background

“It is critical that (we) create high performance landscapes – landscapes that can perform many functions at once. They must provide cleaner air, a cooler environment and sinks for stormwater, in addition to more opportunities for healthy activities including more extensive walking and biking.”

- excerpt from High Performance Landscape Guidelines, 21st Century Parks for NYC.

Through the first projects, you should have become more familiar with the Cal Poly campus as well as broadened your approach to with the inclusion of landscape performance. For our design project, we will remain working on campus and envision future high performance landscapes for the Cal Poly community.

The design work for the quarter will start as individual projects. You have an option for the final submittal to complete an individual project or to develop a collective group project (groups of no larger than three). This choice is entirely up to you. The design project will move from site selection, to design proposals, to refinement, to calculation of benefits to packaging. We will use the EPA’s Campus RainWorks Challenge as a framework for the final submittal – everyone must know the particulars of the competition. You are to connect readings and work to date with seminar presentations, technical studies, campus sites, guest presentations, individual research, competition guidelines and past design work. You will be expected to experiment and test new ideas, research and investigate new practices, and define and articulate a compelling finished product / competition entry. For this project, work to be specific and to articulate the complexity of your design ideas through words, plans, perspectives, sections, calculations and supporting graphics.

Milestones and production requirements are provided in order to guide the development of your work. We will embark on a ‘design thrill-cam,’ looking and proposing at a variety of scales and resolutions. This ride is intentional and intended to avoid a linear progression from large to small to detailed – rather we will start at the middle (the site), then zoom in to work at a detail scale, then zoom out to connect to the site context. All work must have a component of performance and goals for increasing the ecological and social benefits through the inclusion of ecosystem services, landscape infrastructure and other improvements in the design process. You are encouraged to consult with your peers inside and outside of class and incorporate an interdisciplinary perspective to your project.
For the next week+ you will propose a site and project that meets the competition guidelines of providing “multiple environmental, educational, and economic objectives” (aka a high-performing campus landscape). Your site can be at any scale and size, but must meet the following criteria:

- Has potential for improvement – or – in the context of our recent project work and discussions, the site should currently be under-performing and have opportunities for significantly improved performance.
- Has potential to be of interest to the campus community
- Could serve as a unique exploration, demonstration or education site (or sites).
- Has potential to support aspects of landscape performance through additional ecological (clean water, air, provide cooling, sequester carbon, etc.) and social benefits (use, accessibility, education, etc).
- Has potential to connect to other spaces/places to create a network of functional, multi-purpose sites.
- Has potential to serve as a CSU, public university and LAF case study landscape performance project.
- and when designed, will function as a stand-alone landscape project and does not rely on the design of a new building. Projects can interact, adapt or co-opt any existing structure.

The following ambitious deadlines and deliverables are to be used guide your work and to help you come prepared for desk crits and class interaction:

**Friday, October 14th**
Diagram or graphic that supports your site selection. Diagram, calculation or ‘claim’ that supports the current performance levels of your site (note – this diagram does not need to be site plan scale)
Scalable printed site plan. Scalable printed plan of your site in the context of Cal Poly’s master plan.

**Monday, October 17th**
Refined site support diagram. Conceptual design ideas in plan. Work on trace or similar medium to show proposed conditions over existing conditions.

**Wednesday, October 19th**
Refined conceptual design idea (next iteration). Design idea framed in the context of the masterplan (how does your site fit into the master plan?)

**Friday, October 21st**
Refined conceptual design idea (next iteration). Preliminary statement of performance goals or targets.
Support Drawings.

**Monday, October 24th**
Material due for pinup discussion:
- Initial and Refined Site Selection Diagram (2 versions)
- Conceptual Design Ideas (3 versions)
- Design Idea framed with masterplan
- Preliminary Performance Goals or Targets.
- Support Drawings

**Project goals**

1. to ferret out the BEST possible ideas for additional study, refinement and collaboration.
2. to test performance goals/targets in the early stages of the design process and as a starting point for a design problem.
3. to integrate aspects of theory, as discussed in seminar, and apply ideas from precedent case studies, as utilized in the technical module, into studio design projects.
For these next three weeks, you will refine your work to date to advance into the competition. Your work should build complexity in theory, performance and related issues (representation, technical solutions, etc.). Keep in mind readings, Polylearn references, seminar discussions and references, review feedback, desk crits and invited presentations. You are expected to experiment and test new ideas, research and investigate new practices, and define and articulate a compelling competition entry. In this phase, work to be specific and to articulate the complexity of your design ideas through words, plans, perspectives, sections and supporting graphics. Rely on analytical methods in making design decisions and quantifying the benefits of your design to make the case for your work.

Deliverables will be required every class period for review and/or check in with the instructor. This is to avoid the ‘I am thinking of…’ conversations from the last few weeks and get to ‘This is what I have currently explored.’ Work is required outside of class in preparation for in-class discussions.

This phase of work will culminate in a ‘formal review’ with invited guests of well developed proposals on November 18th.

deliverables

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- Seminar Discussion
- Refined Design Plan (please work to a scale that will fit on an 18”x24” piece of paper)
- Preliminary Water Collection / Watershed Diagram
- Preliminary/Refined area calculations of baseline conditions
- Review and written/graphic summary of competition requirements/deliverables
**deliverables (cont.)**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7**
- Field Trip – Paso Robles and Atascadero (7:30am – 12pm. Arrive in SLO by 12noon)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**
- Existing Conditions Plan(s) with contours of demonstration area(s).
- Refined Demonstration Concept Plan(s)
- Research on appropriate technologies
- Preliminary Performance Details / System drawings

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (VETERAN’S DAY)**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14**
- Key Site Analysis, Context, Opportunities and Constraints Information
- Existing Conditions Plan(s) with contours
- Refined Demonstration Concept Plan(s)
- Preliminary Project Sections
- Refined Performance Goals, Preliminary Performance Assessment (how well is your project doing?)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**
- Refined Demonstration Concept Plan(s)
- Finalized Project Sections
- Refined Performance Details / System drawings

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**
(All work for this project, beginning to end for review and presentation). New work should take center stage, process work should be represented. Work does not need to be ‘complete’ or ‘formatted,’ however, work should communicate to professionals.
- Key Site Analysis, Opportunities and Constraints Diagram including context.
- Existing Conditions Plan with contours (no larger than 1/16” scale)
- Finalized Demonstration Concept Plan with contours (no larger than 1/16” scale)
- Water Collection / Watershed Diagram
- Key Project Sections (may be combined with diagram above)
- Refined Assessment of Landscape Performance benefits
- Preliminary Landscape Framework Plan / Diagram (your design project in the context of the larger campus landscape)
- Preliminary Perspectives (x2)

**project goals**

1. to build on experimentation and iteration within a design project
2. to understand, quantify and utilize aspects of landscape performance within the design process.
3. to use quantified performance benefits to make the case for your design ideas.
4. to frame your design ideas within the context of theories of landscape infrastructure, ecological urbanism, sustainability - aesthetics - function and eco-literacy.
5. to enter a competition with the intent of winning.
**Project Submission**

For these next two weeks, you will refine your design project and concentrate on creating a cohesive written and graphic presentation for the final review on Friday, December 9th. Much of your work has been competed – much more remains. Use the work posted in studio, EPA’s Campus Rainworks Challenge documents and other resources as guidelines for developing your work.

**Deliverables**

You are responsible for crafting a compelling presentation that includes the following deliverables:

- Existing Conditions Plan and Location Plan
- Key Site Analysis, Opportunities and Constraints Diagram including context.
- Finalized Plan with contours, elevations and appropriate notes
- Key Project Sections
- Illustrative Drawings as necessary to communicate the experience of the places you have created
- Your final design in context of the campus landscape currently and in the context of the masterplan.
- Graphic Display of Landscape Performance Benefits (include current and proposed)
- Support Drawings (details, system diagrams, material palettes, plan diagrams – how your project works, before and after diagrams, precedent studies, infographics, watershed / water collection diagram)

- Written Narrative (a minimum of five pages that cover an introduction to the project, the project site, the project design, any applicable theories and/or references to seminar readings, landscape performance data, etc. Refer to the ‘Presentation Structure’ document handed out a few weeks ago for additional possibilities and direction in crafting this narrative).
**deliverables**

A maximum of THREE design boards may be utilized. Board Dimensions are considered to be 24”x26” to match the EPA’s Campus Rainworks Challenge submittal information. All boards may be presented as individual panels or continuous (this is the suggested format) display. Horizontal or Vertical format should be decided with the instructor.

The written narrative may be in 8.5”x11” or 11”x17” format and must include a cover sheet and any references used.

All work is due for review at 9am on Friday December 9th in the 2nd year hallway. Printed presentations are due by 9am for review, electronic files are due on Polylearn by 5pm on Friday December 9th.