
ALLEN COMPTON

*Licensed landscape architect &
award-winning designer*

“ *Landscape architects don't make things, ”
they create spaces.* ”

A Quick Introduction

Allen Compton is a licensed landscape architect and an award-winning designer who graduated with an MFA from our very own CalArts! He also holds a Bachelor of Science in physics from Davidson College, and a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona. He's worked for AHBE Landscape Architects, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and has designed various public and private projects from streetscapes to public parks, college campuses to urban housing, and urban design guidelines to master plans for private, commercial, and institutional clients. He founded his own company, SALT Landscape Architects, a Los Angeles based studio, hoping to create enduring, engaging, and innovative landscapes that express the unique qualities of each location that respond to human needs and connect people to their environment. We're actually greeted by the famed piece of CalArts architecture and landscape design every morning as we drive into school... our iconic Wild Beast Wild Beast Gardens that holds our Wild Beast Amphitheatre!

It seems that what makes Allen unique from other architects is that he and his studio, SALT, let the environment dictate the outcome of the design. He and his team carefully study the landscape and its environmental conditions such as microclimates, soil, topography, wind, and sun patterns, as well as the interaction of people within the space, to help inform the final product. Allen teaches us through his practice that architecture and landscape design isn't just about creating beautiful spaces, but having the design be functional, engaging, evolving, and ecologically sensitive.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Featured are just a few of the projects we discussed in class



Wild Beast Gardens at CalArts

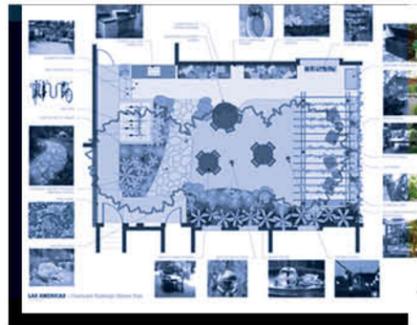
Landscape reflects the Wild Beast amphitheatre's arched roof of the building and defines a distinct outdoor venue for school.

Native plant garden requires very little water and utilizes drip irrigation system.



Manjooran Residence Play House

Child's Ship Playhouse
Ropes were hand-knotted



Skid Row Housing Trust

Redesign dilapidated courtyard at the Las Americas property at 6th St and Alameda St in downtown LA.

These residents were financially poor and their living spaces are small. The courtyard would give a sense of community and belonging.

Developed custom interactive workshop materials, organized, and ran collaborative design sessions with residents to develop master plan for the courtyard.

Pictures of objects posted on the wall; residents put stickers on the items they felt was needed most.

Final plans include: vegetable planters, a bike rack, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, pergola, and casual seating.

Northstar Condos

Work for the homeowners' association of this Marina Del Rey condominium.

Landscape reflects simple lines of their updated building.

Offer some sense of privacy from the adjacent public walkway.

The narrow garden provides privacy with the ipe wood fence and is has a range of succulents, granite boulders, and a few new trees that provide some enclosure and screening for the upper floors.



IN PROGRESS PROJECTS

Featured are just a few of the projects we discussed in class



Green Alleyways

Collaborative Project

Vision to rework many alleyways in Southwest Los Angeles that are very neglected and underutilized.

Create shared space for pedestrians, bikers, cars.

Create a sense of Community Identity

With cooperation with the CRA and the City of Los Angeles' interdepartmental Green Streets Committee, SALT will be developing plans that incorporate storm water infiltration, wayfinding signage, and dynamic paving strategies.



Trust for Public Land

Acquire lands in rural settings, take them out of private development pool, and give to the city so it cannot be developed.

Helped raise over \$12 million in public and private funds to purchase hills adjacent to the Hollywood sign, known as Cahuena Peak, and have this land annexed to Griffith Park.

Design donor monument signs and trailhead enhancements.

FANTASY PROJECT

I loved that Allen was exploring possibilities of integrating typography as a part of the landscape design for the "Green Alleyways" Project. Although that idea fell through because the residents in the area mostly spoke Spanish and having typography in English around the neighborhood would have disrupted their community identity, I would love to do a similar project. I loved the samples he showed of integrating type into physical objects in space, such as the tile work of the floor to inform and create visually interesting typographic patterns.

After listening to that presentation, I walked out to the hallways of CalArts and realized that our school lacked any communicative signs to help people find their ways through our maze-like campus. I think it'd be really exciting to design

a functional, communicative and aesthetically interesting signage across campus that look designed and is informative. It'd be interesting to see the signages be integrated with the architecture of the school; for instance, instead of having plaques of labels, have the labels be embedded with a different material on the walls or the floor, have patterns that help lead your way to a specific room, etc. As a school with an awesome graphic design program, I think it's time we show good design around campus (and get rid of the horribly set type and horribly kerned sign of California Institute of the Arts in the front of our school) that plays tribute to our written language and show off the formal constructions and designs of typography.