and a landscape architecture that fosters beautiful and healthy private and public space is the cornerstone of this work. We engage our students, our staff, our faculty, and our citizens in a collaborative, research-based outreach enterprise to make our communities healthier, safer, more equitable and more beautiful places to live.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP PLANNING AND DESIGN CENTER

The Community Planning and Design Workshop (CPDW) has functioned as a public service/community outreach arm of the Drachman Institute since 1999. It brings the skills and knowledge of the students, faculty, and staff of the College to communities in need throughout Arizona. CPDW accomplishes this by applying its expertise and knowledge in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, and urban design to community service and outreach projects. CPDW accepts projects requested by Arizona communities and various organizations with funding from the Drachman endowment and the College of Agriculture and Life Science’s Cooperative Extension or by special contract.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cooperative Extension, the outreach arm of The University of Arizona, is "taking the university to the people." Extension serves as a statewide network of knowledgeable faculty and staff that provides lifelong educational programs for all Arizonans. Cooperative Extension is a nationwide educational network of scientists and educators who help people solve problems and put knowledge to use. Arizona Cooperative Extension provides a link between the university and the citizens of this state. Cooperative Extension is a statewide, nonformal, education network bringing research-based information into communities to help people improve their lives. For 85 years Cooperative Extension has delivered educational programs to the people of Arizona. The efforts of the Cooperative Extension are made possible by a cooperative effort between the Federal Government, the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and each of the counties we serve.
THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

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The Drachman Institute
College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
University of Arizona
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THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
IN THE FALL OF 2005 AN INSPIRED GROUP OF EDUCATORS FROM DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL APPROACHED THE DRACHMAN INSTITUTE WITH A VISION TO CREATE A MULTI-PURPOSE OUTDOOR GARDEN AMPHITHEATER. THIS LANDSCAPE WOULD SERVE AS A VENUE FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATED EVENTS INCLUDING EDUCATION, PERFORMANCE AND DEMONSTRATION AREAS. THE FINAL DESIGN IS BASED ON MONET’S GARDEN IN GIVERNY, FRANCE BUT WITH A DESERT ADAPTED TWIST. THE AMPHITHEATER SERVES AS A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND INVITES STUDENTS FROM ALL SUBJECT AREAS TO COME TOGETHER AND COLLABORATE IN A CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC SPACE. THE FOCUS OF THE GARDEN IS TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES SUCH AS RAINWATER HARVESTING AND CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE APPRECIATION, AND PLANT CULTIVATION AND STUDY. EACH SPECIFIC DISCIPLINE WILL LEARN FROM THE LANDSCAPE IN DIFFERENT WAYS, THEREBY BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

THE DRACHMAN INSTITUTE PROVIDED:

• CASE STUDY RESEARCH
• SITE EVALUATION AND SELECTION
• CONCEPT AND MASTER PLAN GENERATION
• SIZES, MATERIALS AND LANDSCAPE SPECIFICS
• RENDERED GRAPHICS
USER GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

USER GROUPS
• STUDENTS FROM ALL SUBJECT AREAS
• FACULTY AND STAFF
• ALUMNI
• THE COMMUNITY

ACTIVITIES
EDUCATION
• GENERAL CLASSROOM LESSONS
• SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF FLORA AND FAUNA
• LANDSCAPE DRAWING AND OUTDOOR SCULPTURE
• COOKING CLASSES
• CROP CULTIVATION
• AUDIO-VISUAL TRAINING
ENTERTAINMENT
• OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE
• DEMONSTRATION
SPECIAL EVENTS
• MONET FARMERS MARKET
• GRADUATION AND CEREMONIES
• COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
THE KEYSTONE ELEMENT OF THIS PROJECT IS AN OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER AND STAGE WHICH WILL SERVE AS A MIXED-USE: PERFORMANCE, CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SPACE. DESIGN DETAIL IS INSPIRED BY MONET’S GARDENS IN GEVERNY, FRANCE WITH DESERT ADAPTED MODIFICATIONS. THE AMPHITHEATER WILL COMFORTABLY ACCOMMODATE 100+ PEOPLE AND INCLUDE: AN ENTRY PLAZA, AUDIO VISUAL BOOTH, A SMALL KITCHEN, CONCESSION STAND, TICKET COUNTER.

GUIDELINES

SIZE REQUIREMENTS
TERRACED SEATING AREAS SHOULD BE GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED AND FLEXIBLE, ALLOWING FOR BLEACHER TYPE SEATING OR THE ADDITION OF TABLES AND CHAIRS.

SHADING
THE AMPHITHEATER SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SEASONAL SHADE THROUGH NORTHERN EXPOSURE AND DECIDUOUS TREES. ADDITIONAL SHADE CAN BE ADDED THROUGH THE USE OF TENSILE STRUCTURES, WHICH CAN BE PUT UP OR TAKEN DOWN AS NEEDED.

CIRCULATION
CIRCULATION THROUGH THE AMPHITHEATER SHOULD ALLOW FOR EASE OF MOVEMENT AND LARGE CROWDS THROUGH A WELL MARKED PRIMARY ENTRANCE, MANY OUTLETS FOR QUICK EXIT, AND FIVE AISLES (2 DOWN MIDDLE, ONE DOWN EACH SIDE, ONE ACROSS MIDDLE).

ORIENTATION
THE AMPHITHEATER SHOULD ADOPT A NORTH SOUTH ORIENTATION TO REDUCE SUN GLARE ON THE AUDIENCE AND PERFORMERS.

HARDSCAPE MATERIALS
• Poured concrete for seating, stage and walkways
• Concrete block for buildings
• Stabilized soil or pavers for large gathering areas
• Wrought iron or metal for wall segments
• Tile shingles for roofs
• Avoid coarse gravel or loose materials in amphitheater area due to noise.
GARDEN PLOTS AND
DEMONSTRATION AREAS

GARDEN PLOTS AND DEMONSTRATION AREAS ARE INCLUDED AS FLEXIBLE SPACE MEETING
THE NEEDS OF VARIOUS USER GROUPS. DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF YEAR AND AREA OF
INTEREST, THESE NODES CAN ACCOMMODATE SEASONAL GARDENS OR DEMONSTRATIONS
OF SCIENTIFIC, AGRICULTURAL OR ARTISTIC PRINCIPLES. THE GARDEN AREAS ARE INFORMAL
IN CHARACTER AND INCLUDE TWO SMALL PONDS AND TWO GATHERING RAMADAS. THE
GOAL OF THESE AREAS ARE TO ENCOURAGE OUTDOOR LEARNING IN A COMFORTABLE AND
STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT.

LAYOUT

RAISED CIRCULAR GARDEN PLOTS ARE ARRANGED AROUND THE AMPHITHEATER.
THIS POSITIONING SOFTENS THE FACADE AND ENHANCES THE ENTRY EXPERIENCE TO
THE AMPHITHEATER.

MATERIALS

ROCK, WOOD OR CONCRETE BORDERS WILL EDGE THE GARDEN PLOTS. THESE
EDGES CAN ALSO SERVE AS SEATING. WALKWAYS BETWEEN THE BEDS WILL BE
DECOMPOSED GRANITE OR BARE EARTH.

THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
WATER HARVESTING

THERE ARE SEVERAL DOWN SPOUTS ALONG THE BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE SITE THAT CAN BE UTILIZED AS WATER HARVESTING POINTS. COLLECTING THIS WATER IN UNDERGROUND CISTERNs WILL LOWER THE USE OF GROUNDWATER AND ALLOW FOR LUSH LAndSCAPING AT MINIMAL COST. HARVESTED WATER CAN ALSO BE STORED FOR FUTURE USE IN ABOVE GROUND POND AND/OR WATER FEATURES.

DISPLAY OF WATER WITHIN THE SITE IS LIMITED TO SEASONAL AVAILABILITY. WATER FEATURES ARE DESIGNED TO BE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING IN BOTH THE DRY AND WET SEASON. WATER FEATURES ARE LIMITED IN SIZE AND LOCATED WITHIN SEMI-OASIS AREAS OF THE DESIGN.

IRRIGATION STUB OUTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITHIN GARDEN BED AREAS FOR EASE OF WATERING AND TO REDUCE MAINTENANCE NEEDS.
PLANT PALETTE

THIS SELECTION OF LOW MAINTENANCE, LOW WATER USE PLANTS IS PROVIDED AS A GENERAL GUIDELINE. PLANTS WERE SELECTED FOR THEIR COLOR AND FORM TO BEST ACHIEVE AN APPROXIMATION OF THE AESTHETIC AT GIVERNY, FRANCE.

TREES
- Prosopis velutina Velvet Mesquite
- Cercidium floridum Blue Palo Verde
- Pistache chinensis Chinese Pistache
- Chorisia speciosa Silk-floss Tree

SHRUBS and FLOWERING PLANTS
- Buddleia marrubifolia Woolly Butterfly Bush
- Calliandra californica Fairy Duster
- Glandularia gooddingii Goodding-verbena
- Penstemon eatonii Firecracker Penstemon
- Salvia greggii Autumn Sage
- Hyptis emoryi Desert-lavender
- Caesalpinia pulcherrima Red Bird of Paradise
- Dalea frutescens Black Dalia

VINES
- Antigonon leptopus Queen’s Wreath
- Bougainvillea brasiliensis Bougainvillea

GROUNDCOVERS
- Dalea greggii Trailing Indigo Bush (shade)
- Bahia absinthifolia Bahia
- Lantana montevidensis Trailing Lantana

THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
THREE ALTERNATIVE SITES

Pros
- Restroom
- Parking and Community Access
- Background Views
- Size
- Close to Classrooms
- Quiet

Cons
- No Character
- Adjacent to Sports Fields, Road, and Care Takers
- Flat Land
- No Existing Vegetation
- Hard to Fence
- No Microclimates
- Existing Utility Lines

Pros
- Waterharvesting potential
- Easily Fenced
- Accessible
- Visible

Cons
- Noise
- Distance from Classrooms and Restrooms
- Drainage Issues
- No Microclimates
- Attracts Vandalism

Cons
- Size
- Distance From Parking
- Community Access
- Adjacent Road
- Blocking Doors or Windows
THE SITE SELECTION

Three sites within the Desert View High School campus were considered for location of the Monet Amphitheater and gardens. These sites were analyzed for overall suitability which included such factors as:

- Size
- Micro-climates and sun shade patterns
- Existing vegetation
- Ease of security and fencing
- Accessibility
- Adjacency to existing facilities
- Entry sequence
- Water harvesting potential
- Overall character
- Views
- Noise

The site selection analysis revealed Site 2 to be the most appropriate location for the project.

The Monet Garden Amphitheater
Desert View High School
THE GARDEN AMPHITHEATER SITE IS A .9 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF DESERT VIEW CAMPUS. THE SITE IS CURRENTLY UNUSED BY THE SCHOOL ALTHOUGH IT HAS A POSITIVE OVERALL CHARACTER AND WATER HARVESTING POTENTIAL. THE SITE IS SHADED BY A BUILDING TO THE SOUTH, THIS CREATES A MICROCLIMATE THAT INCREASES OUTDOOR COMFORT LEVELS WHILE RAISING ACOUSTIC REVERBERATION AND DAMPENING UNWANTED NOISE FROM VALENCIA RD. THE SITE IS EASILY SECURED AND ACCESSIBLE BY AN ACCESS ROAD, WITH A RESTROOM AND PARKING AREA LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY. BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN VIEWS OPEN TO THE NORTH OF THE SITE.
THE ENTIRE NORTHERN EDGE OF DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL IS UNDER UTILIZED AND WILL BENEFIT FROM INCREASED LANDSCAPING AND SCHEDULED USE ACTIVITIES. THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER PROJECT CONVERTS THIS LAND INTO USABLE SPACE THAT IS COMFORTABLE AND EDUCATIONALLY RICH.

THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
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Several alternative concepts were generated and presented at Desert View. This intermediary presentation resulted in feedback that helped to inform the final masterplan.

**Concept 1**

This concept orients the amphitheater to the south with formal garden beds surrounding the perimeter.
CONCEPT 2

This concept orients the amphitheater to the north with informal garden beds surrounding the perimeter.

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THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER

- Garden Plots
- Back Stage
- Lily Pad
- Cisterns
- Vegetation
- Moveable tables and chairs placed throughout
- Amphitheater Seating
- Storage
- Concessions
- Main Entry
- Pond
- Garden Node
Section Looking South Showing Front Entry

Section Through Amphitheater
Isometric View
Looking into
Monet Garden
Amphitheater

THE MONET GARDEN AMPHITHEATER
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL