

Senior Project

HCS 462

Yuma, AZ Farmstand

Introduction:

This project was introduced to us by the Tanimura and Antle Corporation along with their group of community planners. Tanimura and Antle is an international farming company growing across the United States, all the way to regions in South America. They are based out of Salinas, California and grow a variety of vegetables such as, specialty lettuce and red onions.

Rick Antle, president of Tanimura and Antle , introduced to us a large scale community project in Yuma, Arizona called Laurel Community. A large part of this community has to do with social sustainability and the idea of protecting agriculture lands, water conservation and reduced energy consumption. Laurel will involve a mixed use traditional neighborhood style development. There are about 1,169 homes, involving single family detached, attached, condos, courtyard homes and shopkeeper units. The styles of architecture include Spanish revival, Spanish provincial, and a blend of other styles that are also seen in the historic neighborhoods in Yuma. Our involvement with them was to design a farm stand and the farmstead area surrounding it for this community.

Materials and Methods:

The project started out with a group phone conversation with Rick Antle, our senior project advisor Jeffrey Gordon Smith, and group members Dana Curtice and Terje Johansen. We received the Laurel Community book, which had the design stages of development. The book contained plan view layouts of the community, street drawings and dimensions, housing layouts and styles, and plant material lists of possible plants that could be used throughout the community. Before our actual meeting with Rick Antle and the urban planners, as a group we put together a power point presentation of proposed ideas to show (refer to appendix). For this presentation we researched Yuma for demographics and climate. Included in our research were plants that we were interested in using for our design such as citrus, which is locally grown in Yuma, and other native plants of the area. Another part of our research was ideas for a farm stand that was to be part of our design. The farm stand was to be five hundred square feet and moveable. To carry out the design of this project the combination of Dynascape and AutoCad computer design programs were used. We also used Microsoft Power Point and Microsoft Word.

After our power point presentation was given, Rick and the planners showed us maps of the community and the general area we were to be designing. The actual farm for the community is about 25 acres. The area that we were to be designing is adjacent to this farm. In this area we were to put the 500 square foot farm stand and a large community garden. Our design was also involved around two soccer fields, which would also be used as a water retention area for rain drainage. The farm stand and community garden area was not only for the residences of Laurel, but would also be for visitors who might be passing through the area.

Before our next meeting we were to each create our own rough draft design of the farm stand, community garden and surrounding area of the soccer field. We were emailed a computer file of the whole Laurel Community and from there I created my design which consisted of laying out the community garden and connecting it to the farm stand with a series of paths. Included in my design was a series of different types of trees and shrubs that I had chosen to place throughout the area. Also included in my design was a citrus orchard that was part of the community garden. At the next meeting we went over our designs. We each talked about what we did and reasons why we did so. After that they showed us what we could do to fix up our designs and certain things that we could add for a final draft. We also went over sustainable means of how to bring power to the farmstand. The best idea to accomplish this was the use of wind turbines.

At the final meeting we went over our projects. They explained that they liked our ideas and that they would like to incorporate them into their design process in creating a farm stand for Laurel community. They asked us to send them PDF files of our designs and Rick offered a donation check of \$15,000.00 to the Horticulture department at Cal Poly. This included a letter of recognition for our involvement in his project.

Our first meeting was on March 9th, 2010. This was when we gave our group power point presentation to Rick Antle, Mathew Simis and the urban planners: Keith Mcoy and Ian Gillis. The second meeting, in which we introduced our rough draft designs, was on May 6th 2010. Our final meeting was on June 15th, 2010.

<http://www.laurelyuma.com/>

Analysis:

This was a great experience of what a large scale commercial landscape design project would be like. I think it was a great opportunity of how it would be to work as a landscape designer in the real world. It gave me an idea of how much work and time it takes to work with the president of a company and other people that are involved in projects like this. This experience can be a great aide for my future in landscape design and possibly give me a chance to work in a design firm someday.

Another great part about this project was that my involvement with this group of people helped raise money for Cal Poly. The \$15,000.00 donated went to brand new design computers for our lab. Before we had to fight to use one of the eight computers in the lab to get our design work done, which became very frustrating sometimes. This will be a great help for future Cal Poly Horticulture students and gives them a great place for them to get their work done. It was a joy to be a student here at Cal Poly and have many great experiences to take with me when I leave.

Appendix a

Appendix b