

SCCASLA 2016 QUALITY OF LIFE DESIGN AWARDS SUBMISSION: Ruth Shellhorn
Communication Category: Publications on landscape architectural history

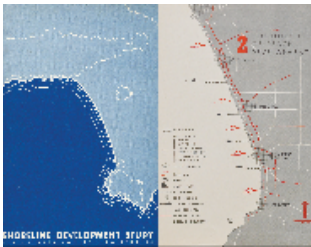
IMAGE SUMMARY

1. Ruth Shellhorn Book Cover



The north entrance to Bullock’s Fashion Square Santa Ana in 1967 depicts the postwar leisure activity of shopping, with Shellhorn’s lush, “Southern California look” of bold, glossy-leaved planting textures, including an espaliered vine on wall, and sculpted trees of *Psidium cattleianum* and *Acer palmatum* in foreground planter. Photograph courtesy of the author.

2. Shoreline Development Study (1944)



Shellhorn helped create a regional landscape restoration and recreation plan for an eleven-mile stretch of coast in Los Angeles County. The plan included Shellhorn’s park designs in Manhattan Beach, Torrance, a regional park for Redondo Beach/Hermosa Beach, recommended restrictions on oil drilling in Santa Monica Bay, and presaged implementation of the 1976 California Coastal Act.

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IMAGE SUMMARY continued

3. Bullock's Pasadena (1945-1980)



Shellhorn's landscape design for Bullock's Pasadena transformed architect Welton Becket's site plan into a park like oasis with finely calibrated textures of sub-tropical plant material that introduced the "Southern California look." The development was "a bellwether," the first of its genre in the region to significantly acknowledge the automobile in its site design. Photograph courtesy of the author.

4. Prudential Insurance, Western Home Office (1947-1957)



Shellhorn collaborated with Becket to shape the outdoor space, create courtyards, emphasize the relationship between indoors and outdoors, and continue experimenting with a variety of planting compositions. Shellhorn's trademark trio of palm trees locates the front entrance. Photograph by Douglas M. Simmonds, courtesy of the author.

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IMAGE SUMMARY continued

5. Disneyland – Pedestrian Plan, and Design Details for Plaza Hub, Main Street and Town Square (1955)



Shellhorn played a major role in developing a comprehensive pedestrian plan for the entire park. Walt Disney and Ruth Shellhorn at Western Train Station (*top*); the tower in background was used to film construction and was removed after opening day. The otherwise all-male elite design team for Disneyland included (*left to right*) Harper Goff, Bill Evans, Dick Irvine, Walt Disney, Ruth Shellhorn, and Joe Fowler (*bottom*).

Photographs courtesy of the author and Ruth Shellhorn Papers, UCLA Library Special Collections.

6. Disneyland – Tree Planting Plan for Plaza Hub Area (1955)



Shellhorn defined and refined hardscape and planting plans for the front entrance, Town Square, Main Street and Plaza Hub gardens, helped lay out watercourses and grading for the moat around Sleeping Beauty Castle, and worked with Jack and Bill Evans on tree plantings throughout Disneyland.

Plan courtesy of Ruth Shellhorn Papers, UCLA Library Special Collections.

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IMAGE SUMMARY continued

7. Los Angeles Times Woman of the Year, 1955



Shellhorn credited the success of her prolific, single-professional practice to her husband, Harry Kueser, who quit his job as a bank manager in 1944 to help run her landscape architectural practice; he also learned to draft construction details and took Spanish to better work with construction crews.

Photograph courtesy of Ruth Shellhorn Papers, UCLA Library Special Collections.

8. University of California, Riverside (1956-1964)



Shellhorn believed the existing landscape should dictate the design. A native Californian who hiked and camped frequently, she had a devout respect for the natural characteristics of the state's multiple ecologies. She preserved the existing arroyos with bridges (*right*) that avoided filling the canyons in her 1964 Master Landscape Plan for UC Riverside (*left*).

Plan courtesy of Ruth Shellhorn Papers, UCLA Library Special Collections. Photograph courtesy of Ruth Taylor Kilday.

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IMAGE SUMMARY continued

9. Bullock's Fashion Square Shopping Centers (1956-1980)



Each turn of direction or set of steps presented Shellhorn an opportunity to compose a picture, classically balanced with a hierarchical and discernable foreground, middle ground and background – a modern expression of traditional principles using planting textures (*Fashion Square Santa Ana, left*), and her precisely supervised pruning that brought out the contorted branching structure of a pepper tree, a fresh take on the ancient art of bonsai (*Fashion Square Sherman Oaks, right*).

Photographs courtesy of the author and Robert M. Fletcher.

10. Hixon Garden (1975-1990)



With architect A. Quincy Jones, Shellhorn created a dramatic garden for the owners' collection of sculptural art, collected in Africa and the South Pacific. Daring compositions of succulents and subtropical plants were combined with boulders, river rocks, and gravel to evoke the aquatic culture of the Pacific Islands, and took full advantage of Jones' transparent boundaries between house and garden.

Photograph courtesy of the author.