

groundworksstudio

10 years of projects

2007-2017

Philosophy

Groundworks studio is a landscape architecture and urban design firm based in Charlotte, NC, that is dedicated to the creation of artistic and sustainable designs that connect people with the landscape.

Our designs evolve through an understanding of the site's natural features, human needs, creative design exploration and the client's goals. Sustainability — the integration of natural systems with human patterns that celebrate place making — is the foundation of our practice. Although groundworks studio works throughout the rural to urban spectrum, we are particularly committed to restoring vitality back to cities. We create imaginative, beautiful, functional and meaningful landscapes that people want to experience.

Groundworks studio seeks common ground among the design professions. Our studio believes in a team approach to design; we collaborate with a broad range of design professionals and artists to make design concepts come to life. Our studio is dedicated to a successful partnership between the client and the landscape architect.



Laurel Holtzapple

PLA, ASLA, and Principal

After graduating from Clemson University's Landscape Architecture program in 1993, Laurel Holtzapple worked at two of the top landscape architecture firms in the country, Olin Partnership and Andropogon in Philadelphia. She mentored with landscape architects Laurie Olin, Cindy Sanders, Susan Weiler, Carol Franklin, and Yaki Miodovnik. Laurel had the opportunity to work on large, complex landscape architecture projects around the world and gained valuable experience as a designer and project manager. Project experience includes the GAP Headquarters in San Francisco, the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, and the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia, PA.

In 2007, Laurel Holtzapple founded groundworks studio, a landscape architecture and urban design firm in Charlotte, NC. Groundworks studio strives to create outdoor spaces of meaning that connect people with nature. The studio's work over these last ten years has often been the threads and fragments of outdoor spaces - the spaces between, the environmentally degraded or the neglected. We seek to infuse an ecological vitality to these spaces, uplifting the human spirit and restoring environmental health.

The firm has established an internship program in recognition of the importance of giving back and helping to train the next generation of landscape architects, a field that will become increasingly critical for the future of our planet.

A natural extension of the studio has been the emergence of public art. Reid Park (2014) was the first public art project, with the creation of three sculptures, in collaboration with Shaun Cassidy, for a new neighborhood park in West Charlotte. The firm continues to grow its public art practice in addition to landscape architecture. We look forward to exciting new opportunities the next 10+ years!

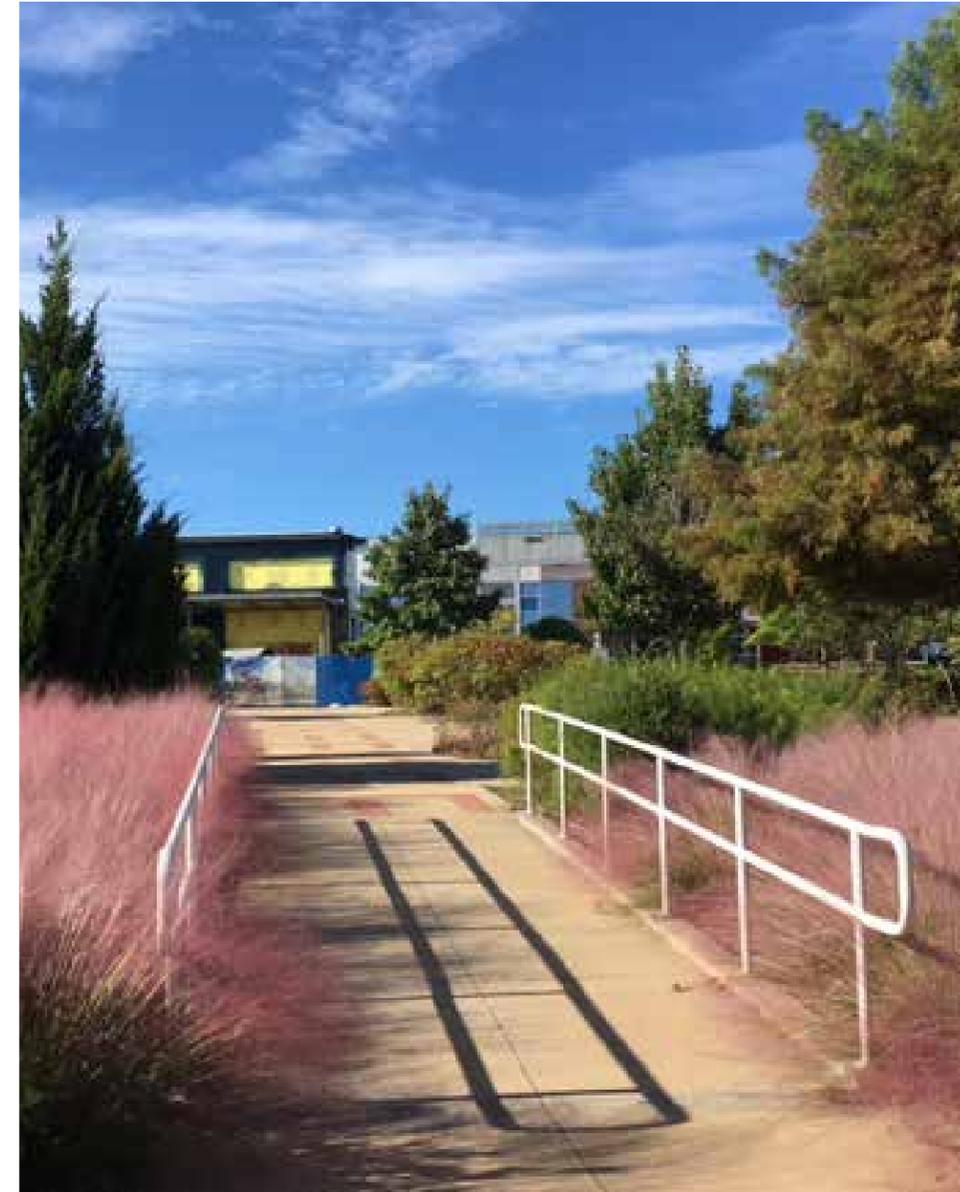
2010 Bubble Fence

The Bubble Fence is a whimsical garden fence along a Plaza-Midwood sidewalk. The fence design abstracts the plants of the garden, and echoes the geometry of the residence. Dragonflies, beetles, a cat and a dinosaur delight passersby.



2010 Tuckaseegee 12

This art garden comprised of 100% native plants was carved out of an expanse of an asphalt parking lot in front of the former Freedom Mall, now a Mecklenburg County office building. "Tuckaseegee" means flowing waters, derived from the language of the Native Americans who had once lived in the area. "Twelve" refers to North Carolina as the twelfth state to enter the Union and is represented by twelve trees and twelve circles. Project sponsored by the Arts & Science Council and Mecklenburg County.

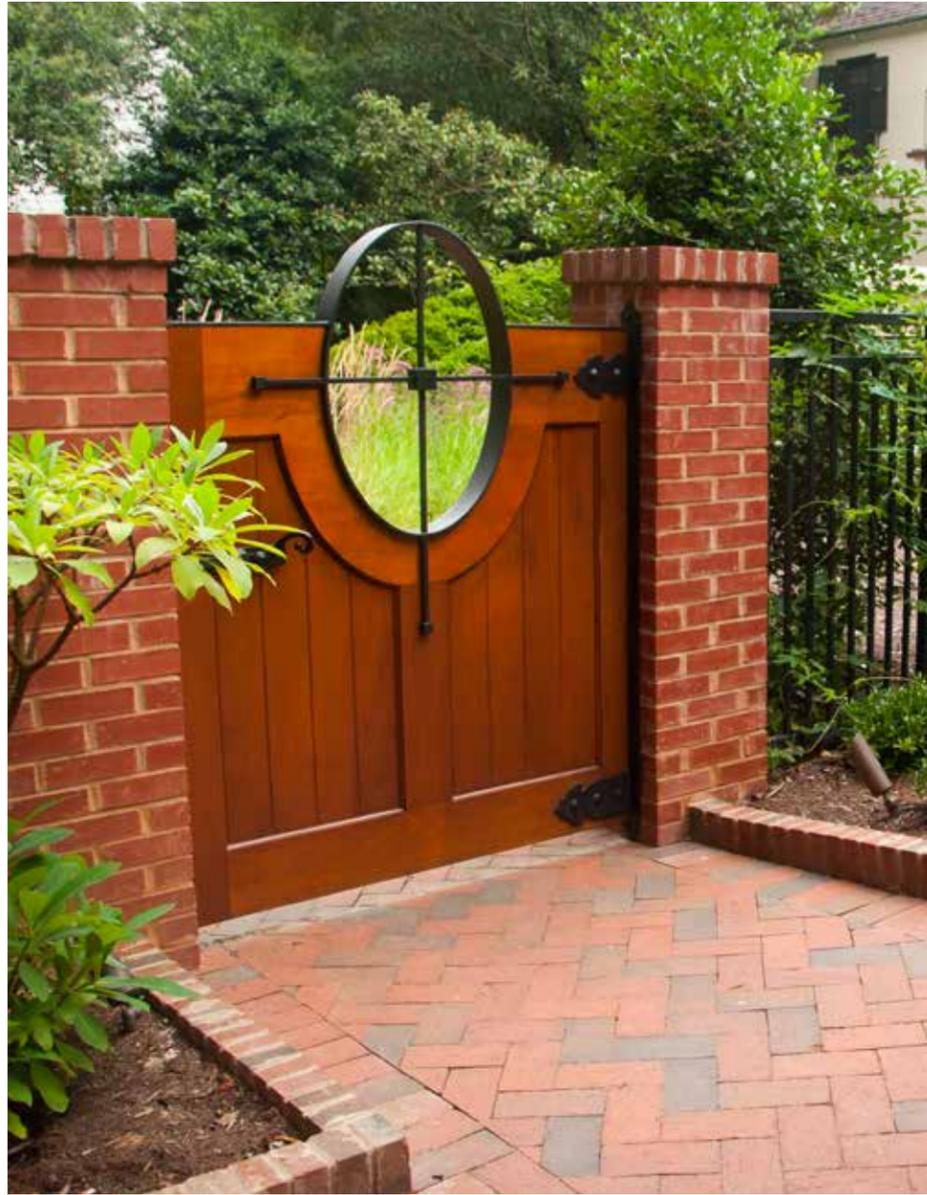


2011 Ramsey-Pelletier Garden

2011 Historic Charlotte Preservation Award

The design for this Myers Park garden was inspired by the restrained elegance of the historic residence, the beauty of the site, and the aesthetic of the homeowners. Sweeps of ornamental grasses and flowering perennials are accented by native shrubs that enclose a carpet of lush grass within the front garden. Redbud trees along the sidewalk frame views. A herringbone brick patterned driveway leads to a set of custom gates. An ellipse at the base of the back terrace features a butterfly garden that also manages stormwater. A kinetic sculpture is sited at the top of the hill along the main vista. Paths wind through a woodland of native North Carolina Piedmont plantings. Collaborators: Studio One Design and Bulla Smith Design Engineering.

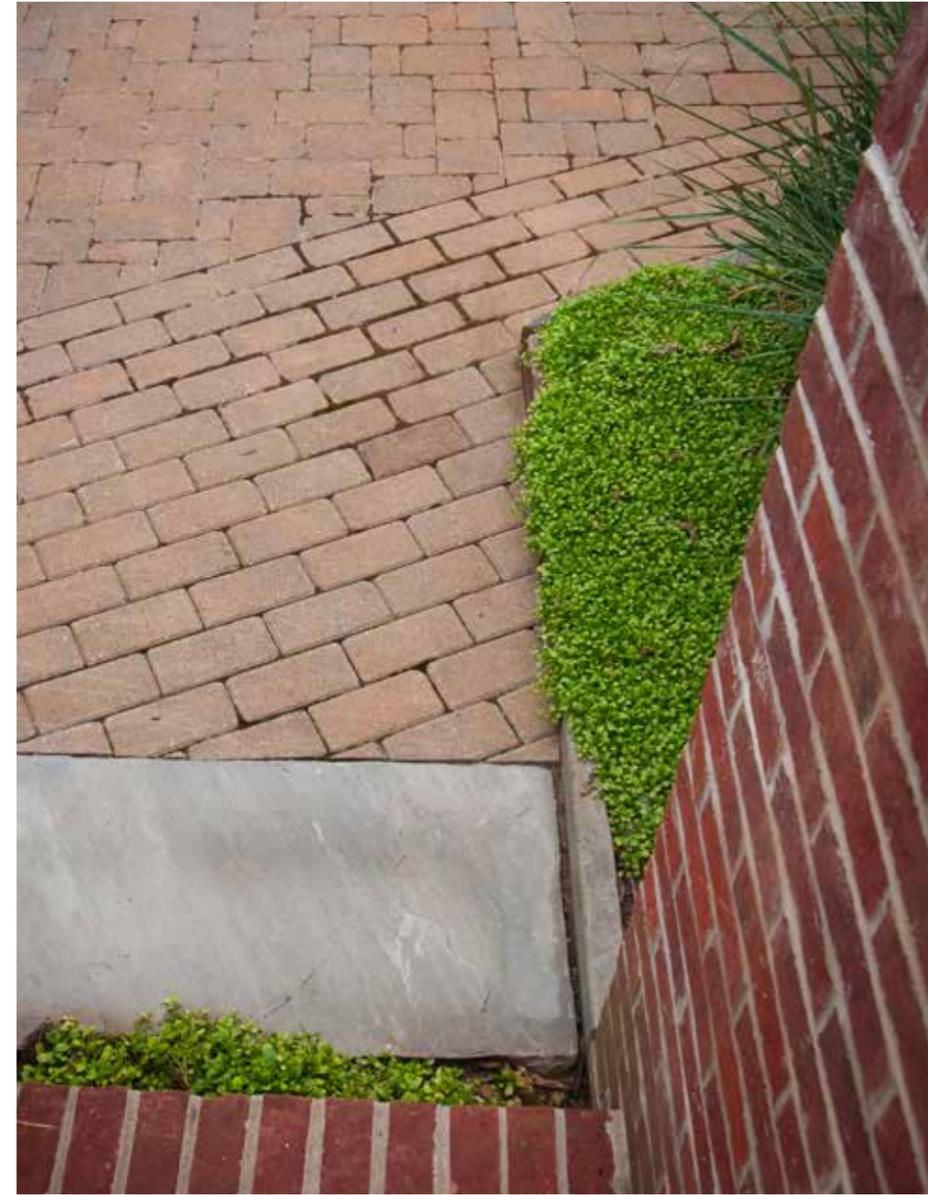




2012 Myers Park Retreat

Groundworks studio has worked on this Arts and Crafts residence in historic Myers Park over many years, developing a master plan, and subsequent implementation projects. The garden contributes to the rhythm of the streetscape with a tapestry of euphorbias, ferns, and heucheras anchored with palms. An angled stepping stone side garden path slices through a sculptural wood bench, and into the casual backyard. Nest chairs offer a welcoming gathering space within the four season garden. The driveway of paver bands planted with steppable groundcover leads one downhill to the garage, where a rain garden of native plants absorbs the stormwater from roof draining the driveway, and the backyard. The kitchen garden abounds with colorful drought-tolerant, and edible plants. Collaborators: Architecture Matters and Reaching Quiet.

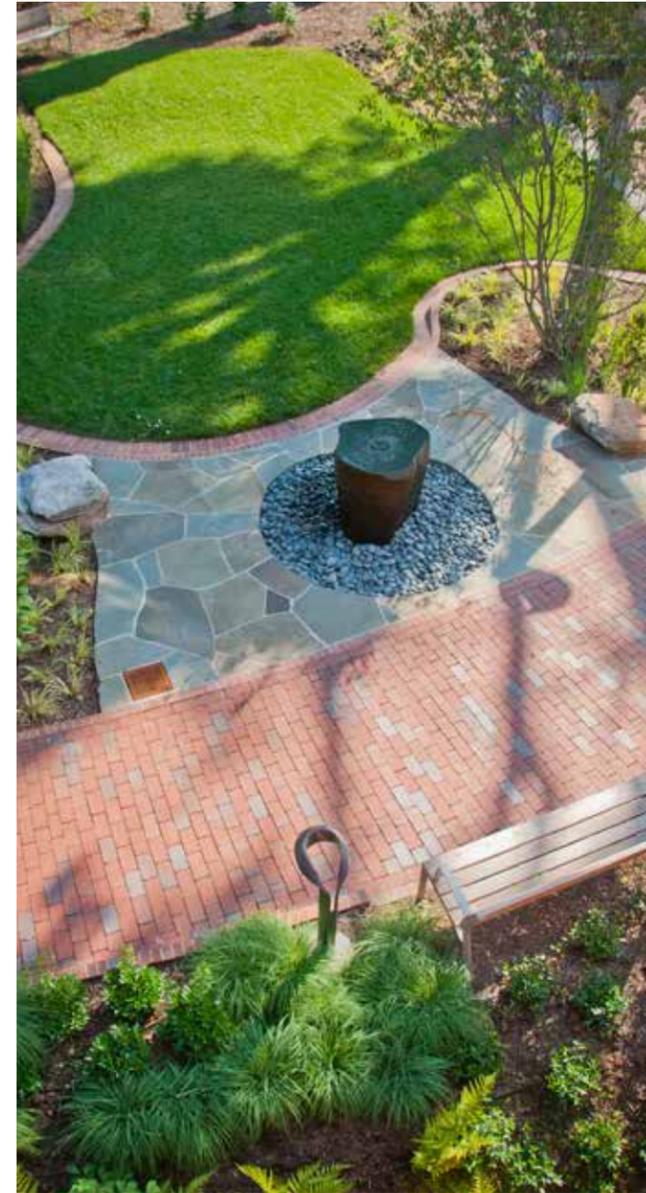


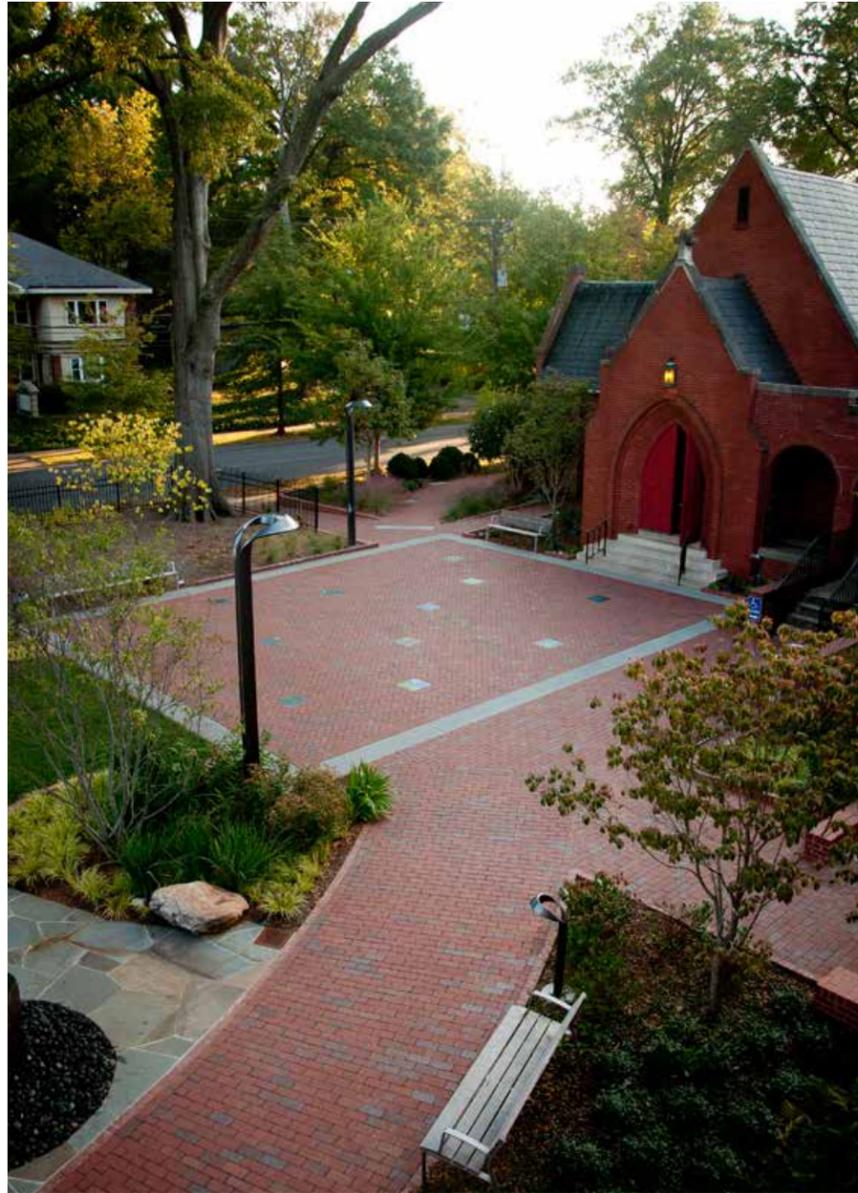


2013 St. Martin's Episcopal Church Fellowship Courtyard

2013 Sustainability Award Finalist from NCUSGBC
2013 Historic Charlotte Preservation Award

The Fellowship Courtyard at St. Martin's Episcopal Church on 7th Street in Elizabeth has transformed a deteriorated courtyard into a vibrant outdoor cathedral for contemplation and celebration. Textured pathways lead visitors on a spiritual journey through dynamic sacred spaces infused with symbolism. The project was featured on the 2014 Mint Museum of Art and Elizabeth Home and Garden Tours. Landscape Architect and Prime Consultant: groundworks studio. Architect: Wayne Camas. Civil and Structural Engineer: Bulla Smith Design Engineering. Electrical Engineer: Haas & Kennedy Engineers, P.A. Contractor: TG&R Landscape Group. Glass Artist: Alex Bernstein.





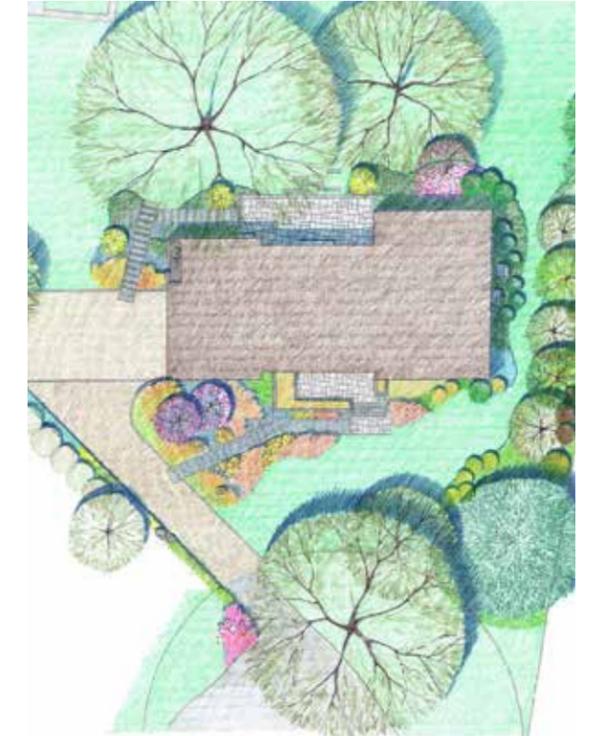
Rain Gardens

The project includes five rain gardens, two along 7th Street, and three within the courtyard. The existing church parking lot along the busy 7th Street thoroughfare was an expanse of asphalt sloping toward the street with no buffer and no stormwater infrastructure within the street. The parking spaces closest to the street were removed to create linear rain gardens along the sidewalk. In conjunction with the rain gardens, a back-up drainage system was installed to infiltrate the stormwater from the parking lot, cleanse the water and reduce flow into the city stormwater system. The project received a Mecklenburg Soil & Water Conservation Urban Cost Share Grant.



2013 Rose Garden

The integrated landscape design of the Rose Garden was inspired by the signature patterning of this mid-century modern residence. Extending the lines of the architecture into the garden provides a geometric framework to the landscape. The colors and textures of the plants create balance as they soften and anchor the architectural features of the residence. The sculptural boulders recall the agrarian history of the area. The residence was featured on the 2013 Mid-Century Modern Home Tour.





2014 Reid Park Art

The artworks celebrate the rich cultural history and natural setting of Reid Park. The artworks are separate pieces but are conceived as a "family". Origins is a portal to the future and window to the past. Origins honors the pioneers of the neighborhood who were instrumental in its founding: Amay James and Ross Reid. Inscribed concrete "doors", attached to vertical boulders within swaths of meadow grasses form the main entrance to the park. Community Spring is comprised of three boulders with an undulating textured concrete seat with patterning of water, student art works, and hexagon patterning referencing historic quilts made by long term residents. This work is intended to be a new community gathering place, recalling the canning, quilting and water gathering of the past. Life is a piece that was inspired by the okra plant found within early residents' gardens. Stylized cross sections of the architectural okra are attached to a boulder as seats. Project in collaboration with Shaun Cassidy and Lauren Doran. Project sponsored by the Arts & Science Council and Mecklenburg County.





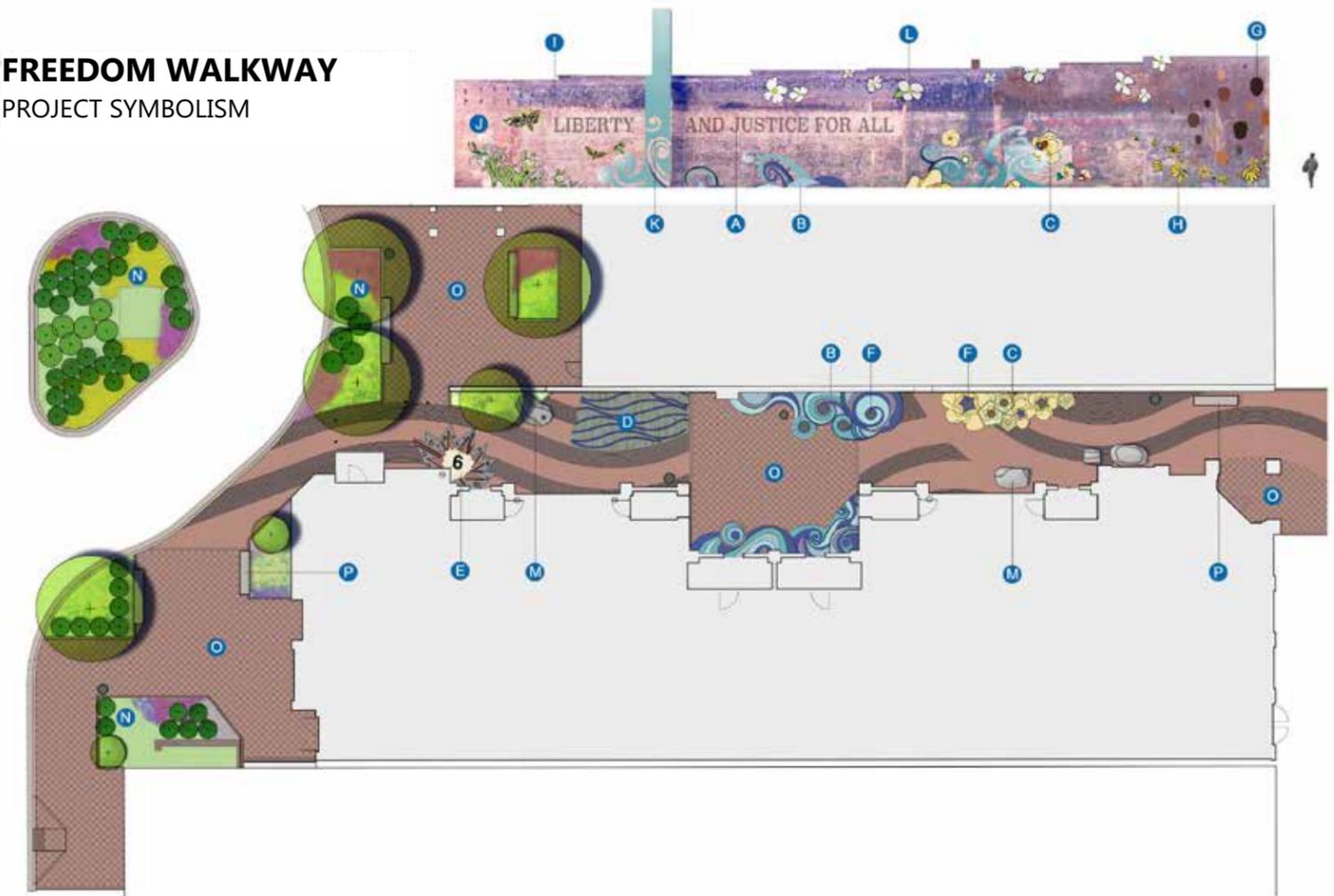


2016 Freedom Walkway

2017 ASLA Southeast Region Merit Design Award
 2017 National League of Cities, Cultural Diversity Award

This public art project is located near the site of sit-in lunch counter protests of the 1960's on Main Street, Rock Hill, SC. The walkway is contemporary with historical and natural references. The overall design of the walkway references the open book, and flowing river of the Catawba. Ideas of hope, freedom, change, turbulence, obstacles, and friendship are integrated within the walkway. The civil rights slogan "Liberty and Justice For All" is marked on the adjacent historical brick wall. Blooms of the native dogwood, and locally rare spider lilies, and sunflowers are softly painted on the wall, and represented within the mosaic tile. Heads of humanity at the Main Street end symbolizes the diverse coalition of people making positive change during the civil rights movement to the present day. Artists: Laurel Holtzapple and Juan Logan. Landscape Architect and Prime Consultant: groundworks studio. Civil and Structural Engineer: Kimley-Horn. Lighting Design and Electrical Engineer: Elm Engineering. Contractor: Concorde Construction. Mosaics: Carrie Gault. Mural: Sharon Dowell.

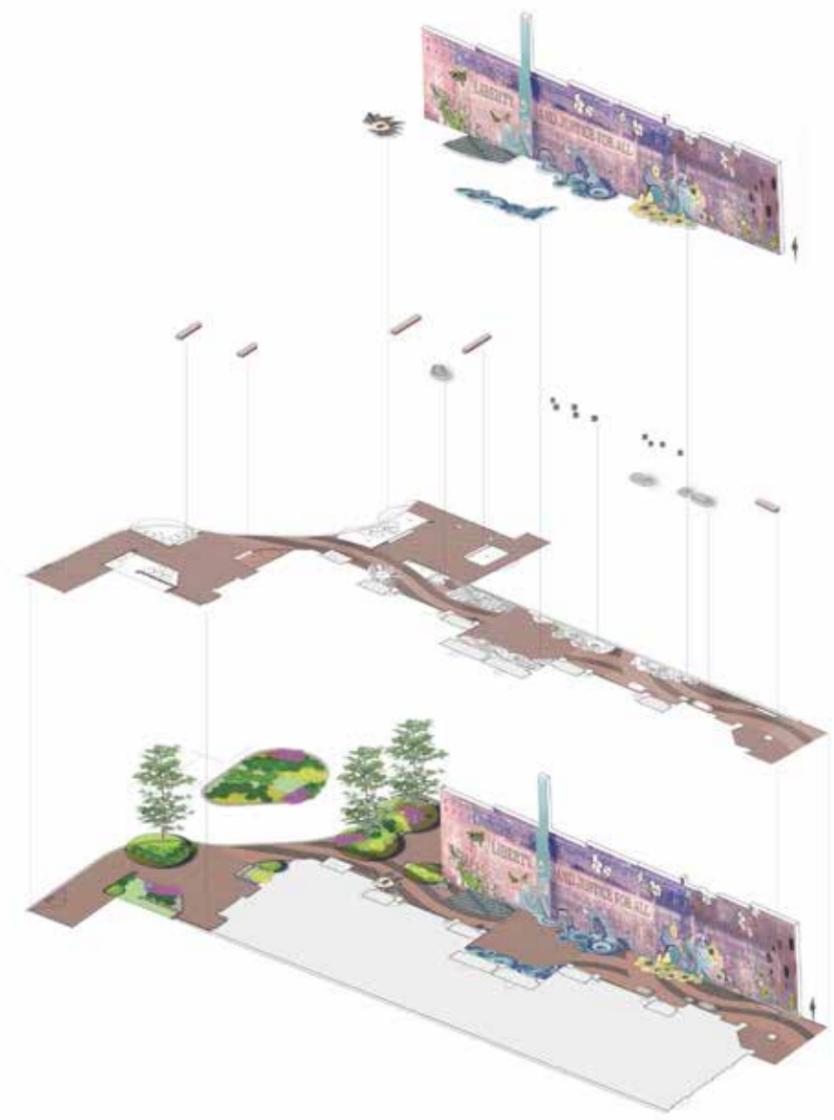
FREEDOM WALKWAY PROJECT SYMBOLISM



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| A LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL | E FRIENDSHIP 9 MOSAIC | I BRICK WALL | M OBSTACLES |
| B TURBULENCE | F 9 STOOLS | J SPIDER LILIES AND SPHINX MOTHS | N PLANTS |
| C OKRA | G HEADS OF HUMANITY | K THE BEACON | O BASKETWEAVE |
| D TEXTILE MOSAIC | H SCHWEINITZ SUNFLOWERS | L DOGWOODS FLOWERS | P SEATWALLS |





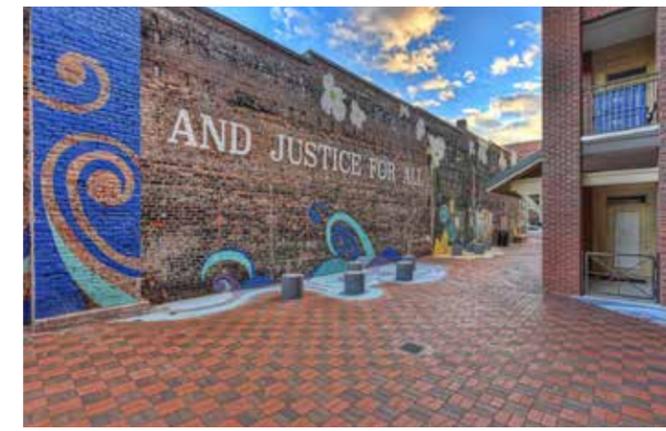
MOSAICS AND BRICK WALL

SEATWALLS, STOOLS AND BOULDERS

BRICK PAVING

AXONOMETRIC







2018 Snider Residence

This dramatically sloping backyard on Mountain Island Lake has been actively eroding and is difficult to navigate. The landscape design proposes devices to break down the energy of the stormwater, and infiltrate water on site. The garden path frames vistas to the lake, links new garden spaces, and intersects with unique site features inspiring each journey into the garden.



2019 Imagine Park

Named after John Lennon's song Imagine, this park in south Charlotte is a place of sanctuary and imagination for a pediatric dentist's patients, staff, and community. The park contains simple elements celebrating nature, connecting buildings to the landscape, encouraging creative collaborations, and inspiring the imagination. The woods, edge ecologies, hillocks, creek, and sloping landscapes invite refreshing adventure. A natural play area in the Great Bowl encourages imaginative play and challenge. Art pavilions provoke reflection through architectural form, lyrics, and natural processes. Imagine Park reinvents the medical office model. Collaborators: Randy Hester, Robert Johnson Architects, Ben Premeaux, and Isaacs Group.

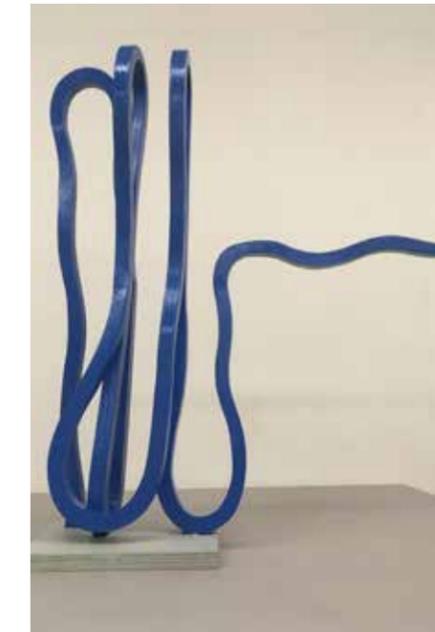
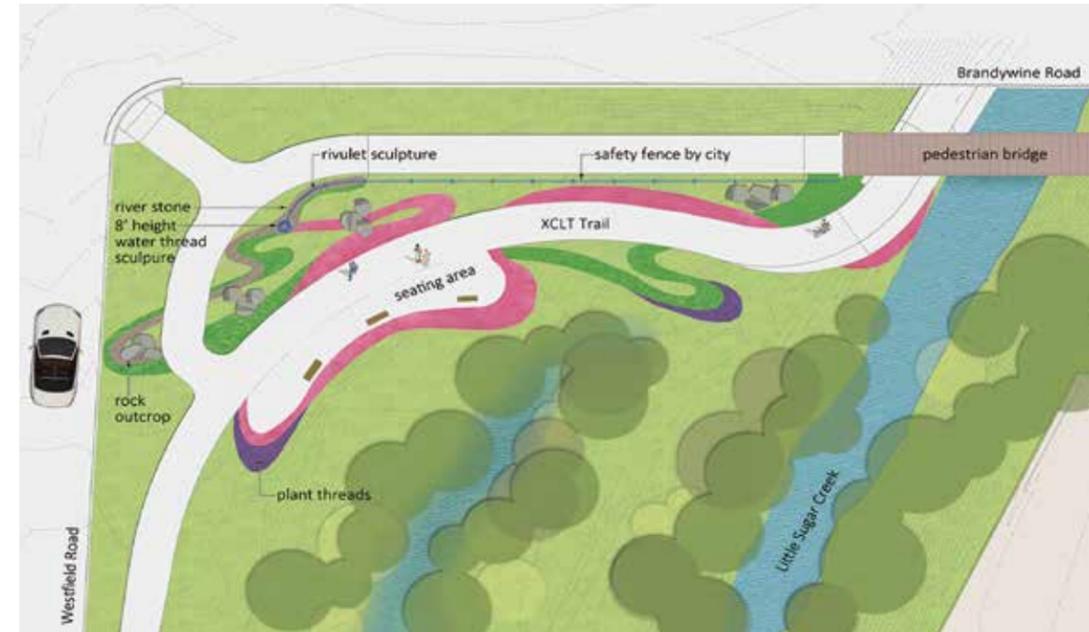


PARK MASTER PLAN



JANUARY 17, 2018

2020 XCLT Trail: RIVULET at the Brandywine Plaza



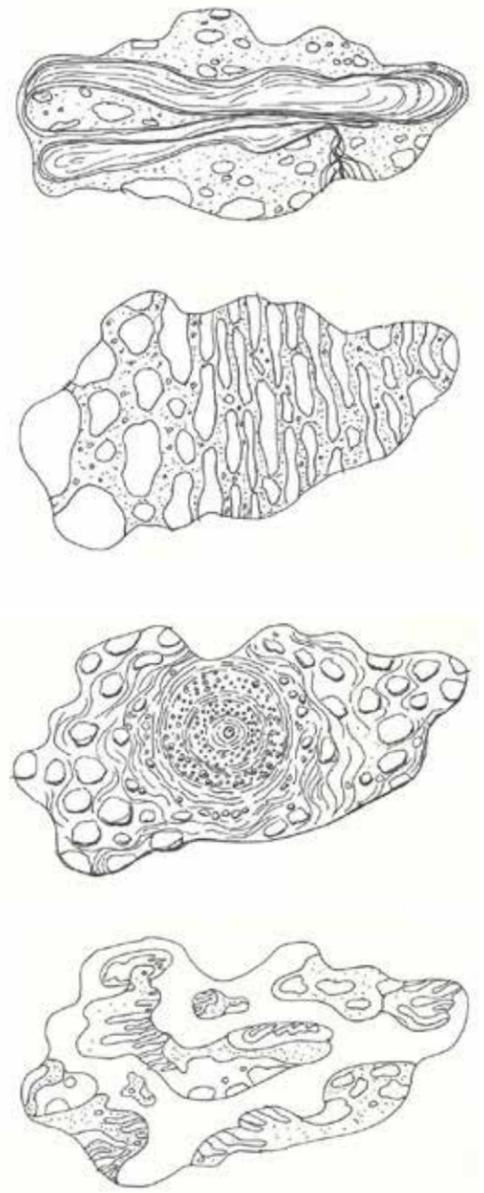
Located along the edge of Brandywine Road behind the Park Road Shopping Center, RIVULET is one of the first public art projects along the XCLT Trail. The XCLT Trail will eventually connect UNCC to Pineville. Inspired by the rivulets and creeks of the area, RIVULET flows and gathers into a large thread of water made of steel. Threads of plants originate at the sculpture and weave throughout the site, setting the stage for a dramatic visual experience. Project in collaboration with Shaun Cassidy and sponsored by the Arts & Science Council and the City of Charlotte.



2020 XCLT Trail: SYCAMORE at the Selwyn Trailhead

The American sycamore is the grand tree of the floodplains throughout the Southeast, including the Little Sugar Creek. The sycamore is an active exfoliator of bark. Bark and leaves from the sycamore can be seen floating down creeks. The inspiration for SYCAMORE came from this natural process. Three concrete textured seats in puzzle pieces stylized from the sycamore offer a seating area at the Selwyn Trailhead, leading down to the XCLT Trail. The seats are set within an exposed aggregate plaza and wrapped in a Piedmont prairie of native grasses and wildflowers. Project in collaboration with Shaun Cassidy and sponsored by the Arts & Science Council and the City of Charlotte.







groundworks STUDIO

2304 Belvedere Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28205
704.375.2785
groundworksstudio.com