

## **Hafley House Landscape**

**5561 La Pasada Street, Long Beach, California**

**Purpose:** The project creates a new landscape setting for a Richard Neutra designed home in Long Beach. The goals of the project were to research the history of the landscape and develop appropriate recommendations for preservation and improvement; to emphasize the unique relationship between the Hafley house and its adjacent Neutra-designed sibling; to design new hardscape that facilitates outdoor use and integrates with the original hardscape; and to develop a drought tolerant and low maintenance landscape palette that provides a new paradigm for a neighborhood dominated by large areas of turf.

**Role of the Landscape Architect:** The Landscape Architect researched the history of the landscape, identified historic hardscape to be preserved, and created plans for new hardscape and drought tolerant planting that make the landscape appropriate for current environmental conditions.

The research process included study of plans and photographs to determine whether the landscape contained original design elements to be preserved. The concrete walkway that leads to the front doors of both houses is original and was preserved, as was a small area of original concrete paving extending from the Hafley House living room into the garden.

A review of correspondence between the original owners and Neutra indicates that they ran out of money before completing the landscape and had to rely on very general written instruction from Neutra to landscape their home.

After the research phase, the Landscape Architect worked with the owners of both homes to develop a coordinated landscape for the front gardens. Design services provided for the Hafley House included hardscape, planting, and lighting.

**Significance:** The house and its neighbor are part of a notable body of work by Richard Neutra, who practiced in the Los Angeles region from 1925 to 1969. The new landscape makes the garden more useful for entertaining, and provides an example of drought tolerant landscape that is both beautiful and sustainable.

**Special factors:** With the Moore and Hafley Houses, Neutra proved that one architectural treatment could be applied to more than one site, despite close proximity and different ownership. For this preservation, the Landscape Architect continued in a similar vein by developing a harmonious landscape that underscores the unique relationship of the two houses.