

Project Identity and Location:

Shores

4201 Via Marina

Marina Del Rey, California 90292

Image Summary:



1. Shores is a large multi-family project with over 500 units. The challenge for the landscape architect was to transform this development from a large housing project into a neighborhood, where each resident feels a sense of belonging. This was accomplished by creating a series of spaces or outdoor rooms, filled with amenities that offer each resident a feeling as though they have their own private garden or park.



2. To emphasize and reinforce this connection to the marina and ocean, the project employs a strong nautical theme. Large spinnaker shaped stair towers rise up above the wave park in the central courtyard. Conceptually the park is designed to mimic the rhythmic pattern of rolling waves, and tidal ebb and flow. The park is defined by a series of low rounding walls and mounding turf panels. Opposing diagonal walks and colorful planting bands, which serve as bioswales for storm water treatment, divide the park into rooms for reflection and observation.



3. A strong geometry of interconnecting pathways creates an overall space that is more than the sum of its parts. Something as beautiful to gaze down upon from the units above, as it is to stroll through.



4. The project sits adjacent to Mother's Beach in Marina Del Rey, ironically the most polluted beach in the area. The storm water treatment train employed within the courtyard conveys storm water through a series of bioswales and flow through planters. The majority of the storm water is encouraged to percolate through the sandy site soil, where it helps recharge groundwater. The water that leaves the site is filtered through natural biological means to help improve water quality in the marina.



5. The project facilitates a more active and engaged lifestyle within the framework of the landscape and larger natural environment. Equally as importantly, the project is exemplary in that it employed construction practices that are environmentally sensitive.



6. Working with the project team and owner, the landscape architect developed a list of residential amenities crucial to creating a sense of individual ownership, all the while fostering a sense of community and neighborhood.



7. Smaller, more active social spaces designed for bocce, barbequing, sunbathing and swimming form the outer edges of the courtyard and are adjacent to the more passive and serene central wave garden. As a whole the courtyard provides each resident with opportunities for either social engagement or solitude. The project creates a robust relationship between outdoor living and environmental stewardship. It helps define the importance of designed common space within the residential complex by creating an emphasis on allowing the residents to interact and form a sense of community.



8. The central court is massive in comparison to typical residential complexes at over 2 acres in size. Within this, the space is divided into outdoor rooms, which are more useable and human scaled. The largest of these rooms is the outdoor covered lobby space. Designed as the main social hub of the project this space has a direct relationship with the adjacent community room for classic Southern California indoor/outdoor living.



9. As a whole the courtyard provides each resident with opportunities for either social engagement or solitude. Its strong geometry of interconnecting pathways creates an overall space that is more than the sum of its parts. Something as beautiful to gaze down upon from the units above, as it is to stroll through.



10. site plan