



# ASLA DISCOVER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Activity Book  
For Teens and Adults



American Society of  
Landscape Architects

ASLA Discover Landscape Architecture  
Activity Book for Teens and Adults

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## Introduction

The ASLA Discover Landscape Architecture Activity Book for Teens and Adults is for anyone age 13 or older who is interested in landscape architecture, architecture, planning, and engineering, and for those who like to draw, doodle, and be inspired. The book's primary focus is landscape architecture, giving readers the opportunity to see and sketch the many drawings, places, and landscapes created by landscape architects.

## About ASLA

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing more than 15,000 members.

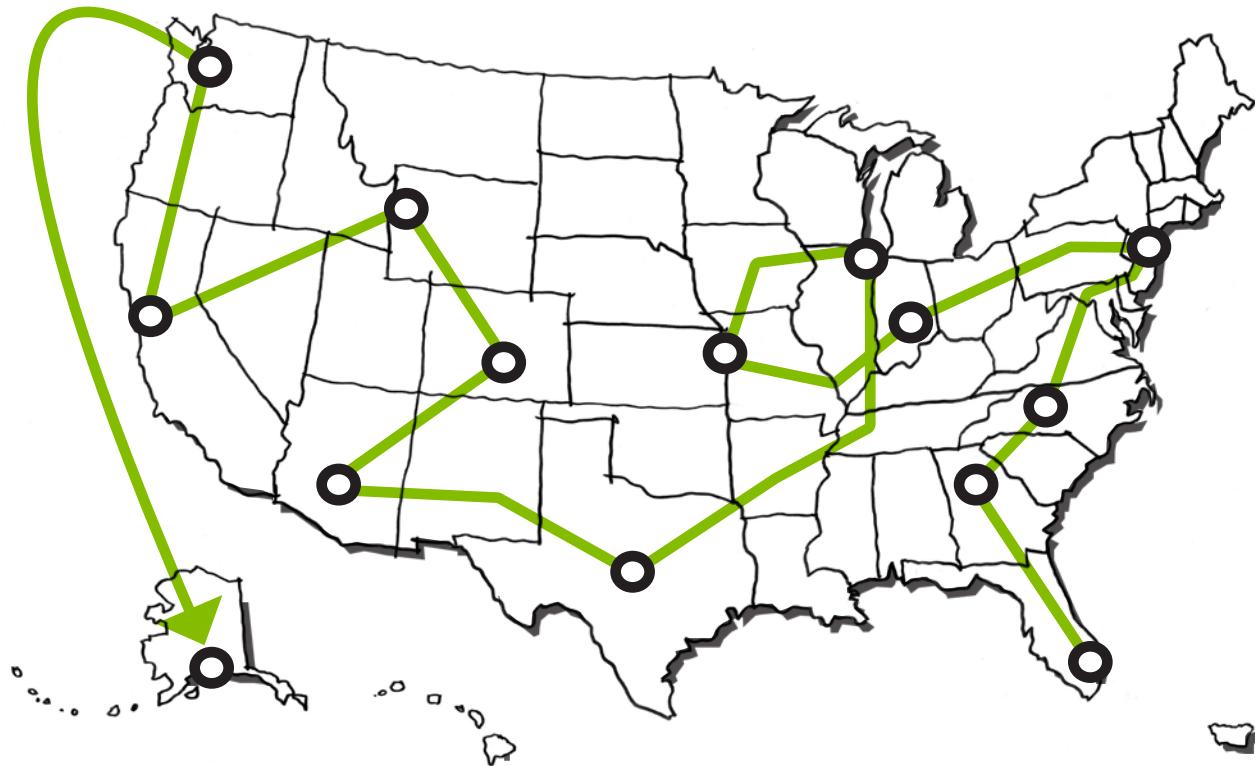
**Vision:** Leading the design and stewardship of land and communities.

**Mission:** Landscape architects lead the stewardship, planning, and design of our built and natural environments. The Society's mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

Cover: Yifu Kang, Student ASLA

# **ASLA Discover Landscape Architecture**

## Activity Book for Teens and Adults



## **Journey across America!**

Take a journey across the country to see some of the great places designed by landscape architects. In this activity book, you will learn about landscape architecture, see sketches from landscape architecture professionals, have the opportunity to sketch and color drawings, and problem-solve to plan your own projects. Before starting your journey, take a moment to learn about why landscape architecture is important, gather the materials you will need, and review the many drawings that landscape architects create.

# What is landscape architecture and why is it important?

Landscape architecture combines art, science, and technology. It is a diverse profession that designs, plans, and manages the places we live. Landscape architecture has strong roots in the United States, and early examples, such as Central Park in New York City, are still much admired. Landscape architects design parks, campuses, streetscapes, trails, plazas, and other projects that contribute to the design of healthy environments and communities. Check out some goals that landscape architects achieve in design projects.

## Make Places for People

- Parks, gardens, plazas, playgrounds, towns, and wilderness are among the places landscape architects design with people in mind.

## Health and Safety

- Landscape architects design places to be safe and accessible to all people by providing areas to walk, to sit, to play, to exercise, and to explore.

## Better Neighborhoods

- Landscape architects can help make sure that parks, playgrounds, schools, and stores are a pleasant walk from home.

## Cleaner Water

- Landscape architects work on ways to prevent pollution from entering our creeks and rivers by providing rain gardens and bioswales where water can soak back underground and filter out pollution by using soil and plants.

## Addressing Climate Change

- Many types of development may contribute to climate change. Carefully designed landscapes can help counter the effects of climate change by adding vegetation that provides shade, cools the air, captures carbon from the air, and stabilizes riverbanks and other waterways.

## Better Streets

- Landscape architects design streets to accommodate all kinds of people—those on foot, on bikes, in wheelchairs, waiting for the bus, and even in cars.

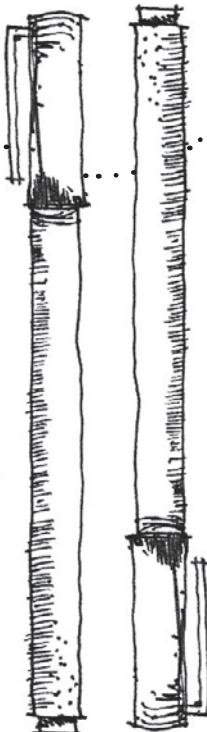
# What materials will you need?

Before starting your journey, consider using some of the following drawing tools.

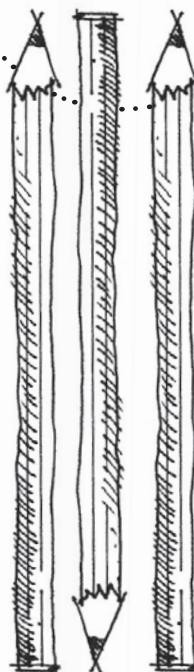
**Pencils**



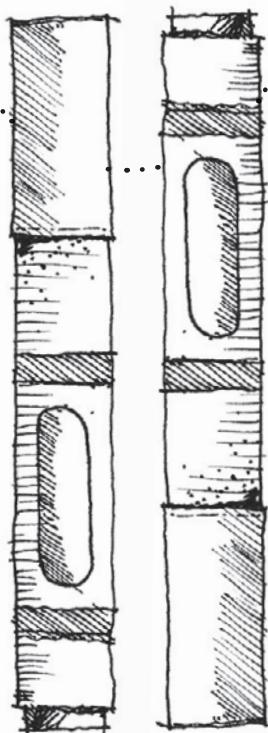
**Pens**



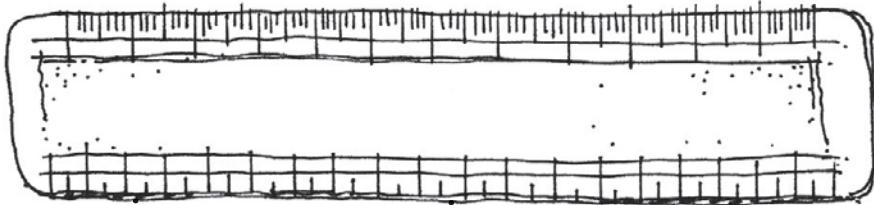
**Colored Pencils**



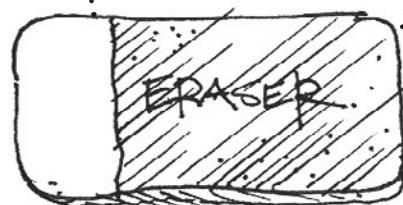
**Markers**



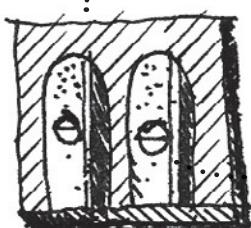
**Ruler**



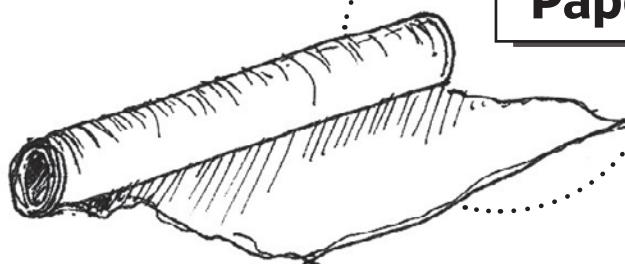
**Eraser**



**Pencil Sharpener**



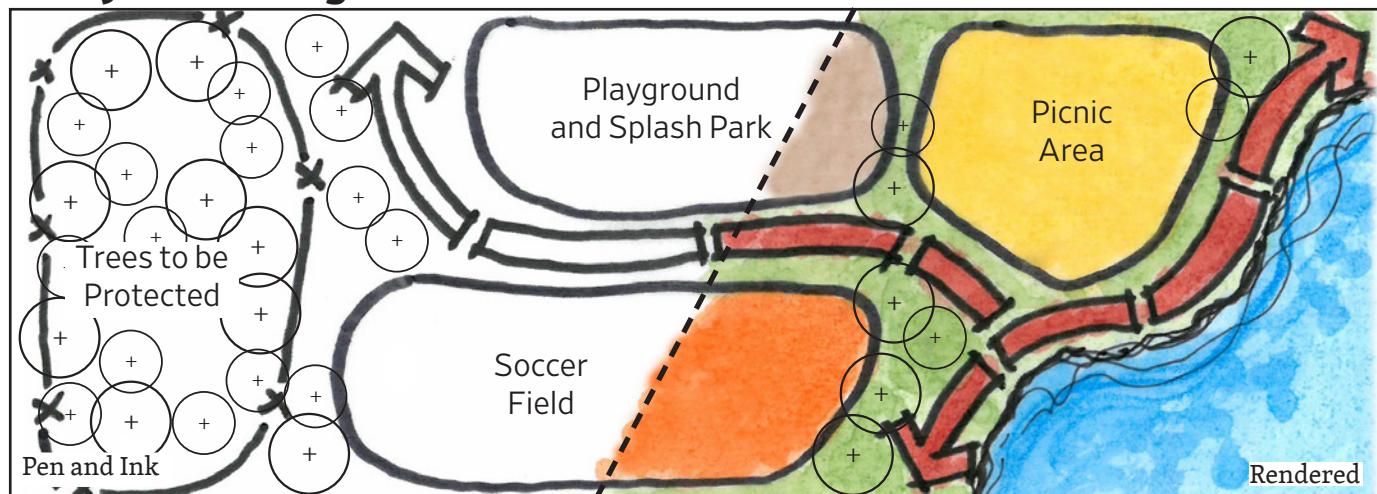
**Tracing Paper**



# What drawings do landscape architects create?

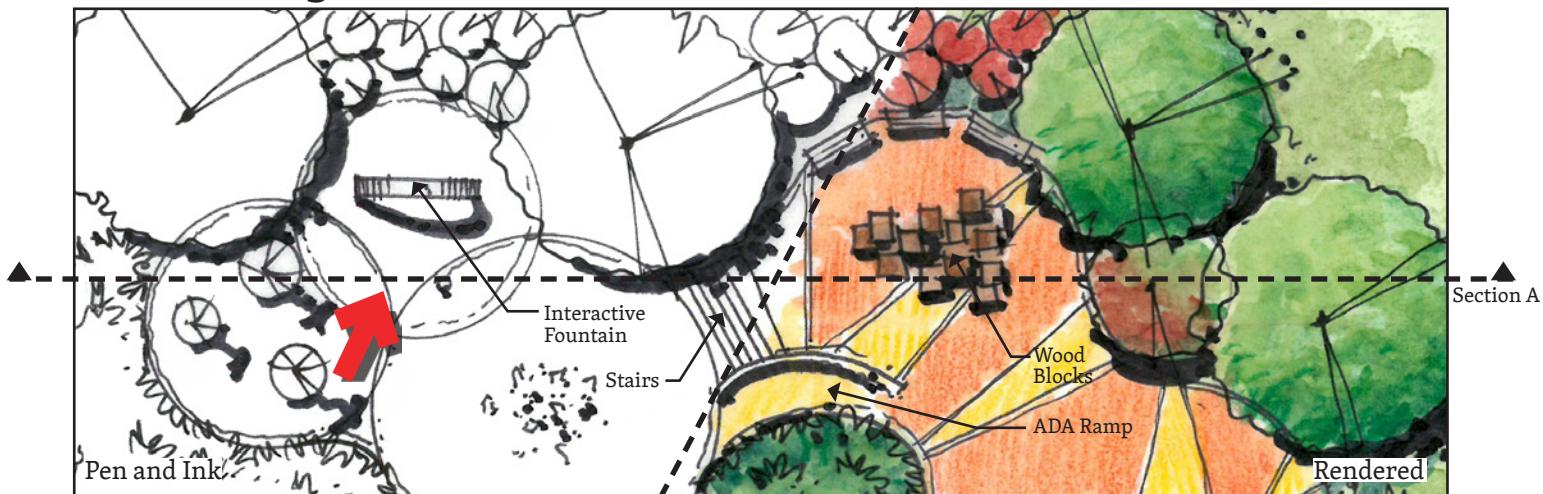
Before construction, landscape architects create many drawings to communicate their ideas and designs to clients, communities, and contractors. The following are some examples that you will have a chance to draw, color (commonly called rendering), and re-create as you journey through the activity book. Each is shown in pen and ink and also as a colored drawing.

## Analysis Drawings



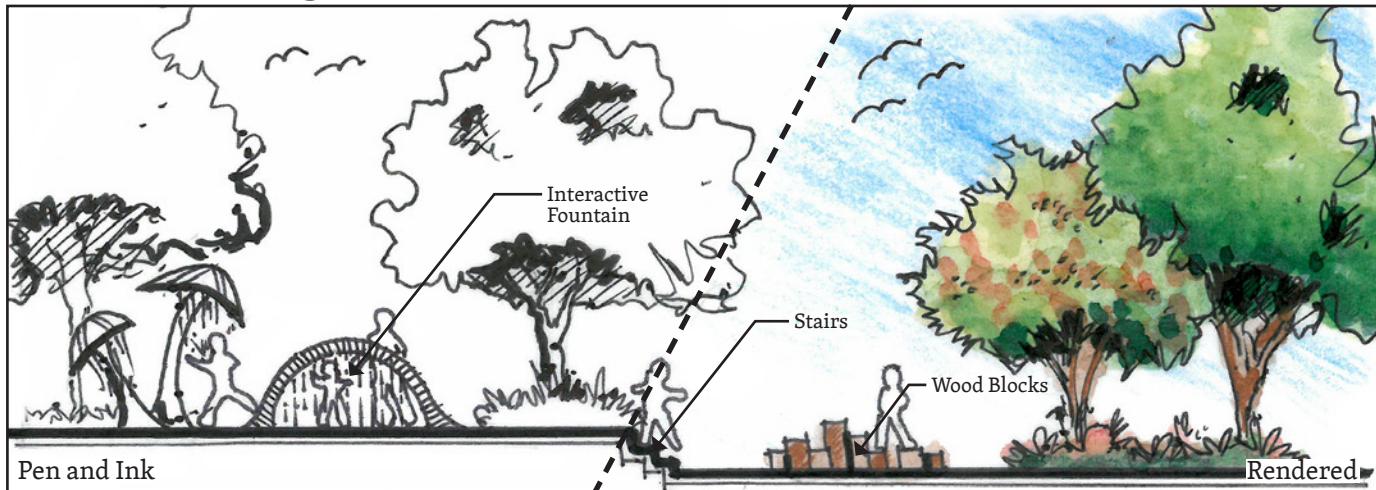
Analysis drawings are created in the early stages of a project to help landscape architects understand the existing site conditions and map proposed designs. Topography, existing site features, existing vegetation, drainage patterns, and site history are all mapped. This drawing shows the analysis of a site along a lake. The landscape architect mapped the protection of existing trees on site and also indicated the best locations for proposed activities such as a soccer field and picnic area.

## Plan Drawings



Plan drawings are two-dimensional drawings used to describe the design of a place as if you were viewing it from an airplane looking down. Plans are usually drawn or printed on paper, but they can also be created on a computer. This drawing shows the design of the playground and splash park from the analysis drawing above. The landscape architect has proposed new features such as an interactive water fountain, steps, an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp, benches, and wood blocks for climbing. New vegetation has also been proposed around the playground.

## Section Drawings



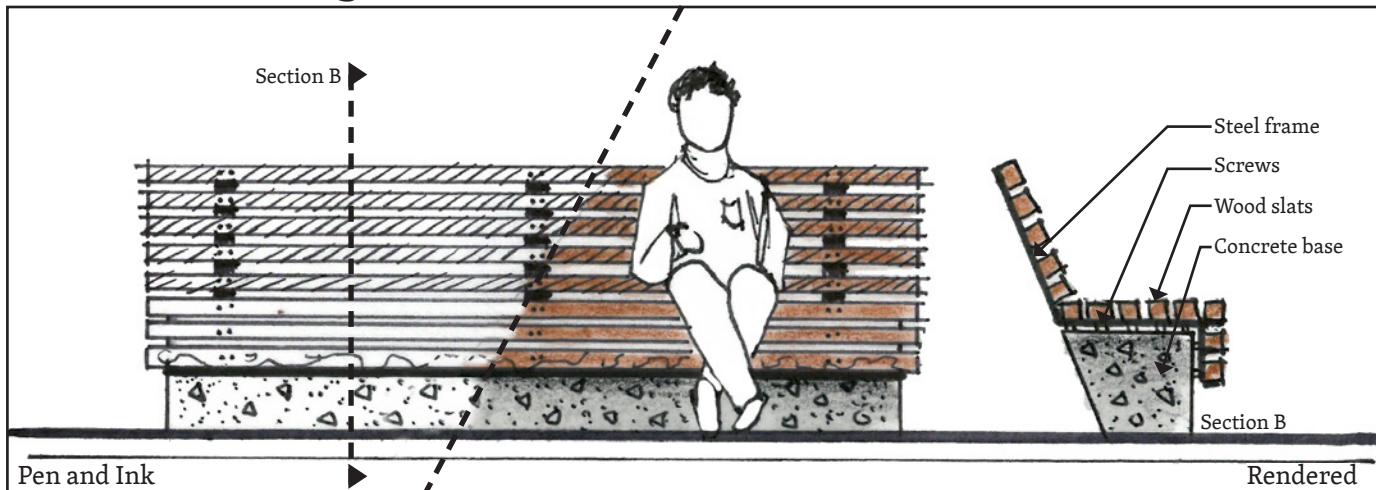
A section provides a view of a place as though it had been cut along an imaginary plane on a plan drawing. For example, the section above shows a cut through the plan drawing on page six (labeled Section A). This section gives a better idea of what the splash park and playground elements will look like when constructed. The landscape architect shows two levels on either side of a proposed stair in the middle of the playground.

## Perspective Drawings



Perspective drawings give a three-dimensional look to a two-dimensional drawing. They are a way to represent how a proposed place will look from a person's point of view. This drawing shows the interactive fountain as if you were standing exactly where the red arrow is located on the plan drawing.

## Technical Drawings



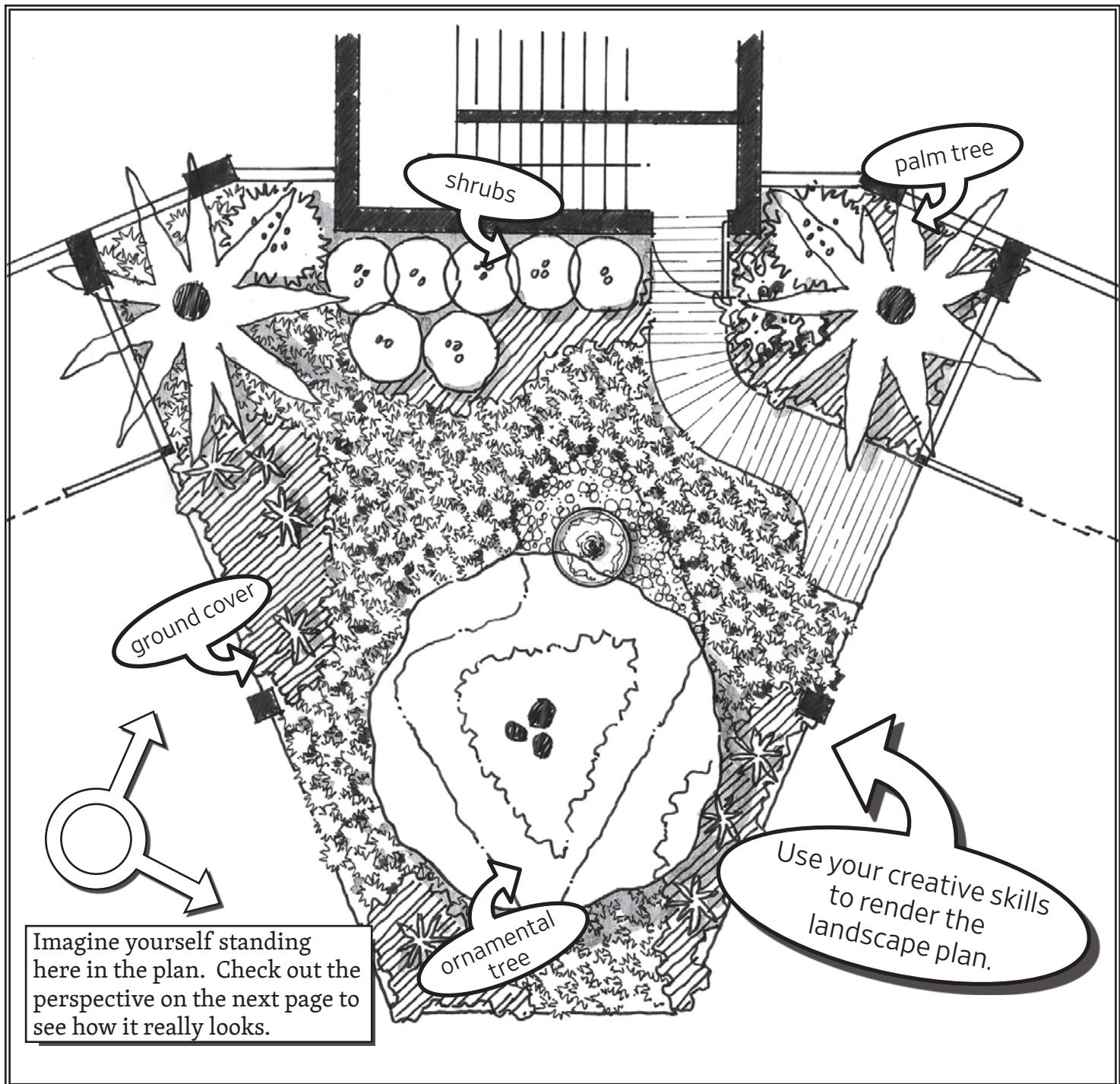
A technical drawing is a two-dimensional drawing that helps communicate to a contractor how to build project elements. This drawing shows a detail of how the benches would be constructed on the playground. The landscape architect shows the different materials and connections needed to build the bench.



## Stop #1: Lauderdale by the Sea, Florida

Project: Sea Ranch Club Courtyard Garden

Landscape architects designed this courtyard garden located in a condominium community near the beach.

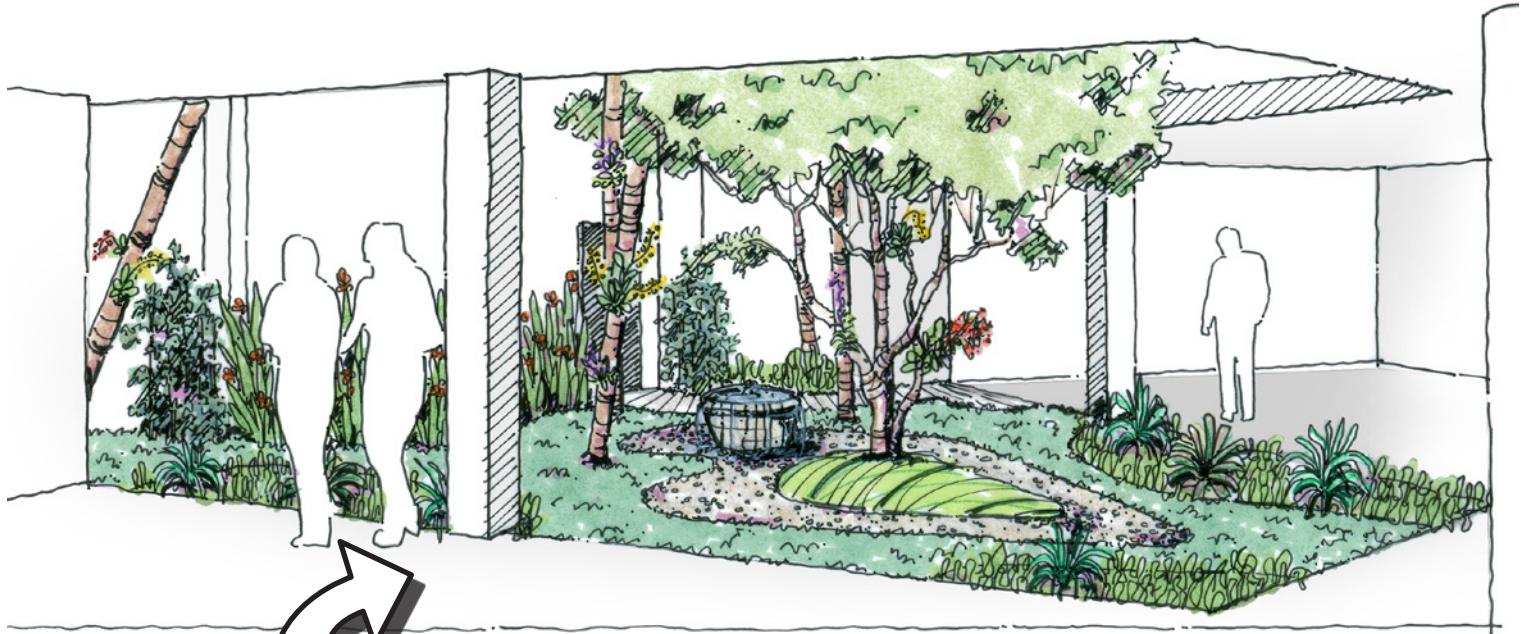


Imagine yourself standing here in the plan. Check out the perspective on the next page to see how it really looks.

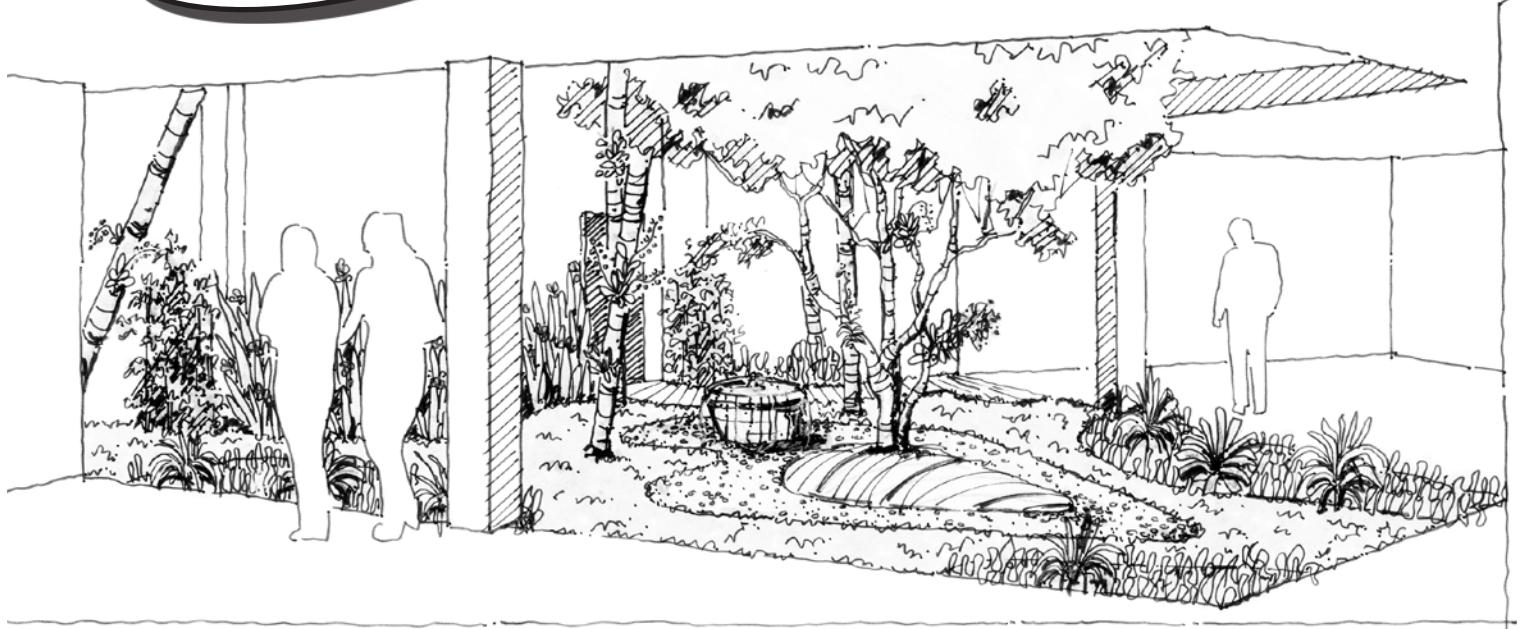
# Who drew that?

Gage Couch, ASLA  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

What Gage likes most about this project is that even though it is at a small scale, it still had a large impact on the community. The garden creates an outdoor “room” with simple plantings and high-quality materials. A mature ornamental tree was installed to create instant scale for the space and character for the landscape design.



Can you render the perspective like this?  
Give it a try with markers.





## Stop #2: Woodbridge, Georgia

Problem-solving Exercise 1

It's **YOUR** turn to design  
an analysis drawing!

### Solve the following:

A local developer is planning to build a small lakefront apartment building on an empty lot. You have been hired to help design where the developer should build the apartments and where they should provide fun activities for residents on the site. But first, you must complete a site analysis on the site to:

- 1. Locate the best place to build the apartment building**
- 2. Locate high elevations and low elevations to understand the direction water is flowing**
- 3. Find the best place to enter the site by vehicle and connect the access to the proposed apartment building**
- 4. Save natural features such as trees and wetlands**
- 5. Provide an access point to the lake for residents to place their kayaks**
- 7. Locate the best place for recreational play such as Frisbee or soccer**

Use the following elements to create a site analysis drawing on the next page that will help the developer understand how the site should be designed.

#### Drawing Elements



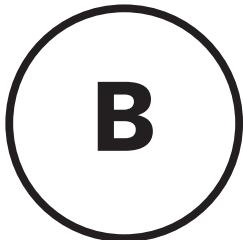
##### High Point

Draw this symbol at the highest elevation on site.



##### Low Point

Draw this symbol at the lowest elevation on site.



##### Buildable Site

Draw this symbol to show the best location for the apartment building.



##### Access Point at Dogwood Street

Draw this symbol to show the best location for vehicles to enter the site.



##### Vehicular Circulation

Draw this symbol to show how a roadway can connect the access point and proposed apartment building.



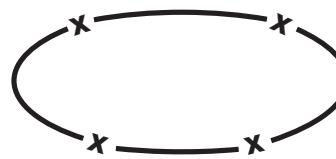
##### Access Point at Water

Draw this symbol to show the best location for residents to access the lake for kayaks.



##### Wetland Buffer

Draw this symbol around wetland areas to show that they should be preserved.



##### Trees to Be Protected

Draw this symbol around trees that you want to protect from being cut down by construction.



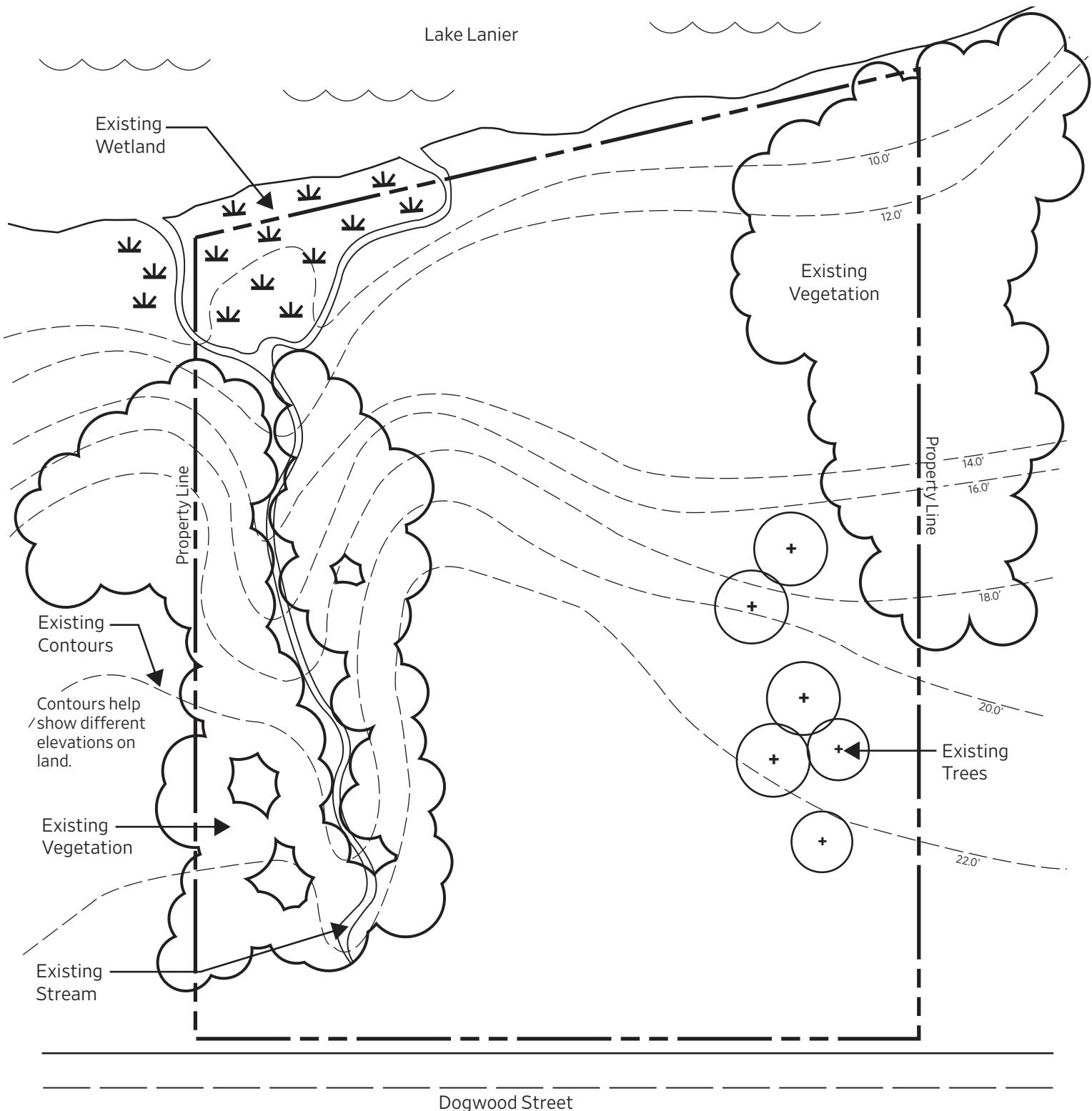
##### Area for Recreation

Draw this symbol to show the best location for recreational play such as Frisbee or soccer.

Note: Drawing Elements Not to Scale

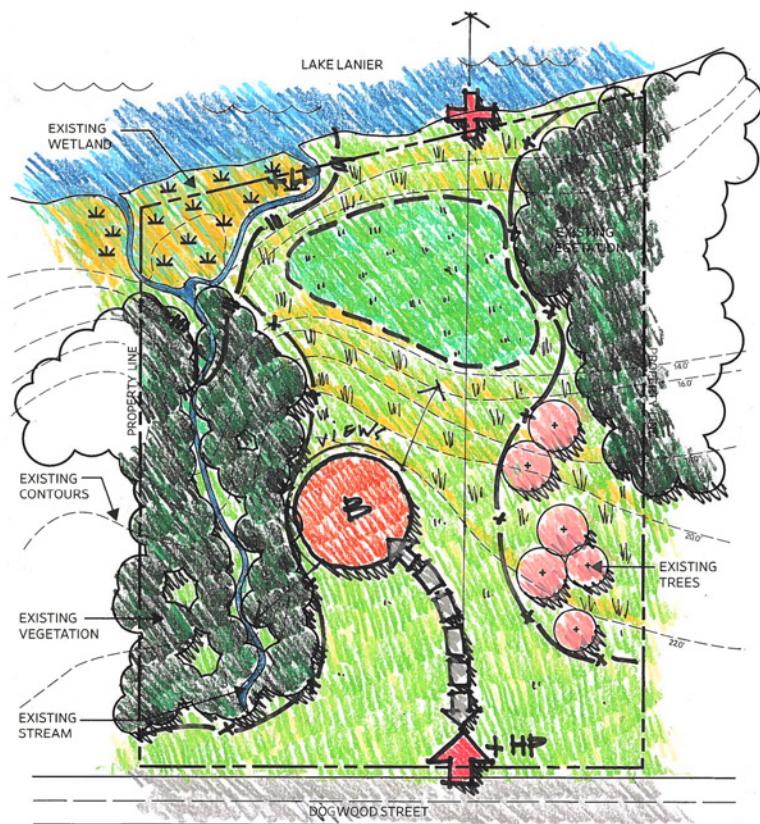
## Wondering where to start?

1. If you have tracing paper handy, place a piece over the drawing and begin.
2. If you do not have tracing paper, start off with a pencil so you can erase parts of the drawing that you would like to change.
3. Draw the elements in the property line boundary. Once you have solved for all of the elements on the analysis drawing in pencil or on tracing paper, it's time to add ink and color to your drawing.
4. Use pens, markers, or colored pencils to help bring your drawing to life and help understand the different drawing elements in the analysis plan.



Note: Drawing Not to Scale

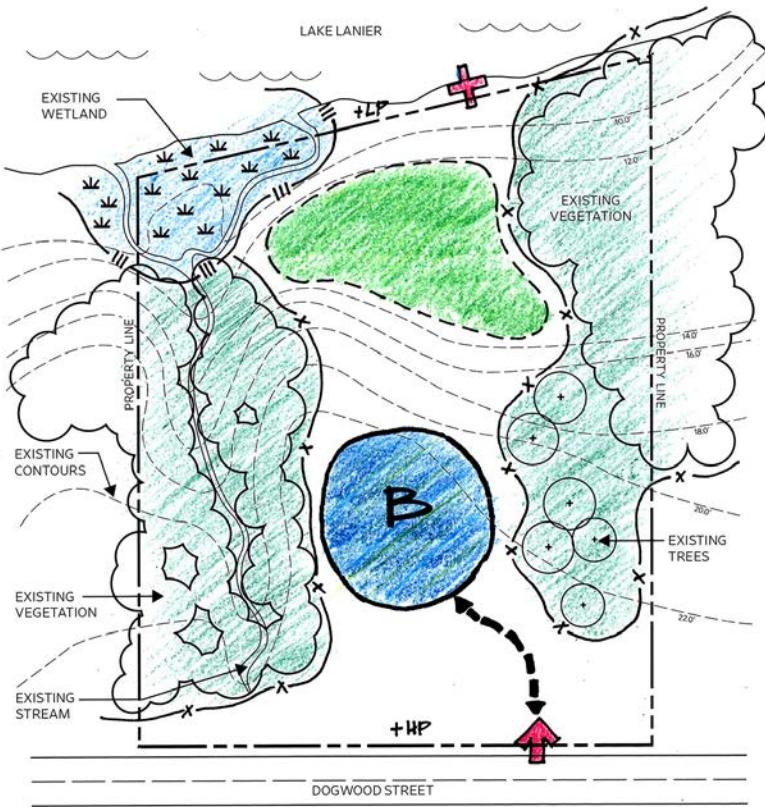
# Check out how landscape architects solved the problem:



## Who drew that?

Clint Rigsby, ASLA  
Greenville, South Carolina

Clint solved the problem by placing the drawing elements where they embrace the natural site features such as existing vegetation and contours. By doing this, the construction will require very little earth moving (or grading) to help reduce construction costs. He also organized the elements along a central axis and located the building next to the forest to maximize views to the lake and provide residents easy access to the creek.



## Who drew that?

Ben Baker, ASLA  
Benton Harbor, Michigan

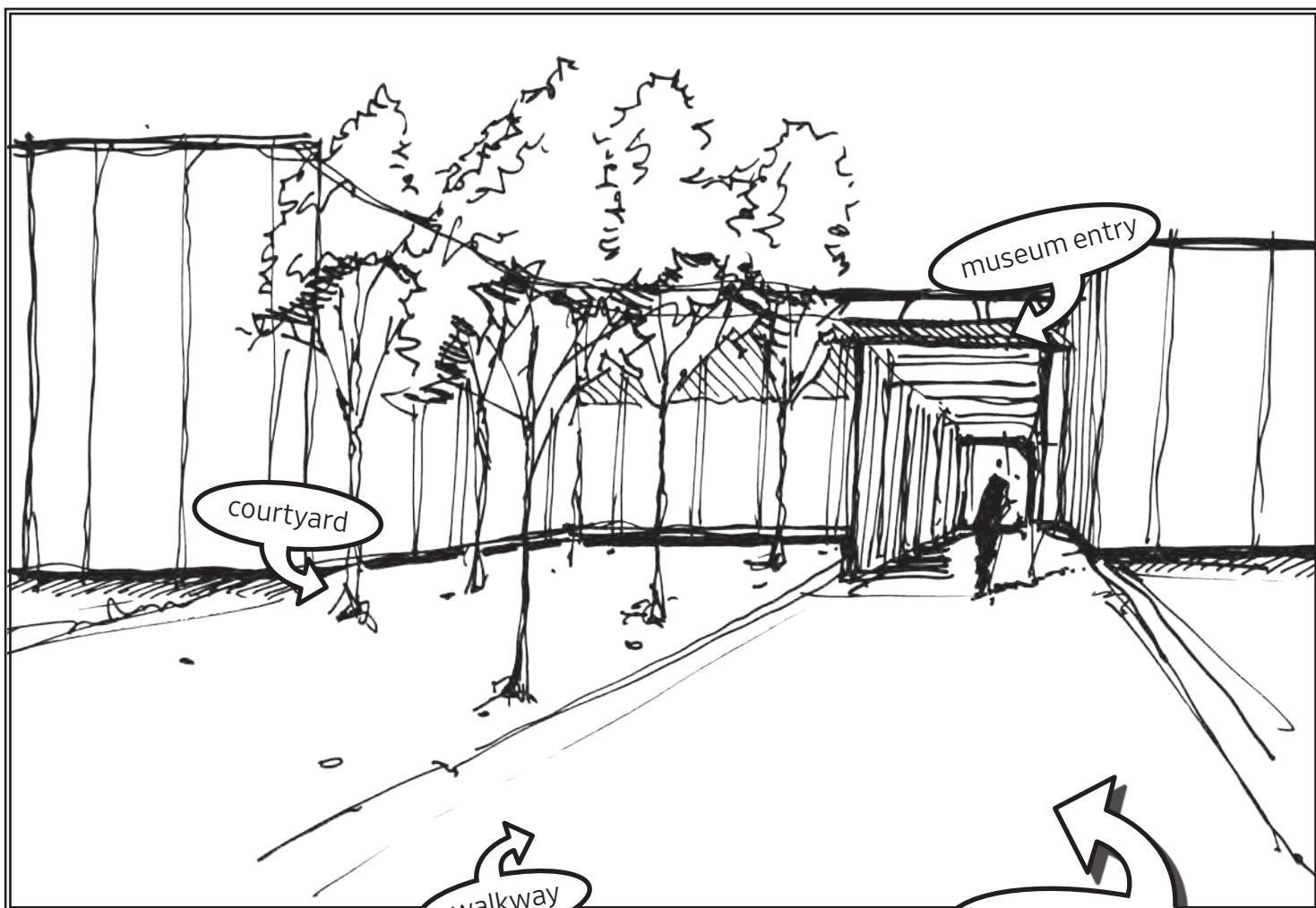
Ben solved the problem by first reviewing the site's existing conditions and constraints. For example, he reviewed site features he wanted to protect, studied contour lines, and marked areas with great views. By doing this, he was able to propose a location for the building that offers privacy from the street and also provides the best views to the lake. By studying the contour lines, he was able to find a flat area near the lake for recreational play.



## Stop #3: Raleigh, North Carolina

Project: North Carolina Museum of Art

Landscape architects designed the sculptural landscapes and gardens at this museum to help celebrate culture, art, and ecology.



### Who drew that?

Jack Alderman, Student ASLA  
Seattle, Washington

Jack is a landscape architecture student. He wants to be a landscape architect because of his interest in construction and his love of drawing. He loves to sketch and draw, and combining these skills to create landscapes was a natural fit for him. Additionally, the artistic use of plants has allowed him to explore new ways of enhancing the experiences of a place.



## Stop #4: New York, New York

Project: Section 5, Hudson River Park

Landscape architects designed this park as one of the city's first efforts to prepare for rising sea levels.

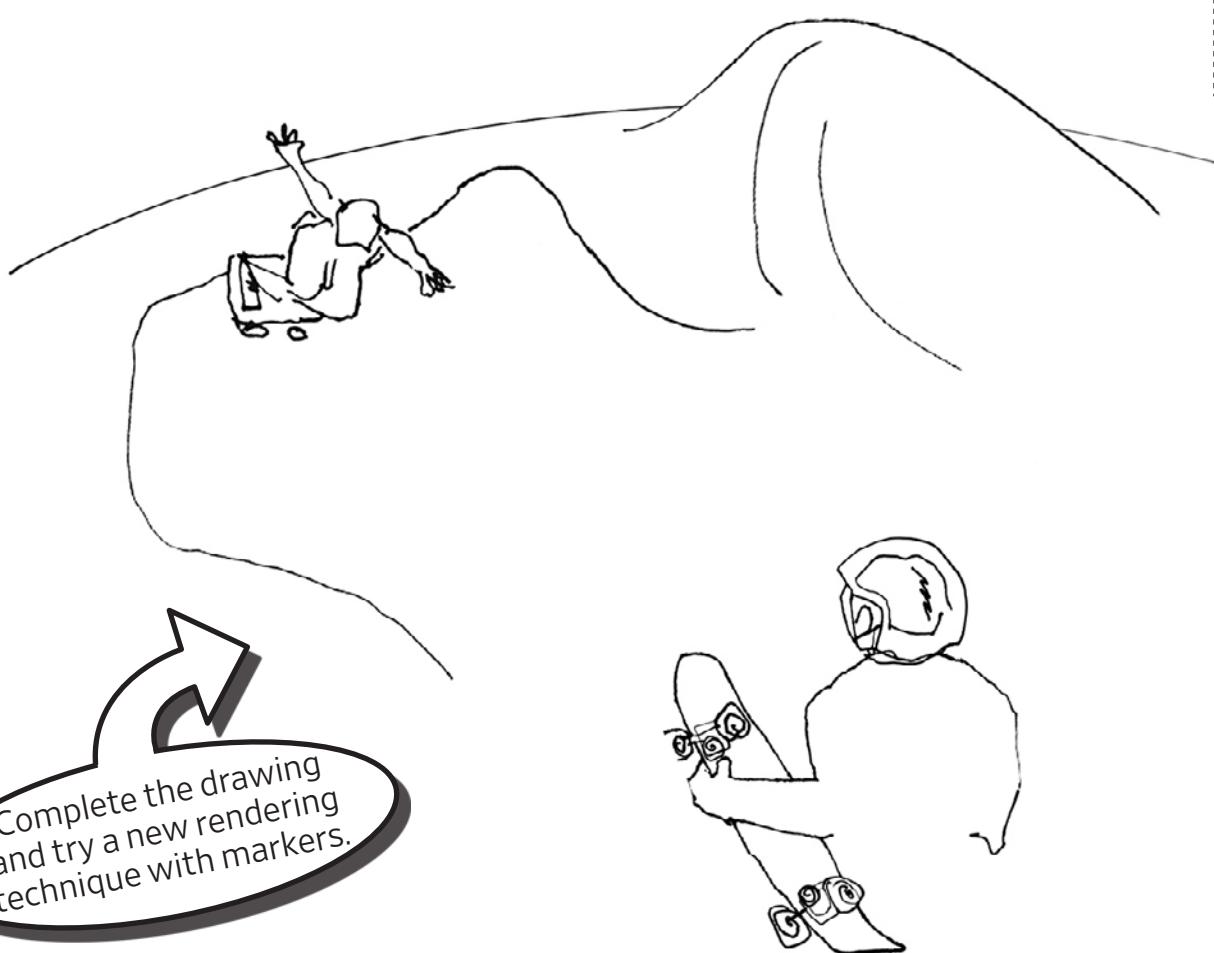


Landscape architects create drawings on paper and on digital devices. This drawing was drawn and rendered digitally.

## Who drew that?

Robert Chipman, ASLA  
West Lake Hills, Texas

What Robert likes most about this project is that it creates open, green park space for everyone in an urban area to gather, recreate, and relax, while combining creative engineering and graceful forms into a design.



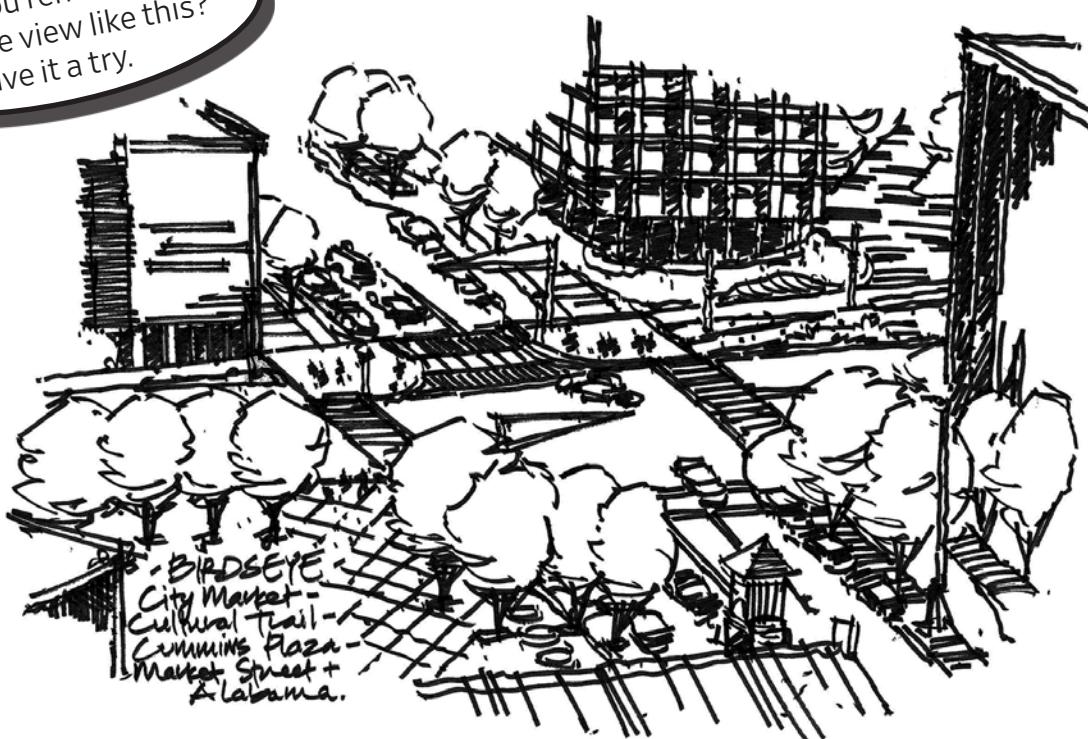
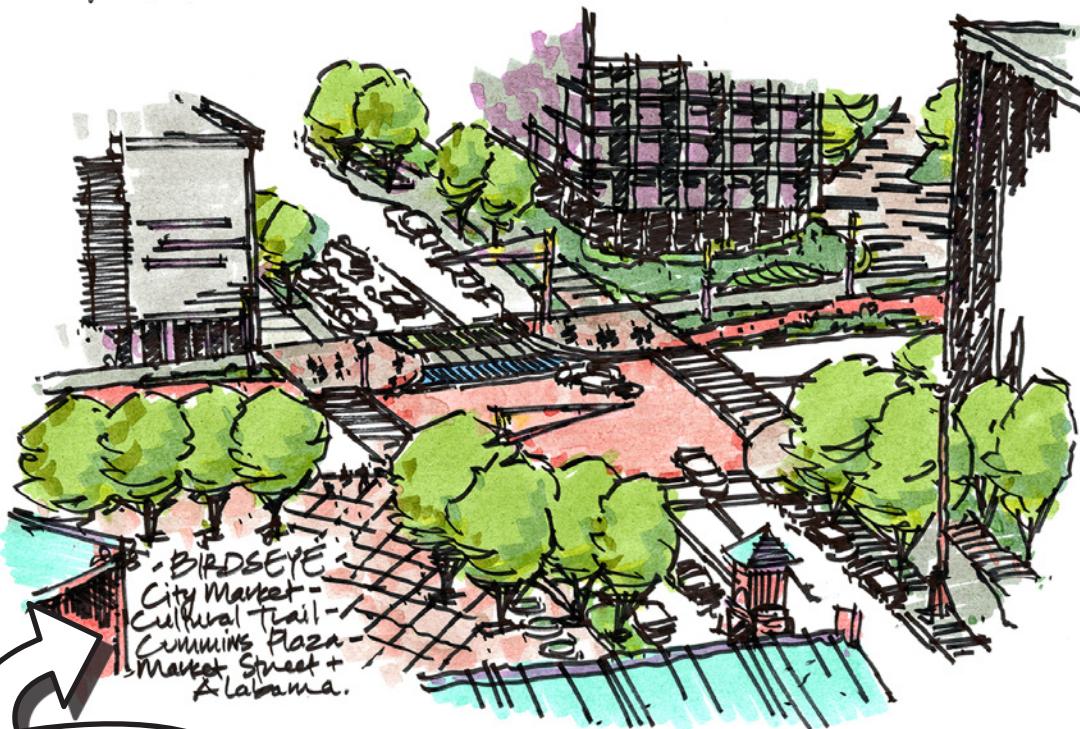
Complete the drawing  
and try a new rendering  
technique with markers.



## Stop #5: Indianapolis, Indiana

Project: Indianapolis Cultural Trail

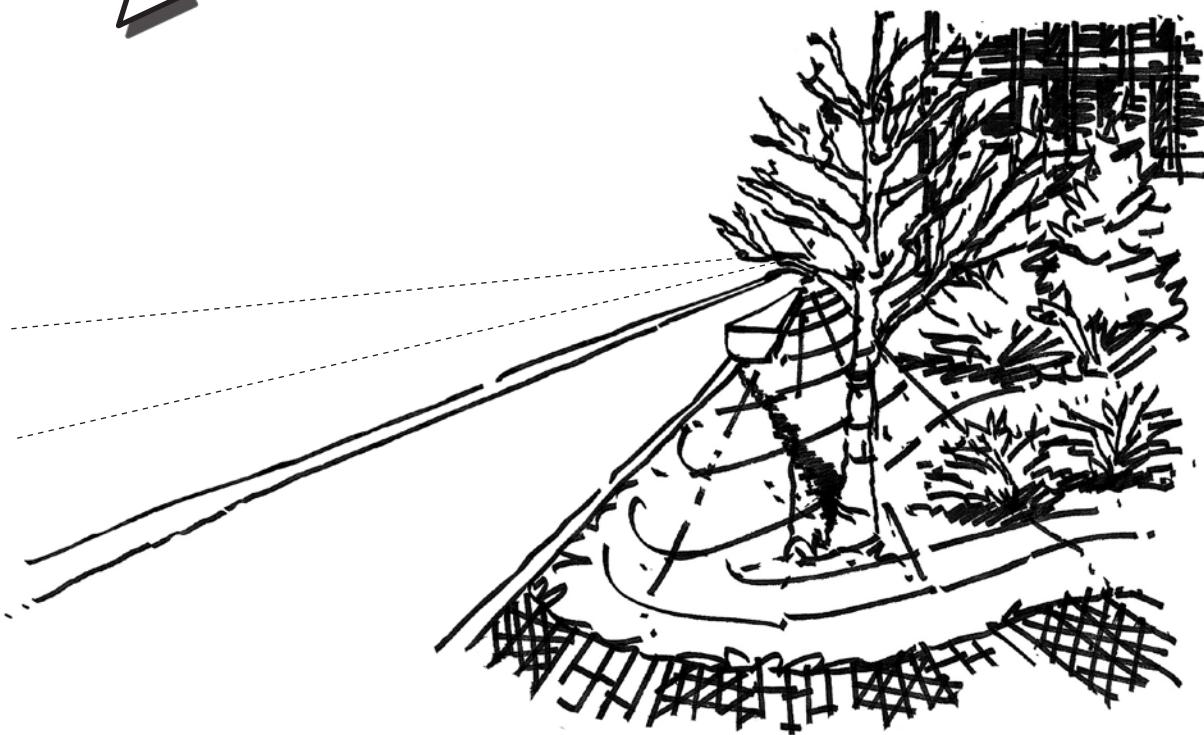
Landscape architects designed a long beautiful bike path and pedestrian walkway system throughout the city.



## Who drew that?

Catherine Puckett, ASLA  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Catherine is a landscape architect because she enjoys being a part of the decision-making process behind the development and progress of environments we use every day. She discovered the profession while watching a PBS special on zoo architecture when she was a teenager. Fascinated by the colorful plans and the idea of creating habitats for animals, she was eventually led to landscape architecture.





## Stop #6: Kansas City, Missouri

Problem-solving Exercise 2

It's **YOUR** turn to design  
a plan drawing!

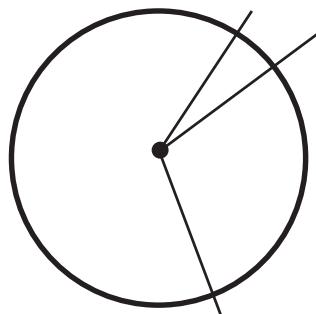
### Solve the following:

A small alley is located in the heart of downtown directly off a popular street and near a variety of restaurants and shops. Currently the alley is not busy, is dark in the evenings, and is considered unsafe by many of the locals. The city has started a new program to revitalize alleys throughout the town, and they have chosen you to design this particular alley. You have been asked to create a plan drawing to:

- 1. Propose a plaza space for community events**
- 2. Include a variety of vegetation including ground cover, shrubs, and shade trees**
- 3. Provide lighting on the ground with streetlights and lighting above with string lights**
- 4. Include gathering spaces with benches and trash/recycling cans for the community**

Use the following elements to create a plan drawing on the next page that will help the city understand how the alley should be designed.

#### Drawing Elements



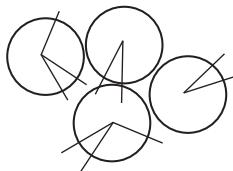
#### Shade Tree

Draw this symbol to show the best location for large shade trees to help block sun during the hot summer days.



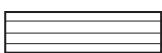
#### Grasses and Perennials

Draw this symbol to show the best location to plant ground cover and perennials in the plaza.



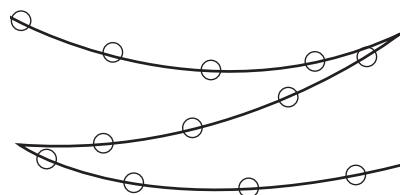
#### Shrubs

Draw this symbol to show the best location to plant shrubs in the plaza.



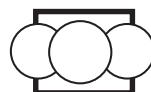
#### Bench

Draw this symbol to show where benches should be placed.



#### String Lights

Draw this symbol to show the best location to hang overhead string lights to help shine light on community events below.



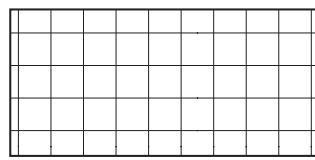
#### Streetlight

Draw this symbol to show the best location for streetlights in the plaza and along the sidewalks.



#### Trash/Recycling Cans

Draw this symbol to show the best location for trash/recycling cans to help remind the community to keep the plaza clean.



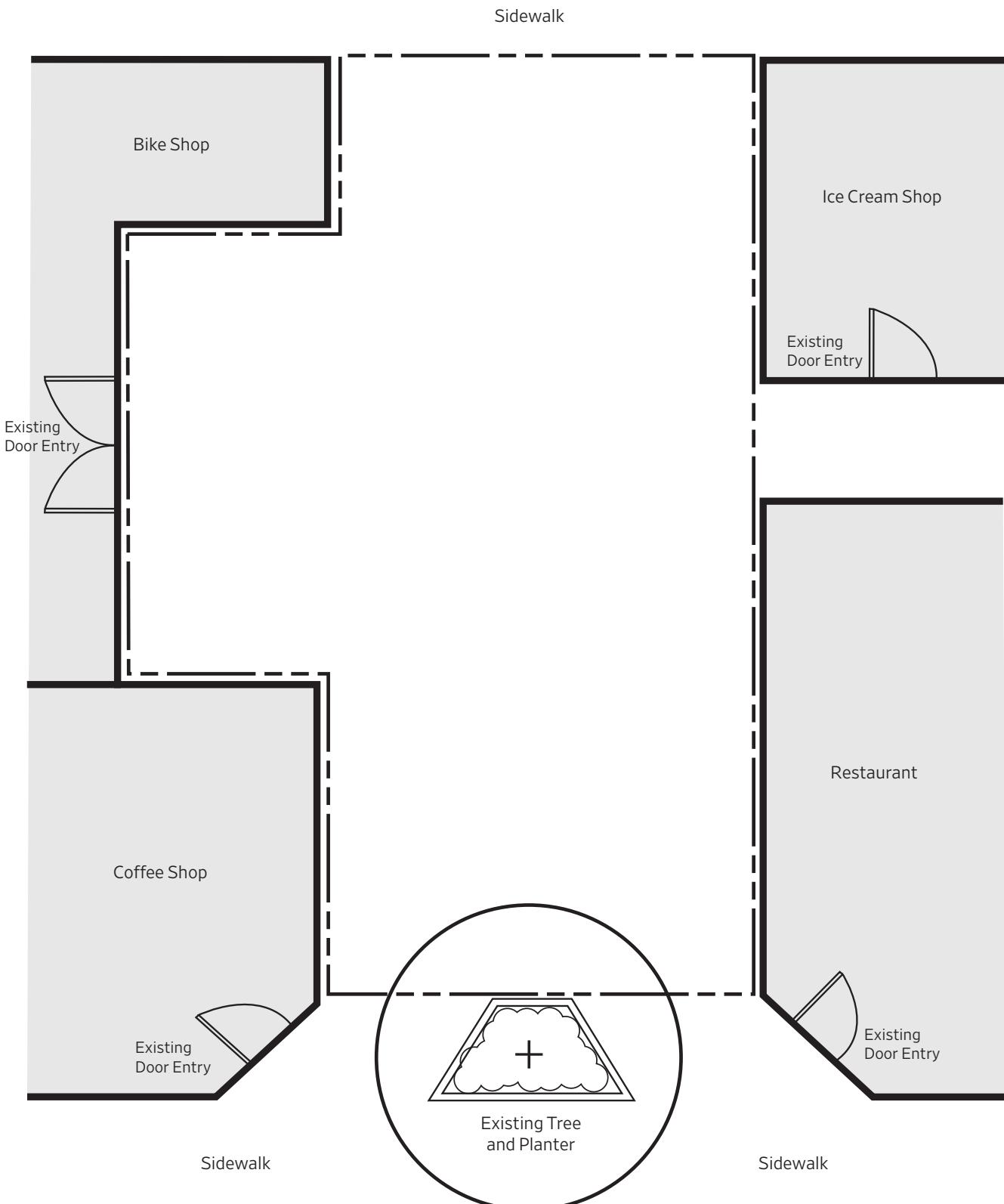
#### Plazing Paving Pattern

Draw this pattern on the areas of the plaza that you would like to be paved and not planted.

Note: Drawing Elements Not to Scale

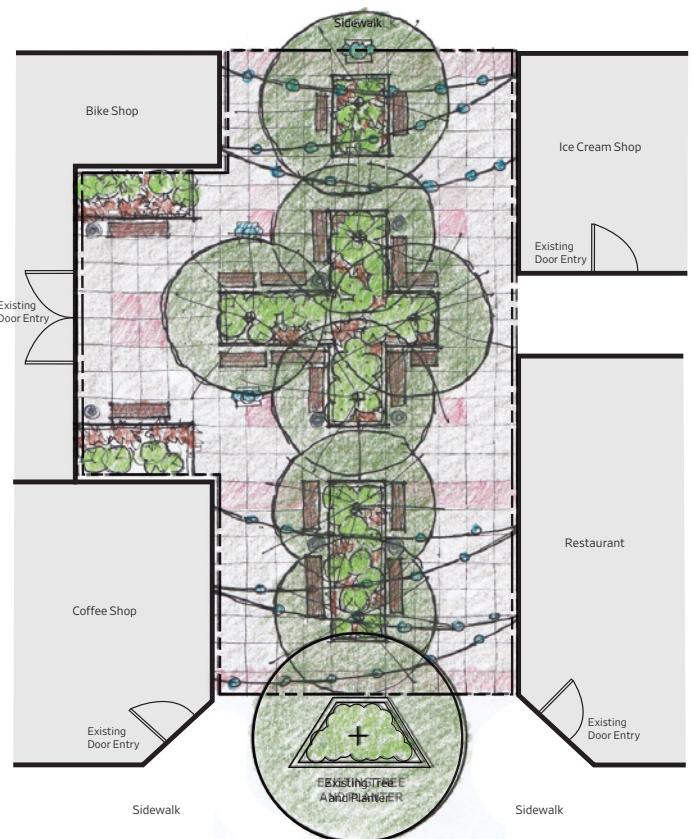
## Wondering where to start?

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2. If you do not have tracing paper, start off with a pencil so you can erase parts of the drawing that you would like to change.
3. Draw the elements in the property line boundary. Once you have solutions for all of the elements on the plan drawing in pencil or on tracing paper, it's time to add ink and color to your drawing.
4. Use pens, markers, or colored pencils to help bring your drawing to life and help understand the different drawing elements in the plan drawing.



Note: Drawing Not to Scale

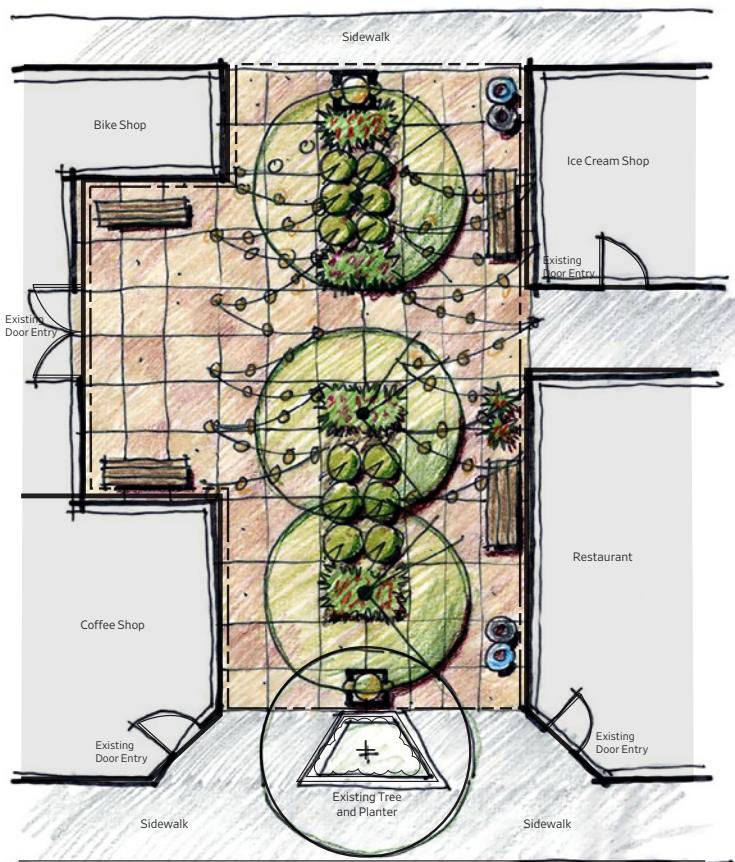
# Check out how landscape architects solved the problem:



## Who drew that?

Baldev Lamba, ASLA  
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Baldev solved the problem by analyzing pedestrian circulation (or how people walk through the site) and how visitors reach nearby businesses. He also thought about how his design would enhance safety in the alley. The design created a “greenway” concept with various seating options, adequate lighting, and colorful vegetation. He completed the design by using a geometric pattern to create welcoming entrance areas, planting beds, and seating areas.



## Who drew that?

Craig Stoffel, ASLA  
Denver, Colorado

Craig solved the problem by first identifying pedestrian circulation patterns, which helped lay out the paving. Then he looked for planting areas to accommodate shade trees, and lighting locations to increase visibility and safety. Finally, he designed areas for people to sit, relax, and watch other people.



## Stop #7: Chicago, Illinois

Project: Chicago Botanical Garden,  
the Regenstein Learning Campus

Landscape architects designed a nature playground and other outdoor experiences for families and children of all ages visiting the environmental discovery center.



### Who drew that?

Saeideh Teymouri, Associate ASLA  
Cary, North Carolina

Add color to bring the  
drawing to life!

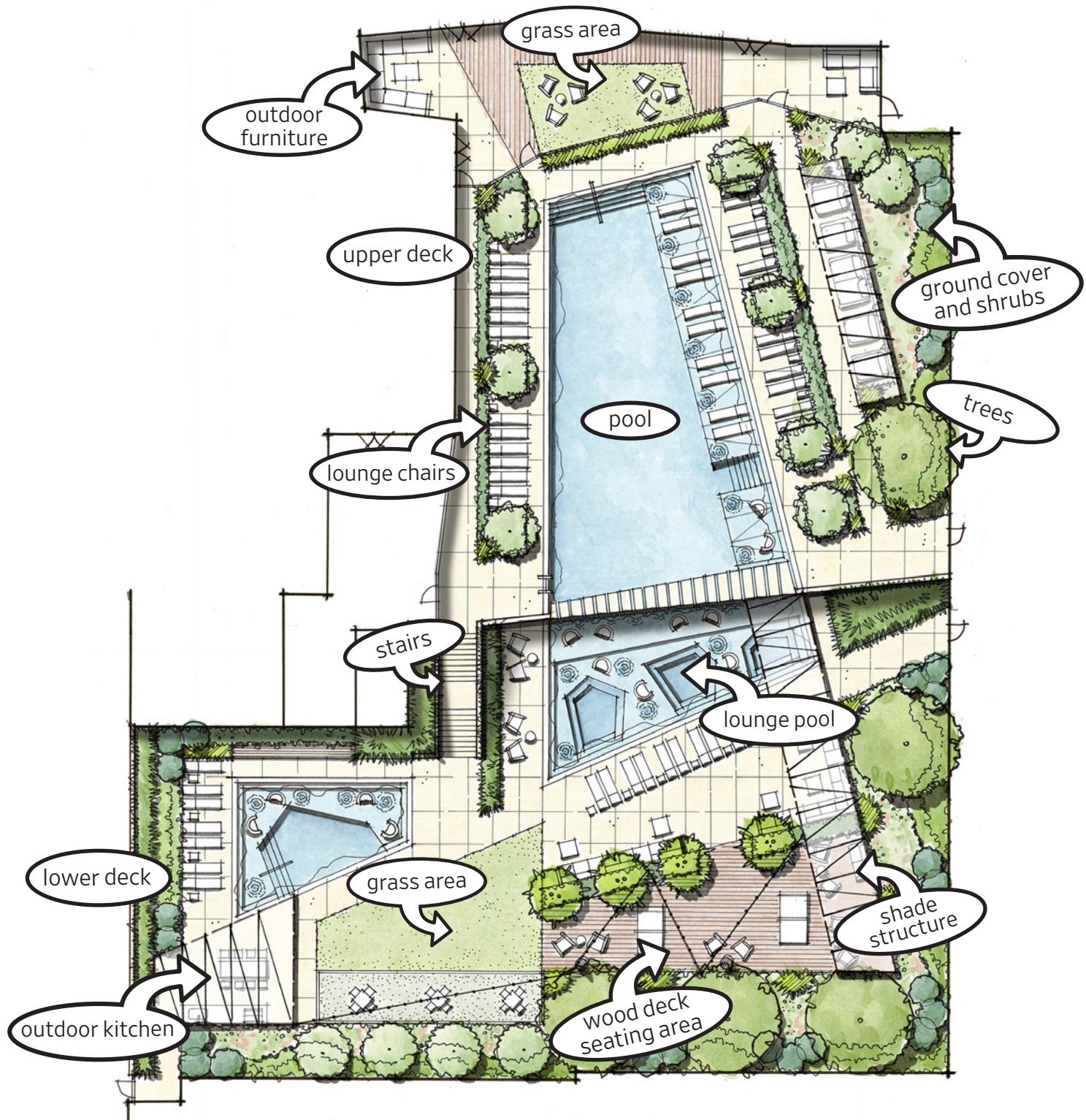
Saeideh discovered landscape architecture in her final year of getting her architecture bachelor's degree. She became a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and this helped her to learn about landscape architecture programs in the United States.



## Stop #8: Austin, Texas

Project: Platform Residential Community

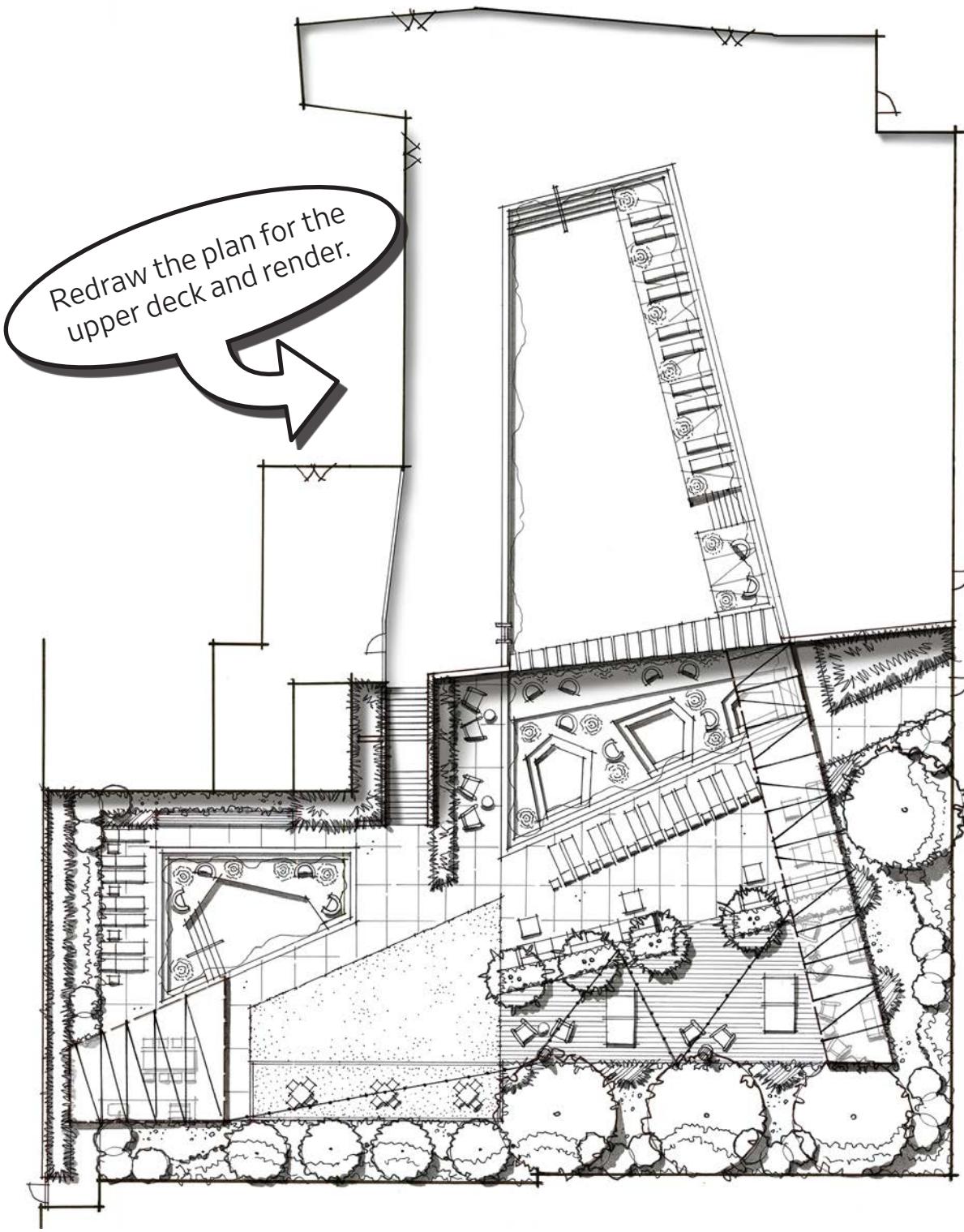
Landscape architects designed this multipurpose courtyard providing residents with an outdoor setting to relax and unwind.



## Who drew that?

Nicole Warns, ASLA  
Austin, Texas

What Nicole likes most about this project is the dramatic design. The site gave landscape architects the opportunity to play with angles and elevation changes to create dramatic views, forms, and experiences for residents. The main pool is divided into two parts by a colorful 10-foot-high water wall, and offers both upper and lower decks with varied water depths for swimming and lounging.

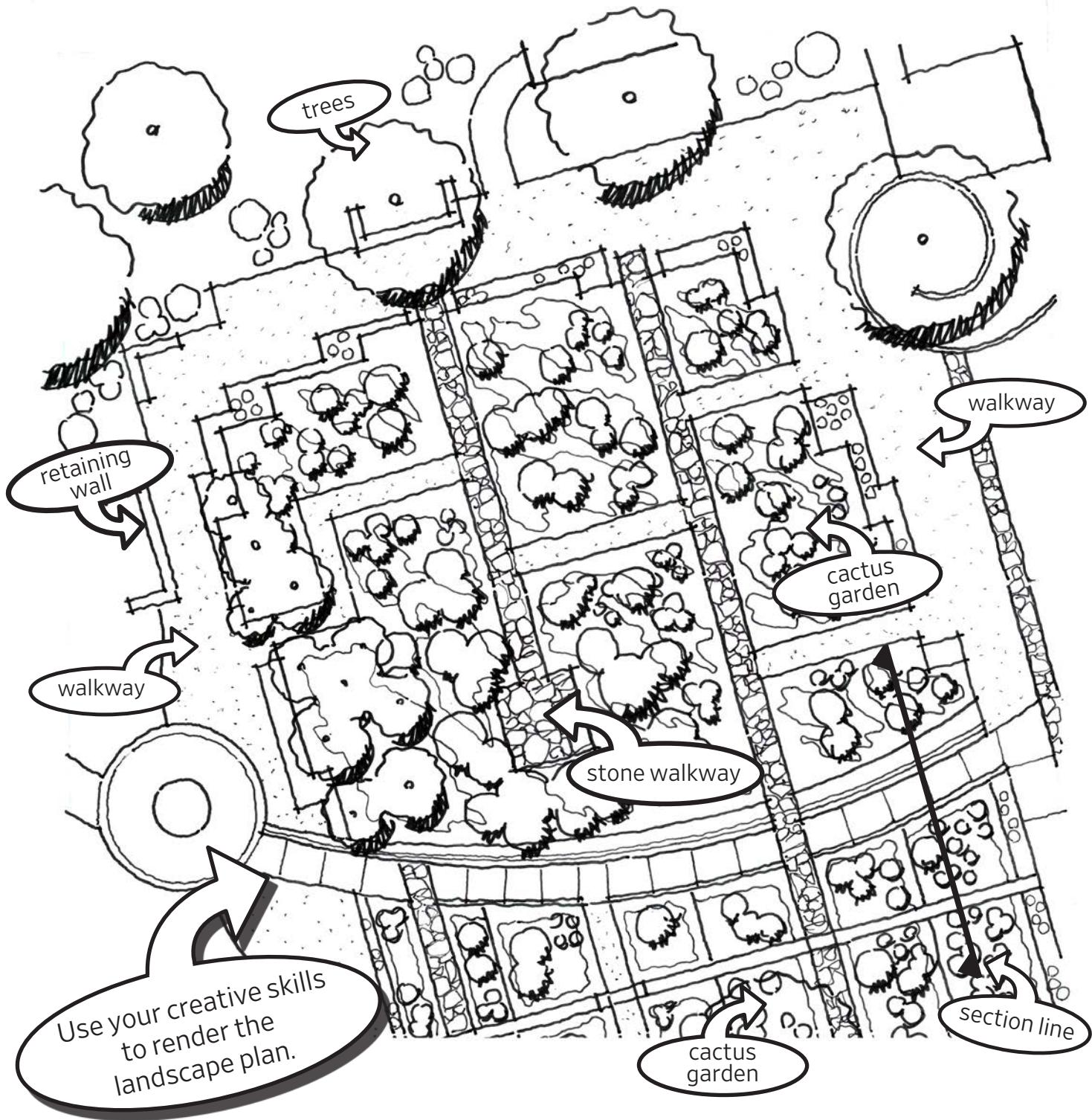




## Stop #9: Phoenix, Arizona

Project: Ottosen Entry Garden  
Desert Botanical

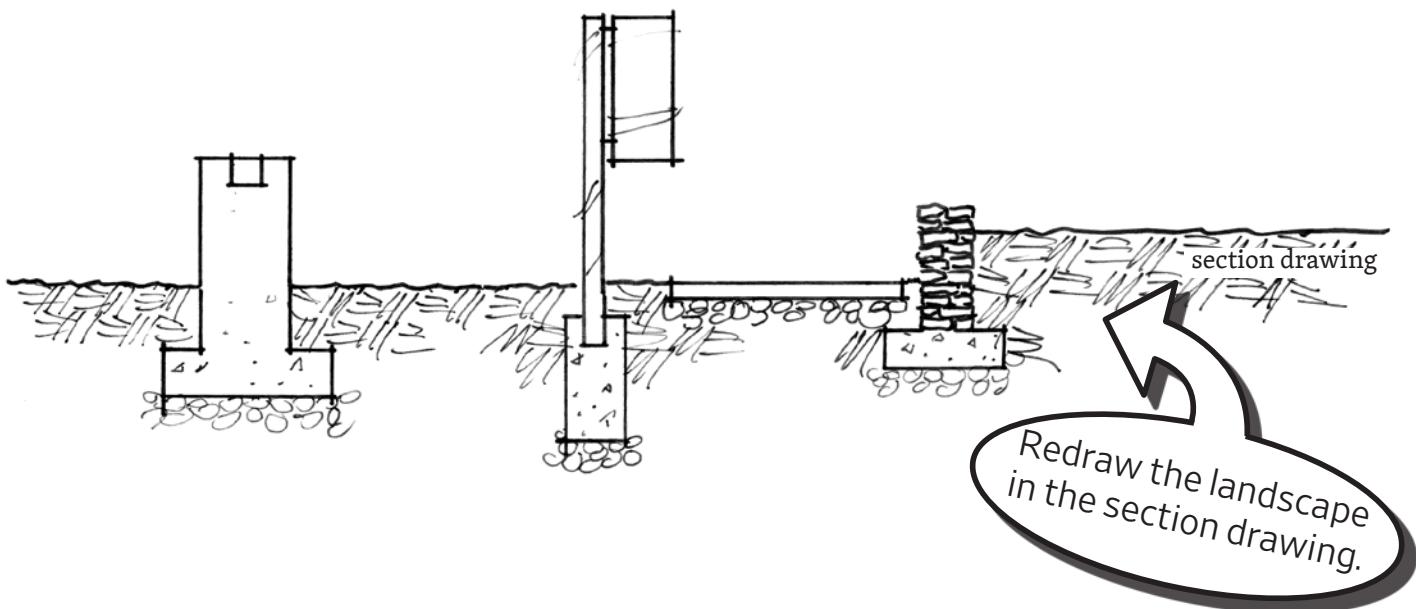
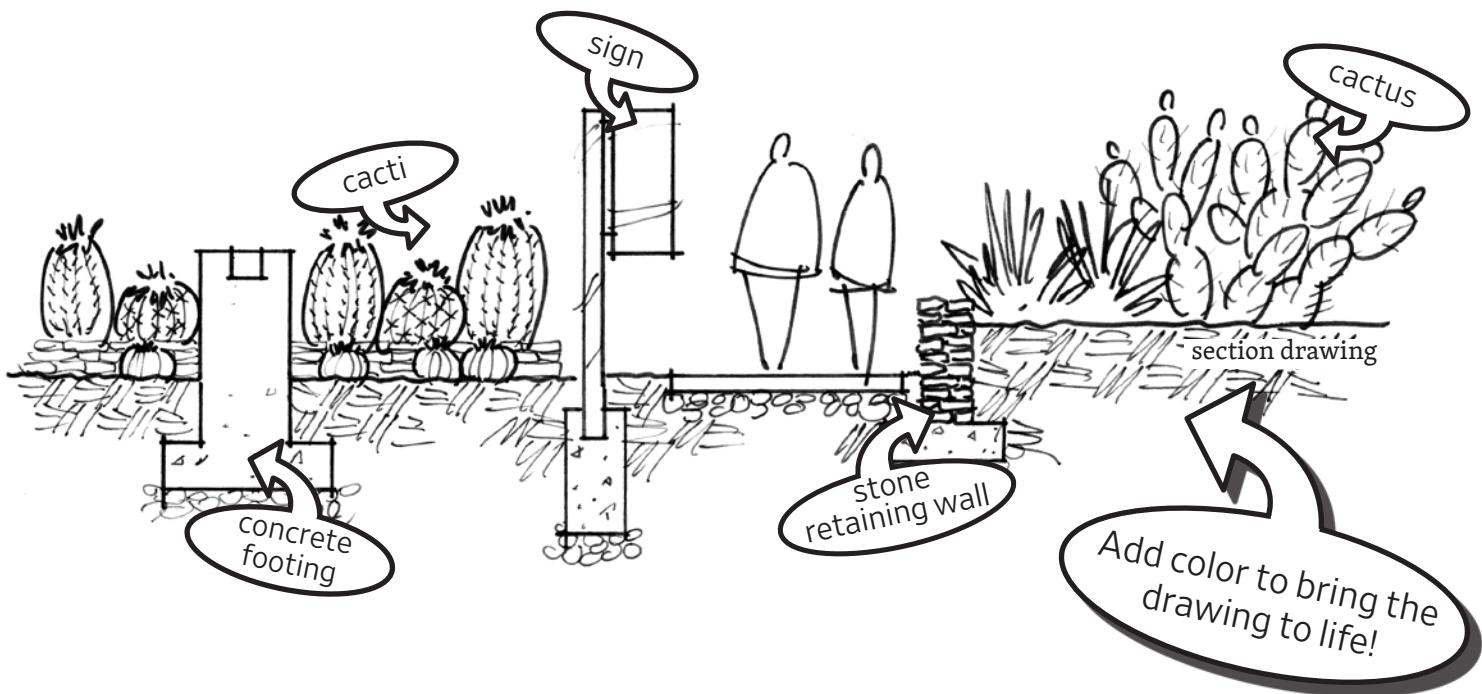
Landscape architects designed this garden to showcase large cacti and succulent plants, and provide areas for visitors to sit and gather.



# Who drew that?

Katie Riddle, ASLA  
Washington, DC.

Katie is a landscape architect because the profession offers the opportunity to transform communities for the better. The materials and methods are always changing; she works with landscape and hardscape, works in cities and rural communities, and draws by hand and by computer. The work is always engaging and inspiring.





## Stop #10: Pueblo, Colorado

Problem-solving Exercise 3

It's **YOUR** turn to design  
a section drawing!

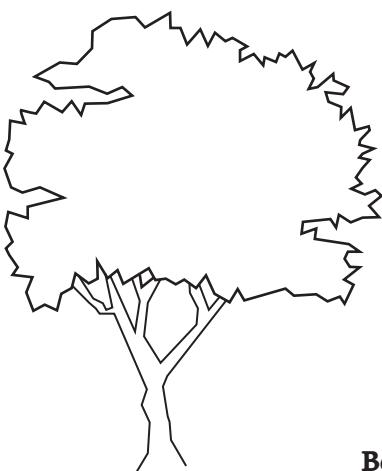
### Solve the following:

A local community would like to create an outdoor adventure park to teach kids about nature, healthy risk taking, and team building skills. The site is located in a small neighborhood, and the community would like the adventure park to be designed around an existing pond. The community needs your help designing and drawing an adventure park around and over the pond. You have been asked to create a section drawing to:

1. Locate the best location for shade trees and shrubs to give kids and parents shade on sunny days
2. Detect the best location for large boulders for seating and climbing
3. Place a rope bridge over the pond for kids to cross without getting wet
4. Include a rope ladder and rope swing in the shade trees
5. Show kids and parents using the adventure park to help the community see how it will be used

Use the following elements to create a section drawing on the next page that will help show the community how you would design the adventure park.

#### Drawing Elements



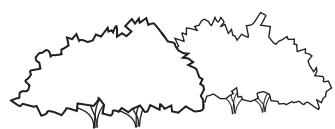
##### Shade Tree

Draw this symbol to show the best location for large shade trees to help shade the adventure park during hot summer days.



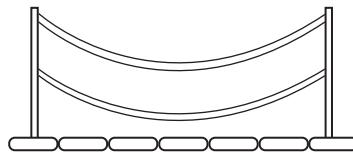
##### Boulders

Draw this symbol to show the best location for large boulders where kids and parents can sit and climb.



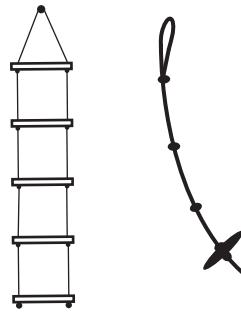
##### Shrubs

Draw this symbol to show the best location for shrubs to bring beauty to the adventure park.



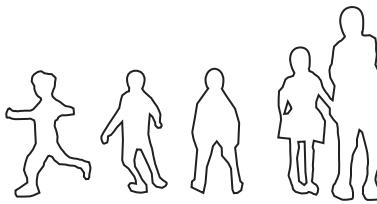
##### Rope Bridge

Draw this symbol to show how kids and parents can cross the pond without getting wet.



##### Rope Ladder and Swing

Draw these symbols in the proposed shade trees to offer kids a fun way of climbing and swinging from the trees.



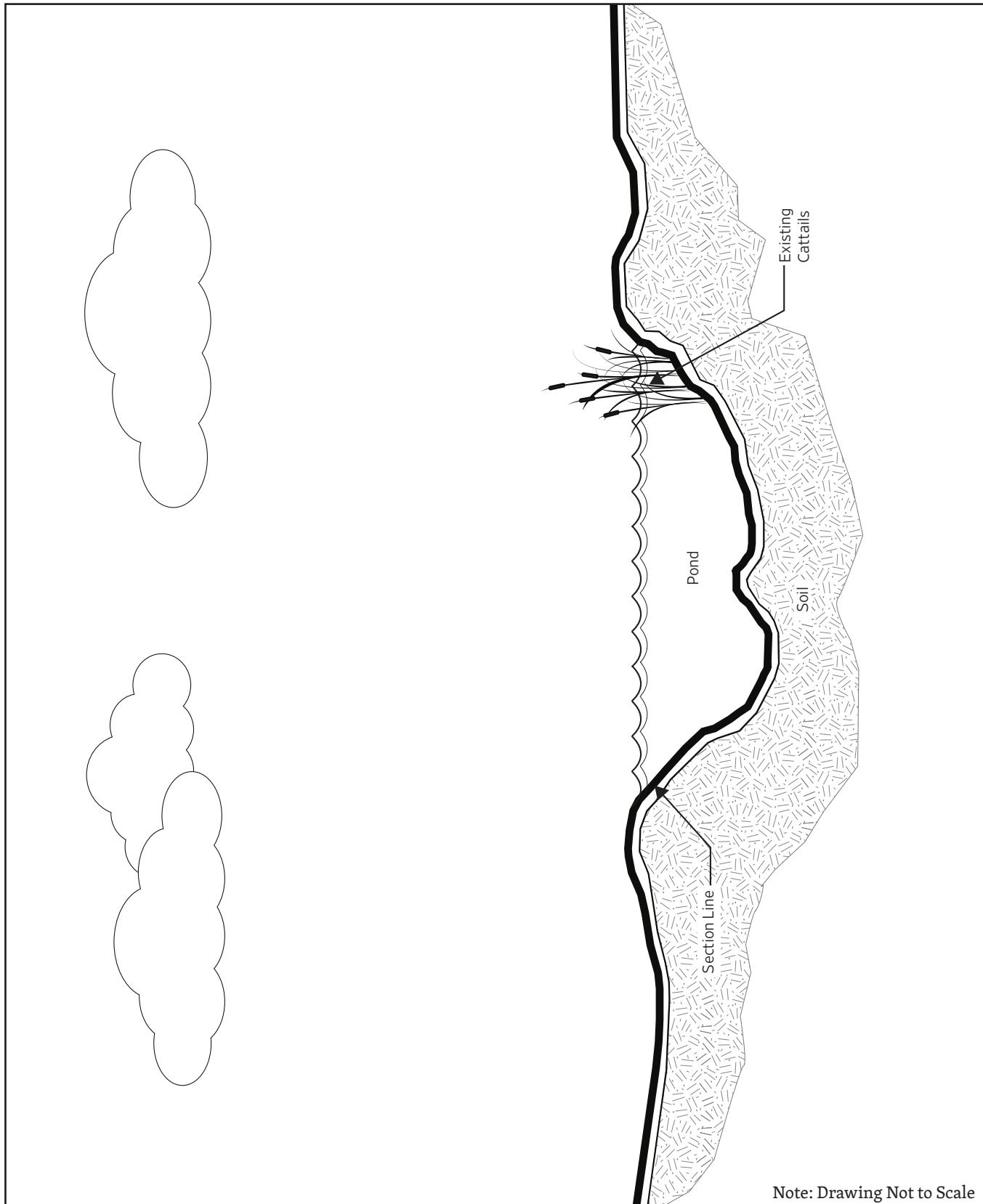
##### People

Draw these symbols to help show kids and parents enjoying the adventure park to help the community see how it will be used.

Note: Drawing Elements Not to Scale

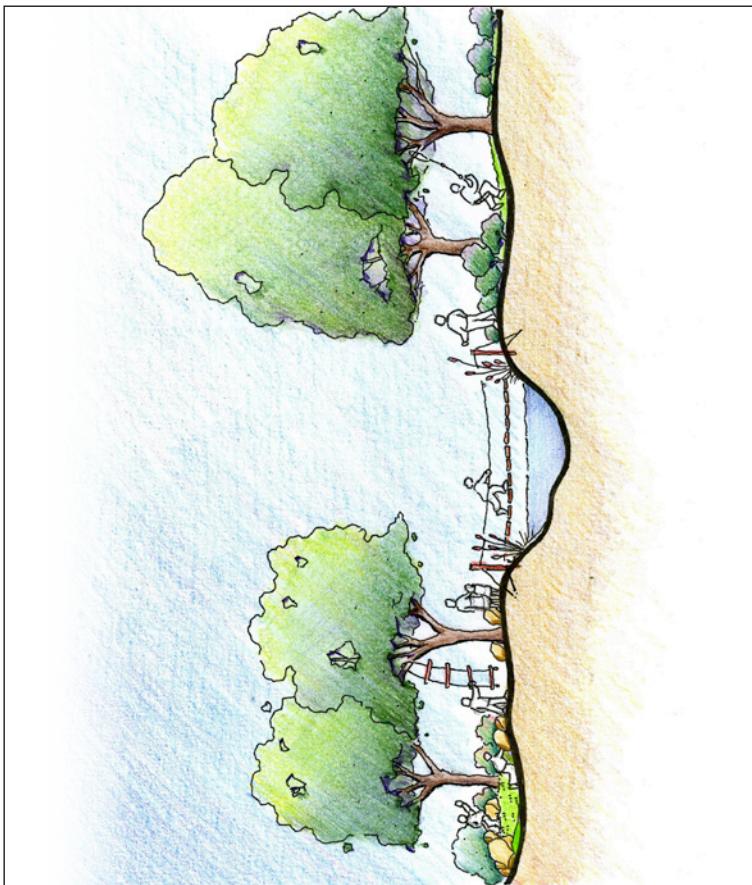
## Wondering where to start?

1. First, turn your page so that the drawing is right-side up.
2. If you have tracing paper handy, place a piece over the exercise and begin drawing elements on the section line.
3. If you do not have tracing paper, start off with a pencil so you can erase parts of the drawing that you would like to change.
4. Once you have solutions for all of the elements on the section drawing in pencil or on tracing paper, it's time to add ink and color to your drawing.
5. Use pens, markers, or colored pencils to help bring your drawing to life and help understand the different drawing elements in the section drawing.



Note: Drawing Not to Scale

# Check out how landscape architects solved the problem:



## Who drew that?

Elizabeth Boult, ASLA  
Berkeley, California

Elizabeth solved the problem by re-imagining the scale of the section line by making the drawing wider and the view zoomed out to include all drawing elements. She loves shaping outdoor spaces and applied the principles and elements of design to show how kids and parents will move through the adventure park.



## Who drew that?

Ryan Hargrove, ASLA  
Lexington, Kentucky

Ryan solved the problem by first thinking beyond the parameters of the problem. What would the ideal adventure park include if there were no restrictions? Granting himself this freedom allowed his imagination to design spaces that would eventually serve the requirements of the problem and create an exciting adventure park.



## Stop #11: Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Project: Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve

Landscape architects developed a master plan for the preserve and designed trails, a wetland walkway, and a waterfall deck.



### Who drew that?

Patrick Caughey, FASLA, 2006–2007 ASLA President  
San Diego, California

Add color to bring the  
drawing to life!

- What Patrick likes most about this project is the architecture and setting of the building in the preserve of the Grand Teton National Park.



## Stop #12: San Francisco, California

Project: Powell Street Promenade

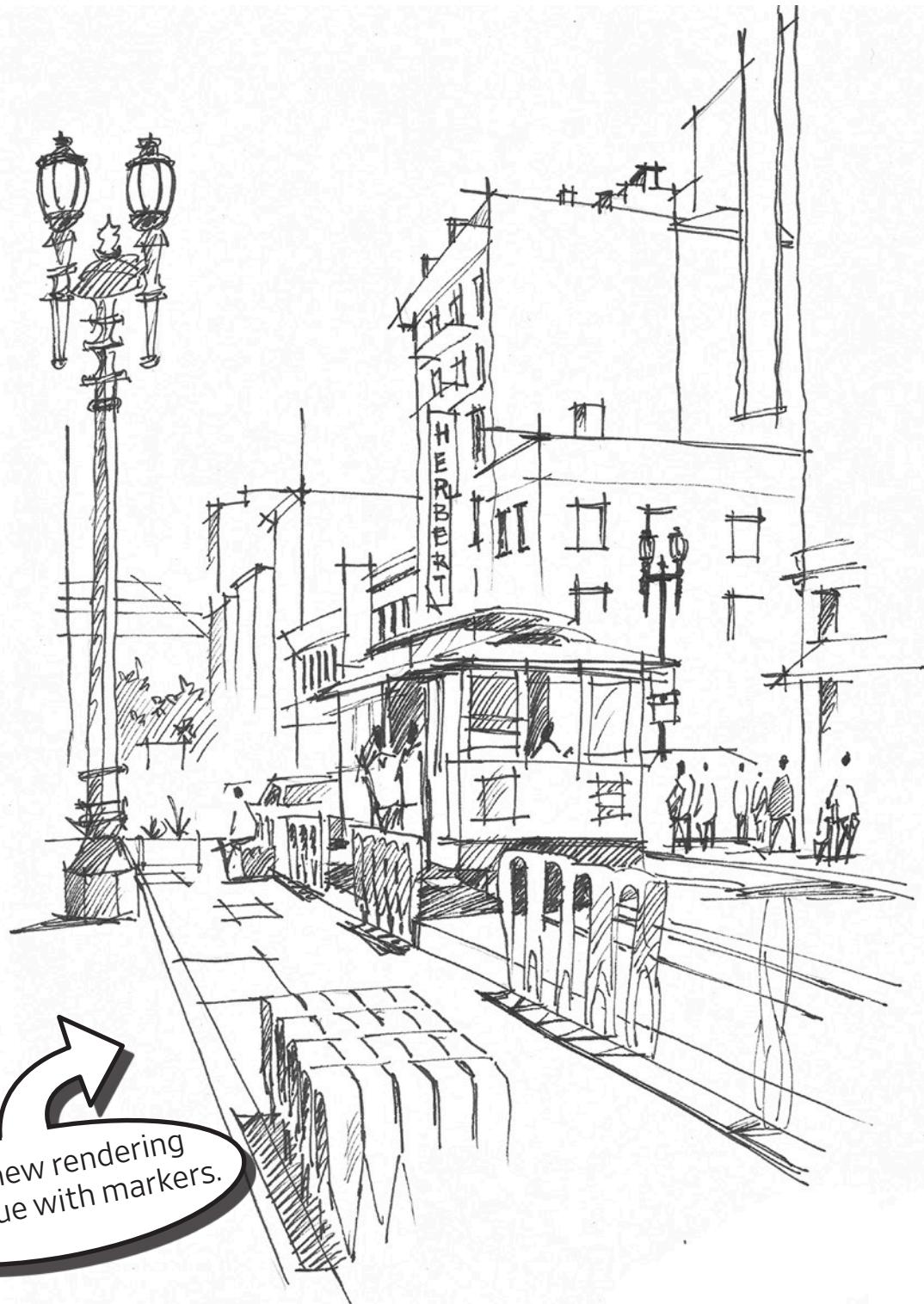
Landscape architects designed this pedestrian walkway by replacing four city blocks of parallel parking and adding benches, tables, and planters.



## Who drew that?

Yifu Kang, Student ASLA  
Ithaca, New York

Yifu is a landscape architecture student. He wants to be a landscape architect because he loves to create enjoyable, functional, and sustainable spaces for people to live. He learned about landscape architecture at around age 10 when he was studying traditional Chinese paintings and became amazed by the landscapes that he visited to sketch.





## Stop #13: Seattle, Washington

Project: Central Seawall

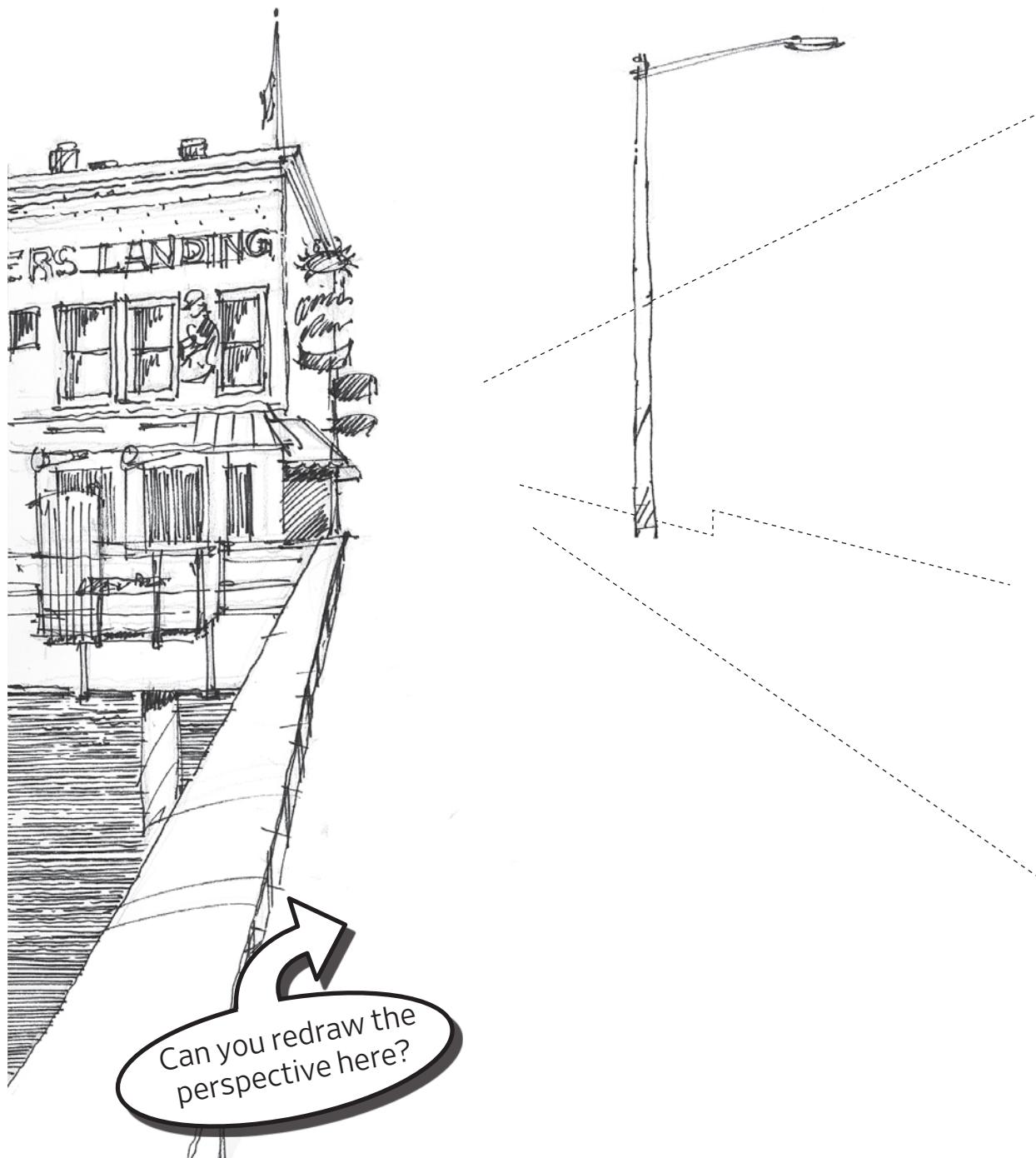
Landscape architects led the design of a comprehensive plan for 1.5 miles of the Central Waterfront.



## Who drew that?

Gabriela Canamar Clark, ASLA  
Alexandria, Virginia

What Gabriela likes most about this project is that the landscape architects created and led a vision that solves a complex engineering problem on Seattle's waterfront. It improves public spaces for people and also creates new fish habitat underwater.





## Stop #14: Anchorage, Alaska

Problem-solving Exercise 4

It's **YOUR** turn to design  
a technical drawing!

### Solve the following:

A local community would like to build two artistic and functional benches in the neighborhood park. The community needs your help to create technical drawings showing the construction company how to build each bench. The community has requested the following:

- 1. Design two artistic and functional benches to be built in the neighborhood park**
- 2. Use materials such as concrete and wood**
- 3. Add solar panels to provide electricity to the bench**
- 4. Add seat warmers and/or heat lamps for the cold weather**
- 5. Include charging outlets for technology such as phones and computers**

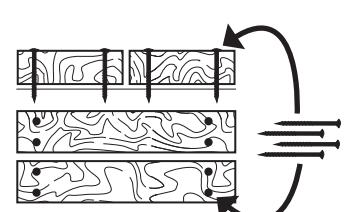
Use the following elements to piece together a technical drawing to help the contractor understand how they should build each bench. Place the drawing elements on the section lines and include any additional materials that you think would make the bench comfortable and fun for the community.

#### Drawing Elements



##### Bench Base

Draw one of these shapes as the base of your bench. Or, if you would like to create your own artistic base, go for it! The base should be concrete to protect against damage over many years.



##### Concrete

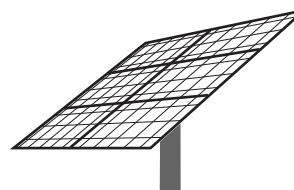
Draw this hatch pattern where you would like elements of your bench to be concrete.

##### Wood and Connectors

Draw these symbols and hatch patterns where you would like elements of your bench to be wood. Think about where screws need to be located to help connect your wood to the base of the bench.

##### Charging Outlets

Draw this symbol to show the best location for charging outlets on the bench.



##### Solar Panels

Draw this symbol to show where you would like to build solar panels on, above, or beside the bench.



##### Seat Warmers

Draw this symbol to show the best location to place seat warmers so that people stay warm while sitting on the bench.



##### Heat Lamp

Draw this symbol to show the best location to place a heat lamp to help keep people warm from above. Or, if you would like to create your own heat lamp for the bench, go for it!

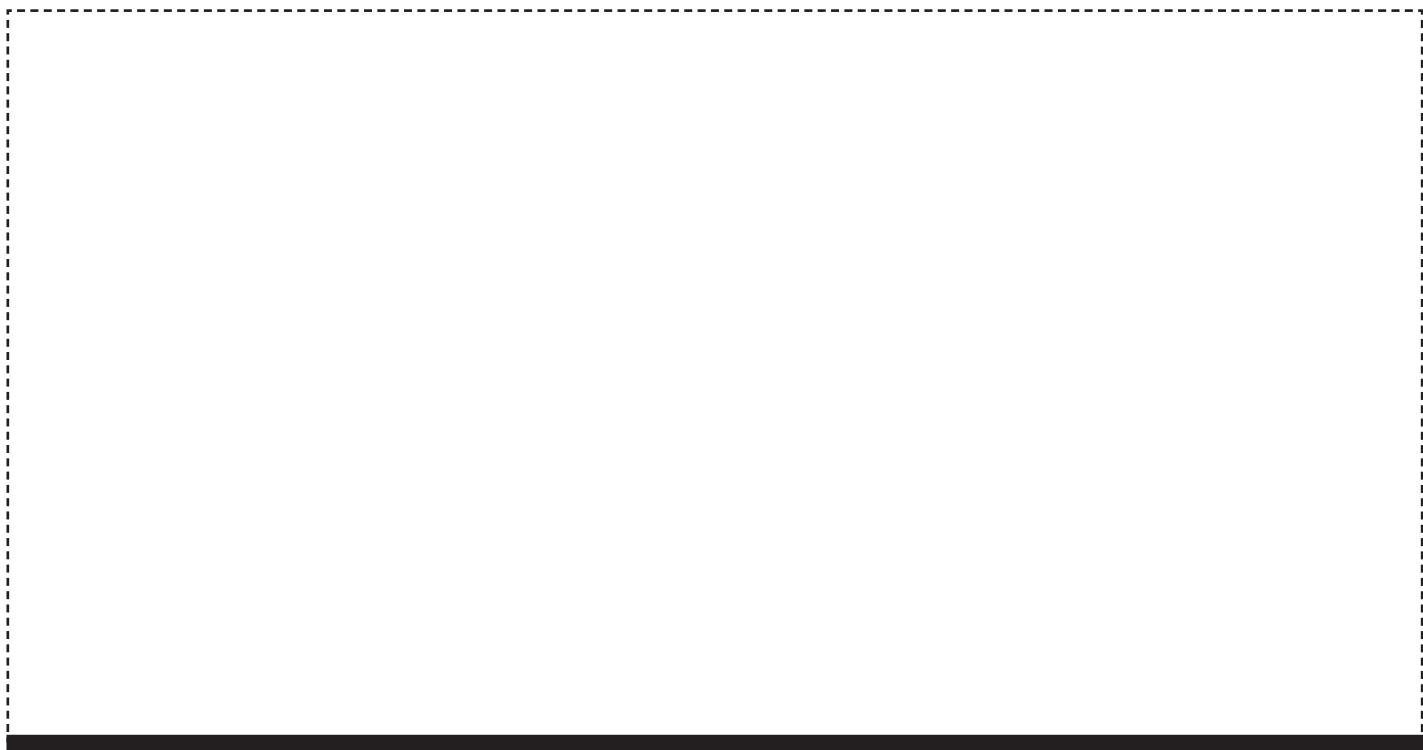
Note: Drawing Elements Not to Scale

## **Wondering where to start?**

1. If you have tracing paper handy, place a piece over the exercise and begin drawing elements on the section line.
2. If you do not have tracing paper, start off with a pencil so you can erase parts of the drawing that you would like to change.
3. Once you have used all of the elements on the technical drawing in pencil or on tracing paper, it's time to add ink and color to your drawing.
4. Use pens, markers, or colored pencils to help bring your drawing to life and help the contractor understand how the benches should be built.

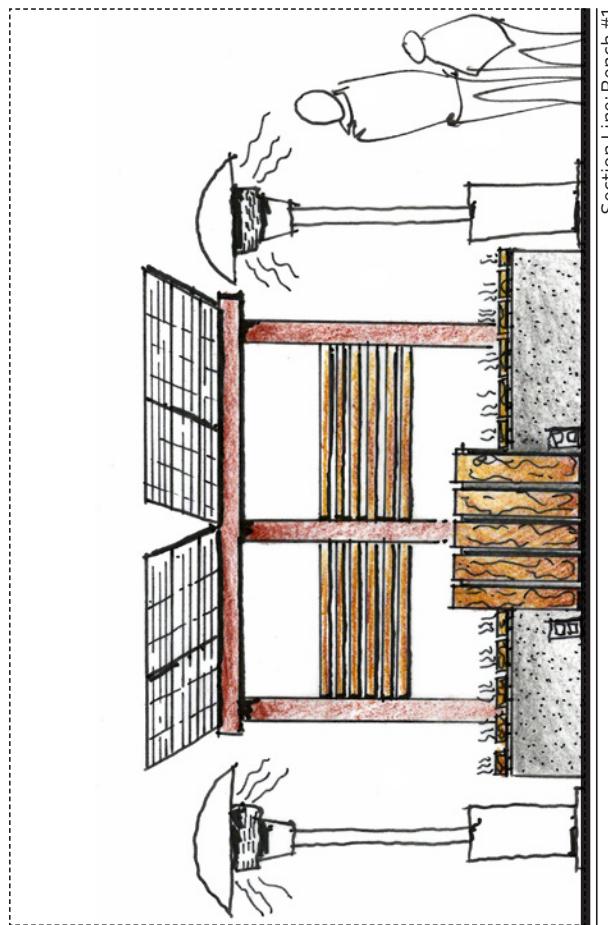


Section Line: Bench #1

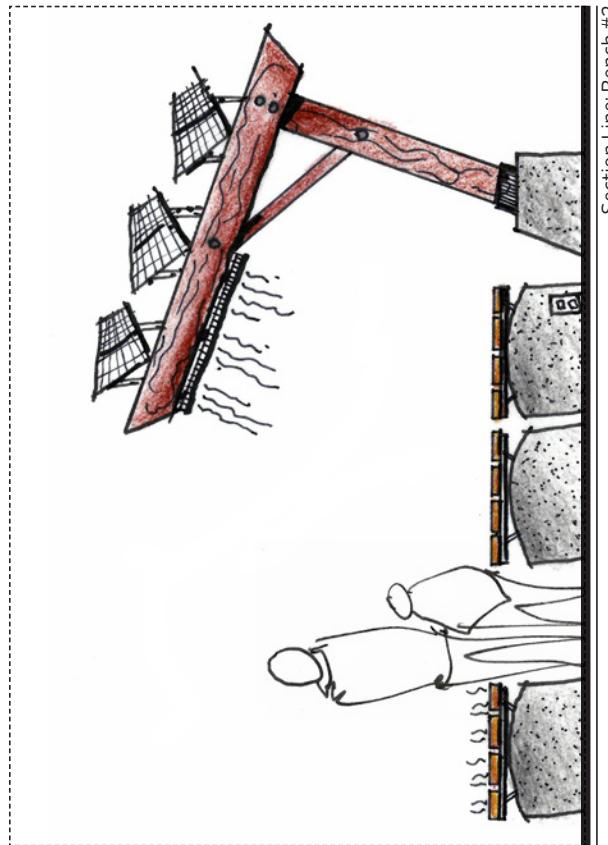


Section Line: Bench #2

# Check out how landscape architects solved the problem:



Section Line: Bench #1



Section Line: Bench #2

## Who drew that?

Shawn M. Balon, ASLA  
Richmond, Virginia

Shawn solved the problem by first reviewing what the community is requesting. He then used the drawing elements to brainstorm some fun artistic benches. For bench #1, he decided to keep the bench simple by having a lower tier of seating and an upper tier of seating. On the upper tier, he proposed the wood to wrap around the front and back of the concrete base. He also designed an overhead structure to hold the solar panels in place and help block the cold winter winds. For bench #2, he decided to separate the benches into three seats. He also designed a wooden overhead structure to hold the solar panels and the heat lamps. This provides two very different options for the community to review and choose their favorite.

# Your turn! Become a Landscape Architect

If you love the outdoors, care about the environment, love working with people, enjoy problem-solving, and are creative, you can become a landscape architect!



## Study Hard

Prepare by studying science, technology, art, math, history, and business. Landscape architecture relies on a lot of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) skills you may already be learning. And be sure to develop your communication skills!



## Visit a Landscape Architect

Almost every community has landscape architects working in it to improve the quality of life. Try to get to know one and pay her or him a visit. You can also contact your nearest local chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects to ask for more information about projects in your community.



## Volunteer

Get to know your surroundings by taking part in community events. Join a cleanup day at your local park or help clean trash from a stream. Visit nature centers and join in on nature walks through your community—there is a lot to discover!



## Prepare for College

To become a landscape architect, you will first enroll in a landscape architecture program at a college or university. There are many landscape architecture programs in the United States. Once you graduate, you will need to spend a few years working at a landscape architecture firm and then pass an examination to become licensed. Then you are on your way to a fulfilling career.

# Glossary

Landscape architects use a lot of design and technical terminology. If you were unfamiliar with some of the terms used in the activity book, check out the definitions below.

## ADA Standards

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. Landscape architects follow standards to design accessible spaces for people with disabilities.

## concrete footing

Footings are important in construction to support a built structure such as a wall.

## grassy mounds

Small hills in a landscape to create high and low points of interest.

## hatch patterns

Lines, patterns, or textures to help differentiate various materials, plantings, or drawing elements. They can be applied to many drawings.

## rendering

The process of adding color, shading, and/or texture to an image or drawing.

## shrubs

A plant that is smaller than a tree and has several large stems rising at or near the ground. Many shrubs are pruned each year to allow for new growth.

## bird's-eye view

A drawing of a place at an elevated view, with a perspective as if the artist was flying above like a bird.

## contours

Contours or contour lines are imaginary lines that connect points of equal value. A contour map portrays different elevations of the land.

## ground cover

Low-growing, spreading plants with narrow leaves that help to stop weeds from growing. Examples include grasses and vines.

## meadow

A field habitat vegetated by grass and other nonwoody plants; also referred to as a grassland.

## retaining wall

A wall that holds back soil, planting, or water.

## vegetation

A collective grouping of plants, especially those found in a particular area or habitat such as a forest or wetland.

## built environment

The design, construction, and management of human-made structures, landscapes, and places.

## grading

The process of moving earth (or soil) to adjust the slope and elevations around a building and in a landscape.

## hardscape

Human-made features such as walkways and walls, as contrasted with landscape.

## perennials

An ornamental plant that grows back each year from roots that go dormant in the soil in the winter. Annual plants only grow for one season.

## shade structure

Built structures to create shade in outdoor locations that are unprotected from the sun.

## wetland

Land consisting of marshes or swamps. Wetlands provide opportunities for improved water quality, flood control, wildlife habitat, and recreation activities.

**Thank you to the following ASLA members  
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