

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

July 20, 2016

Agenda Item No: 14

HDRC CASE NO: 2016-275
COMMON NAME: Mission San Jose Portal - VFW Boulevard at San Antonio River
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 7675 (MISSION COUNTY PARK), LOT 40
ZONING: R6 H RIO-5
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 3
DISTRICT: Mission Historic District
APPLICANT: Stuart Johnson/San Antonio River Foundation
OWNER: San Antonio River Authority
TYPE OF WORK: Mission San Jose Portal - Public Art Installation
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a public art sculpture, CoCobijos, at the Mission San Jose Portal at the intersection of VFW Boulevard and the San Antonio River.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section Division 5. – Public Art San Antonio (PSAS)

The purpose of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) is to support a public process for incorporating artist services and artworks in the design of civic spaces and capital projects and to define the City of San Antonio's policies and guidelines for acquiring and commissioning art of the highest standards which shall enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors of San Antonio.

The goals of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) are to create a better visual environment for the residents and visitors of San Antonio, to integrate the design work of artists into the development of city eligible capital improvement projects, and to promote tourism and the economic vitality of the city through the enhancement of public spaces. Public Art San Antonio (PASA) serves the entire City of San Antonio as the public art program for all city departments, capital projects and public art initiatives, and is a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA). Public Art San Antonio (PASA) specifically seeks:

To encourage the selection of artists at the beginning stages of each project who can work successfully as members of the project design team, and to encourage collaboration among all arts and building disciplines;

To foster quality design and the creation of an array of artwork in all media, materials and disciplines that best respond to the distinctive characteristics of each project site and the community that it serves;

To select experienced artists who represent the diverse cultural landscape of San Antonio;

To encourage the selection of design enhancements that are accessible to the public and respect the historical resources and mobility of the citizenry;

To encourage artists, design enhancements and programs for open spaces, parks, infrastructure and facilities that contribute to neighborhood revitalization and enhance the quality and pride of neighborhoods in the city;

To encourage participation by citizens in the process of acquiring and commissioning of design enhancements;

To encourage the role of public art and design enhancements in enhancing economic development and cultural tourism;

To encourage the role of artists in the functional design of eligible capital improvement projects;

To exhibit art in designated city facilities for the enjoyment of the public and to heighten awareness and appreciation for local artists; and

To maintain and provide stewardship of the city public art and design enhancements collection.

Sec. 35-651. - Eligible and Ineligible Public Art and Design Enhancements.

(a) Eligible Public Art and Design Enhancements. It is the policy of the City of San Antonio that all public art and design enhancements commissioned or acquired through PASA are designed by an artist, craftsman or an artist or craftsman in collaboration with the project architect, landscape architect or engineer. Such artworks may include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) The incremental costs of infrastructure elements, such as sound-walls, utility structures, roadway elements and other items if designed by an artist or design team that includes an artist co-designer.
- (2) Artistic or aesthetic elements of the overall architecture or landscape design if created by a professional artist or a design team that includes a professional visual artist.
- (3) Earthworks, neon, glass, mosaics, photographs, prints, calligraphy, any combination of forms of media including sound, literary elements, film, holographic images, and video systems; hybrids of any media and new genres.
- (4) Murals or portable paintings in any material or variety of materials.
- (5) Sculpture: freestanding, wall supported, or suspended; kinetic and electronic in any material or combination of materials.
- (6) Temporary artworks or installations, if such artworks serve the purpose of providing community and educational outreach purposes.
- (7) Public art and design enhancements that are an integral part of architecture, landscape architecture, and landscape design.

(b) Ineligible Public Art and Design Enhancements. Public art and design enhancements that are mass produced or of standard manufacture, such as playground equipment, fountains or statuary elements, unless incorporated into an artwork by a project artist, or reproductions, by mechanical or other means, of original artwork, except in the case of film, video, photography, printmaking or other media arts.

(c) Specifically excluded from this section is artwork in the museum collection of the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Witte Museum.

FINDINGS:

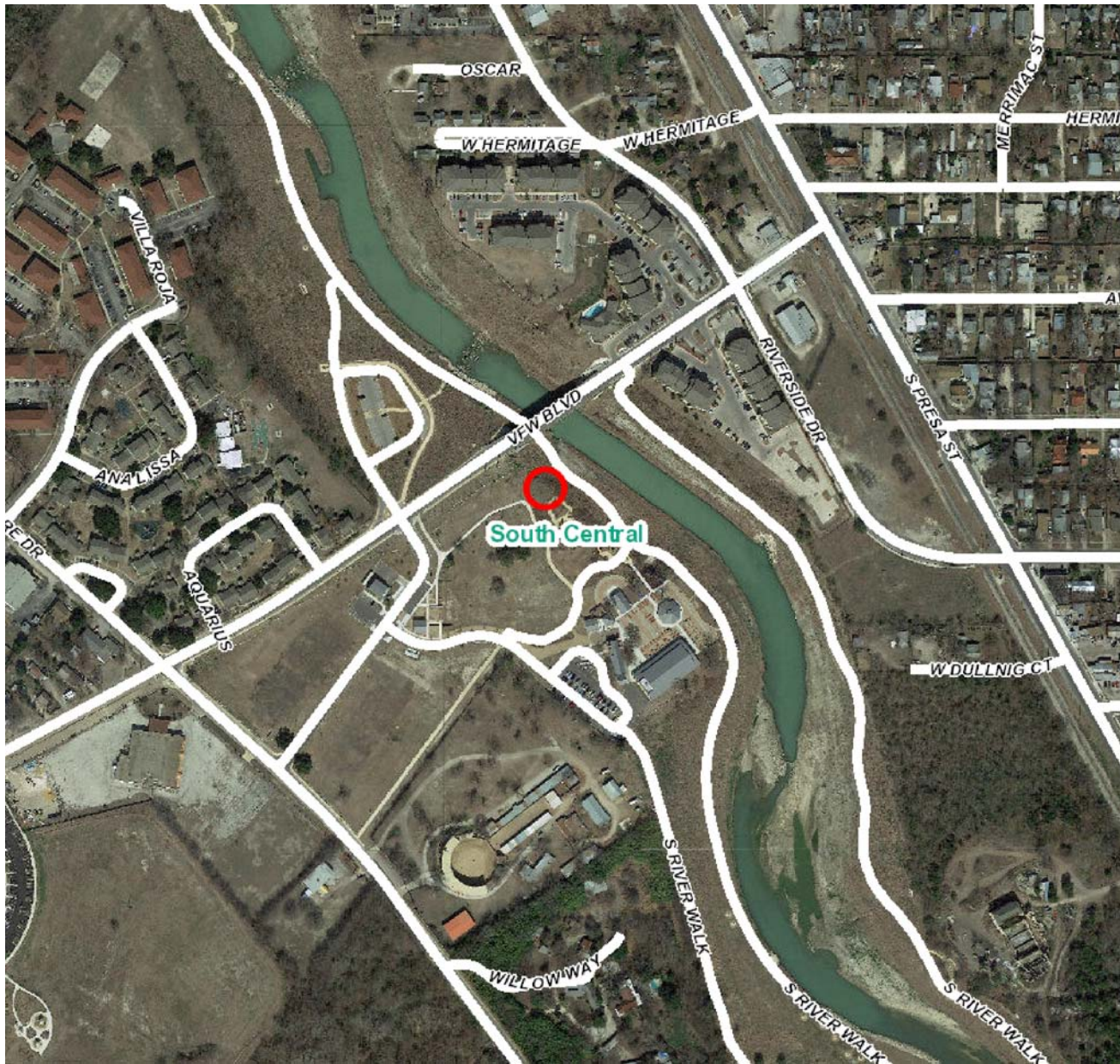
- a. The applicant has proposed to install CoCobijos, a corten metal sculpture featuring twenty-four (24) feet in height at the Mission San Jose Portal at the intersection of VFW Boulevard and the San Antonio River. The applicant has noted that the base of the sculpture will feature a base of concrete featuring a quatrefoil, decomposed granite and *Opuntia engelmannii* (Prickly Pear). As the sculpture rises, planting trays are to be inset in mesh corten boxes that are also to feature cactus. The applicant has noted that the proposed sculpture has been privately funded by the San Antonio River Foundation.
- b. The applicant has proposed to incorporate quatrefoils and aspects of *Opuntia engelmannii*, both of which are found at the nearby Mission San Jose. Staff finds the inclusion of these two design elements appropriate.
- c. According to the UDC Article 5, the purpose of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) is to support a public process for incorporating artist services and artworks in the design of civic spaces and capital projects and to define the City of San Antonio's policies and guidelines for acquiring and commissioning art of the highest standards which shall enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors of San Antonio. Additionally, the goals of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) are to create a better visual environment for the residents and visitors of San Antonio, to integrate the design work of artists into the development of city eligible capital improvement projects, and to promote tourism and the economic vitality of the city through the enhancement of public spaces. Staff finds that the proposed sculpture has met the objectives of Article 5 of the UDC.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval as submitted based on findings a through c.

CASE MANAGER:

Edward Hall



Flex Viewer

Powered by ArcGIS Server

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VFW Blvd

VFW Blvd

San Antonio River

San Antonio River Walk

Mission
County Park

San Antonio

CoCobijos

A Sculpture for the Portal
at Mission San Jose
San Antonio, Texas

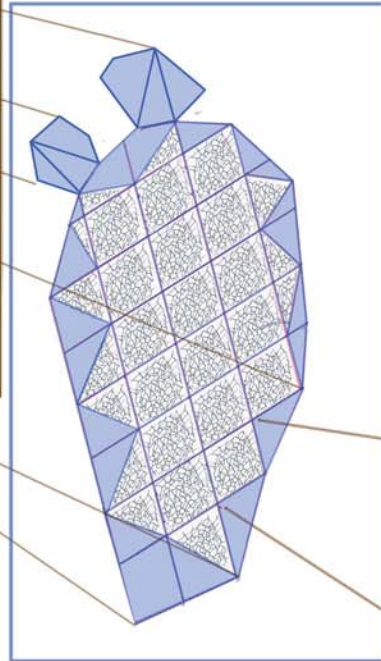
Mel Chin

2016



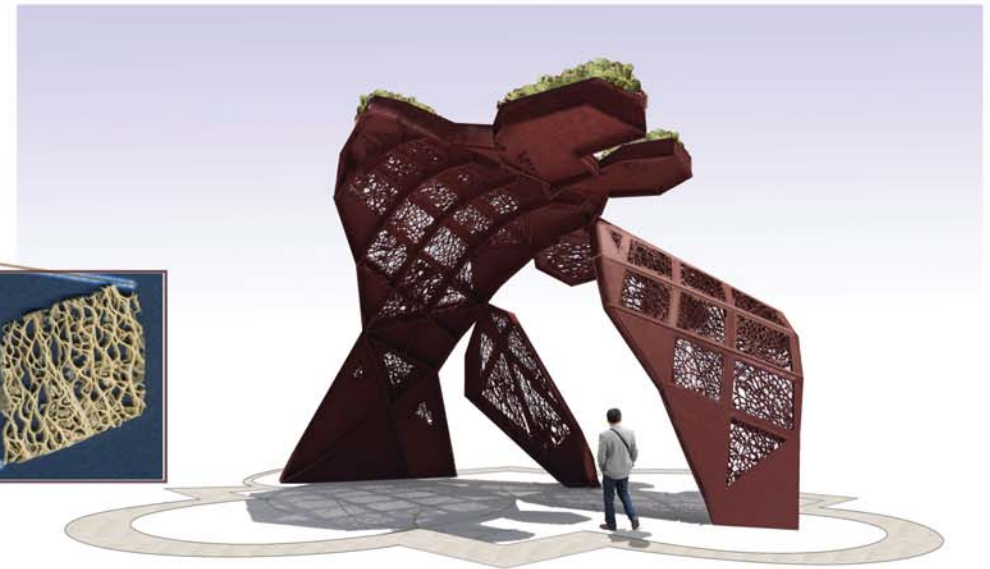
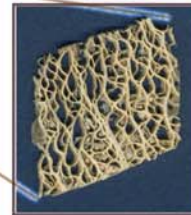
CoCobijos

Specimen: Bexar Regional Herbarium San Antonio Branch



"Rugged, versatile, and beautiful, the prickly pear cactus has made numerous contributions to the landscape, cuisine, and character of the Lone Star State, and its unusual status as both a vegetable and a fruit make it singularly qualified to represent the indomitable and unique Texas spirit as an official state symbol."

Texas House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 May 1995



The Description

Emerging out of the historic geometry of the San Antonio Mission Quadrafoil motif, **CoCobijos** rises 24 ft. into a futuristic form of Corten steel. Prickly pear sprout from green roofing planters set into the work.

CoCobijos features the State Plant of Texas (*Opuntia engelmannii*) prickly-pear cactus, part of the nutritional and traditional food of the region, but it aspires to be more than food for thought.

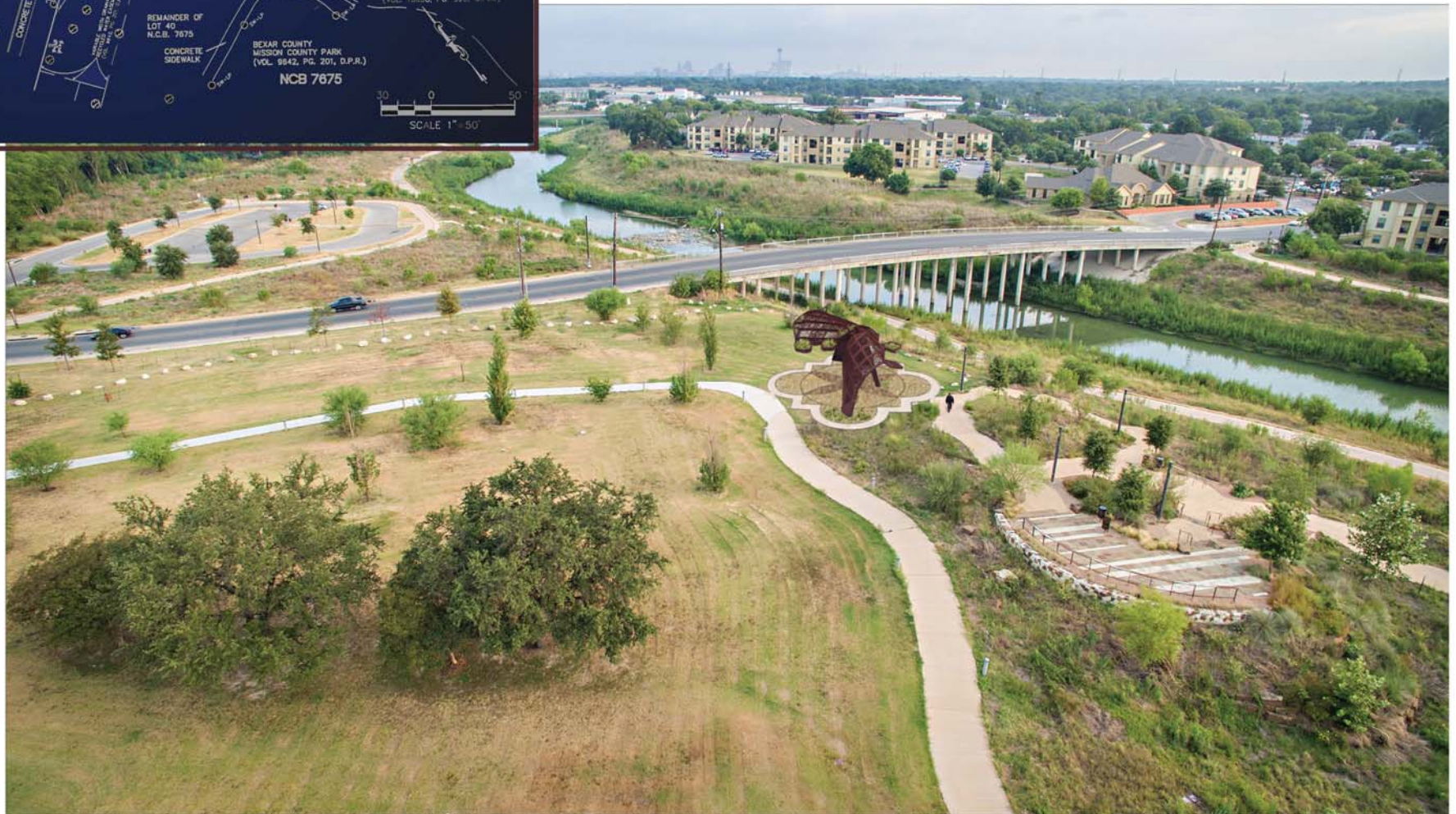
CoCobijos is a natural green and industrial canopy specially designed to give a Mission visitor relief from those days of intense Texas sun.

CoCobijos' geometric pads twist and arc into a welcoming gesture. Two massive *nopales* support each other, forming a shelter and visually stimulating guests under its shade with intricate lattice patterns derived from its own internal structure.



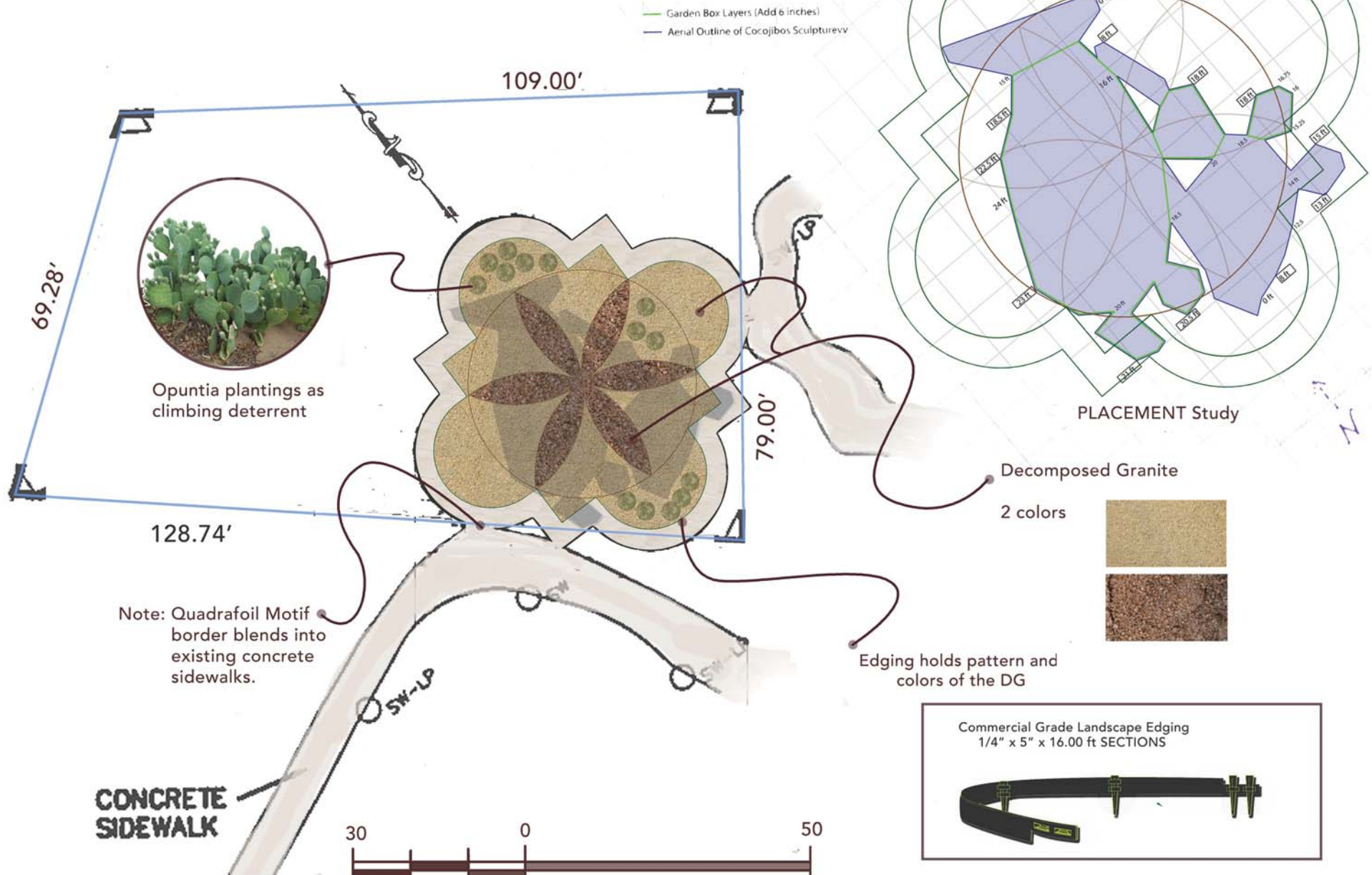


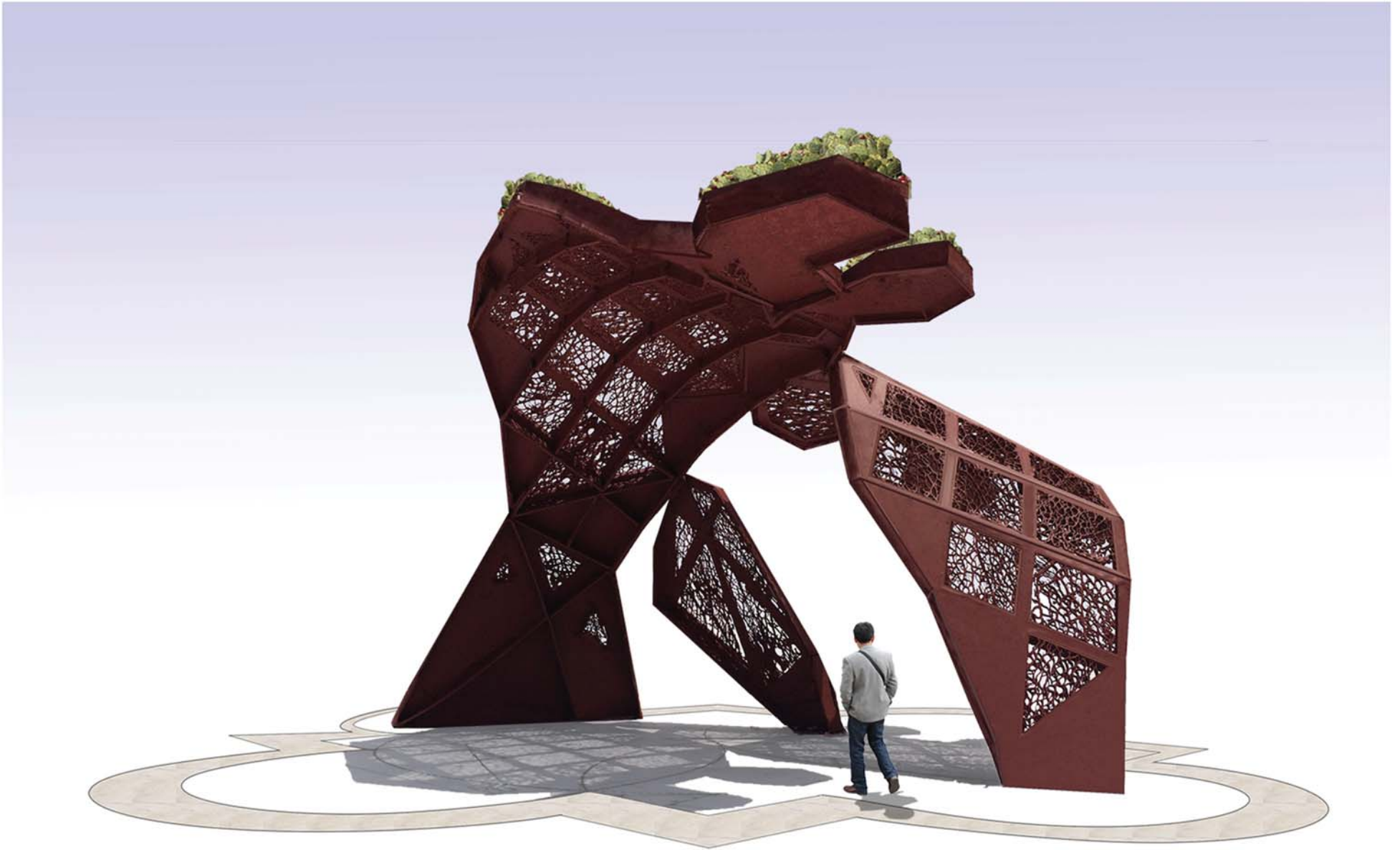
The Location



Placement Study : Mission San Jose, San Antonio, TX

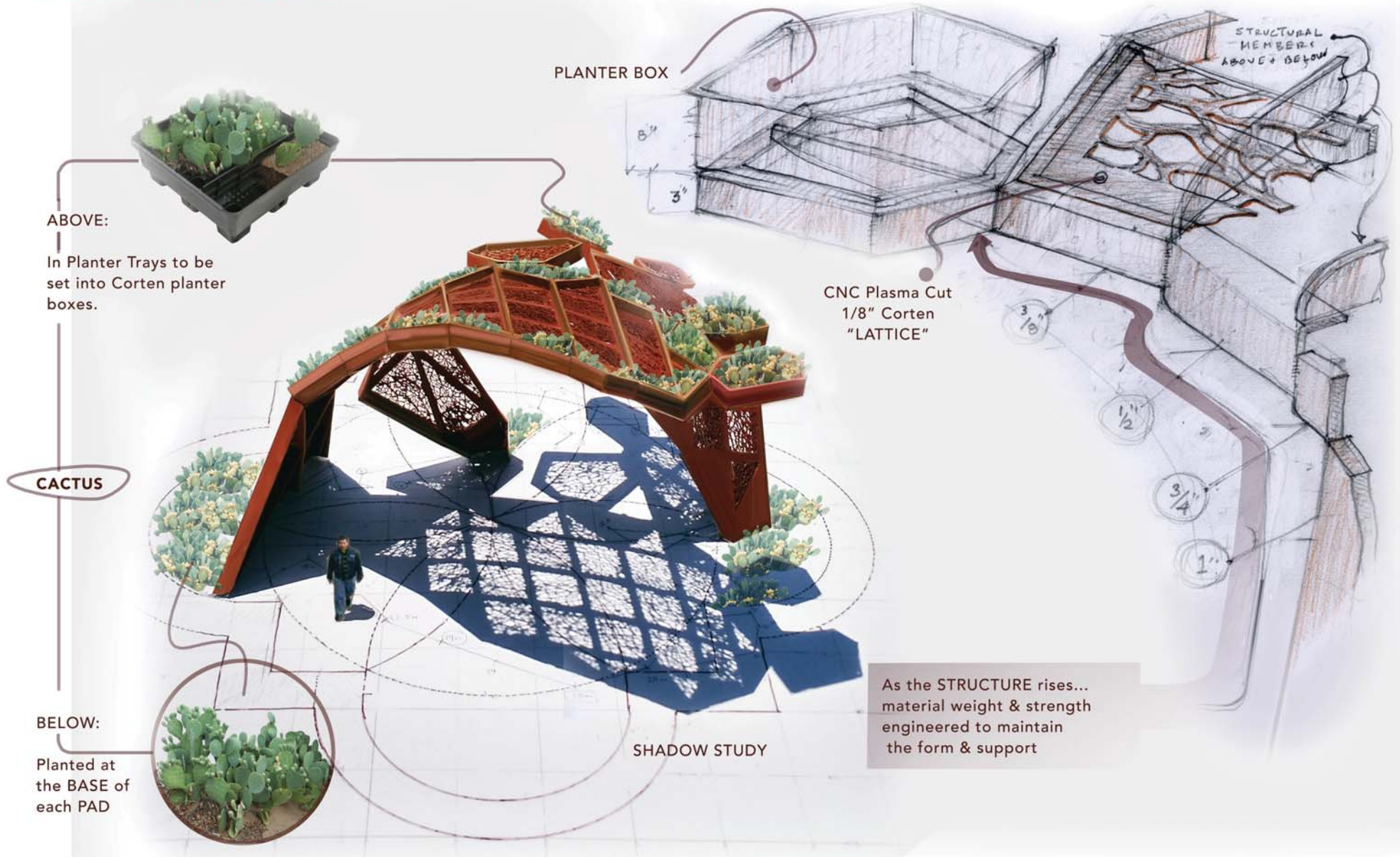
GROUND TREATMENT & PLACEMENT

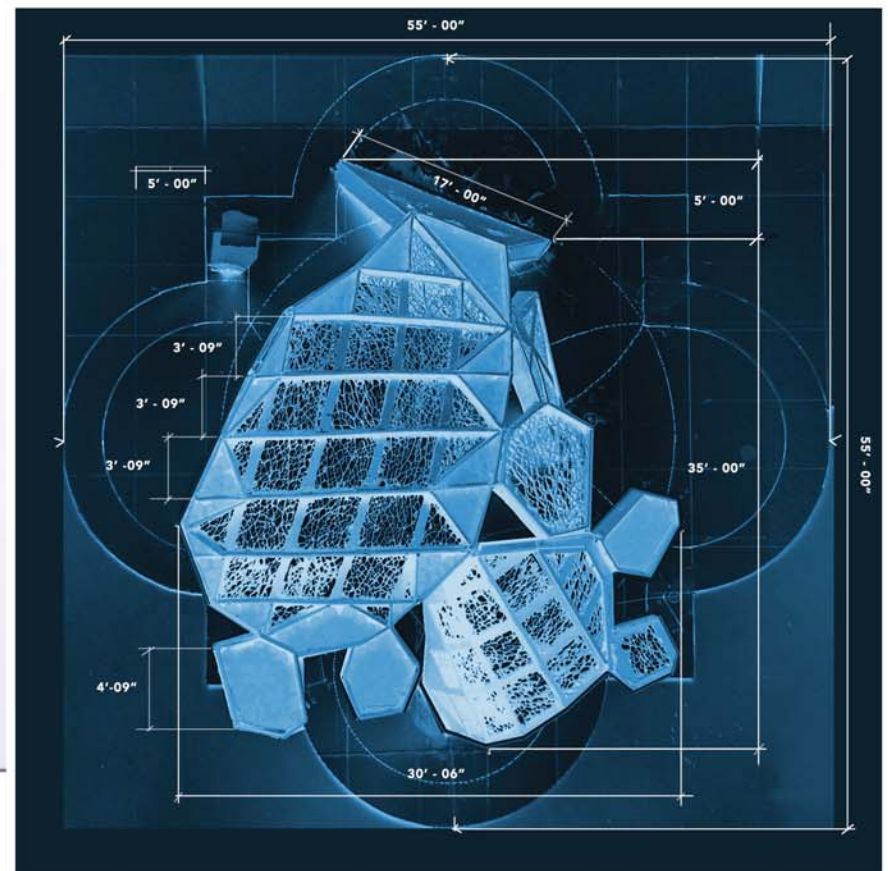
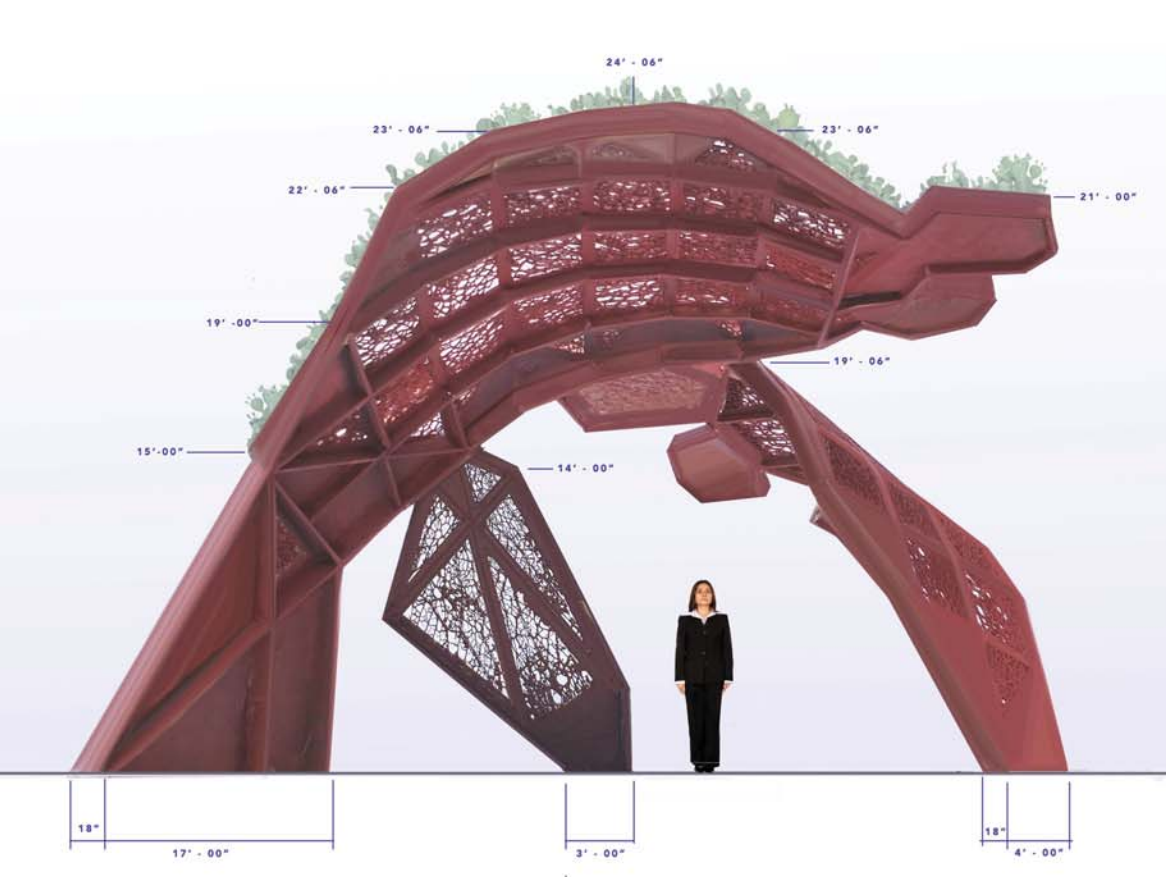




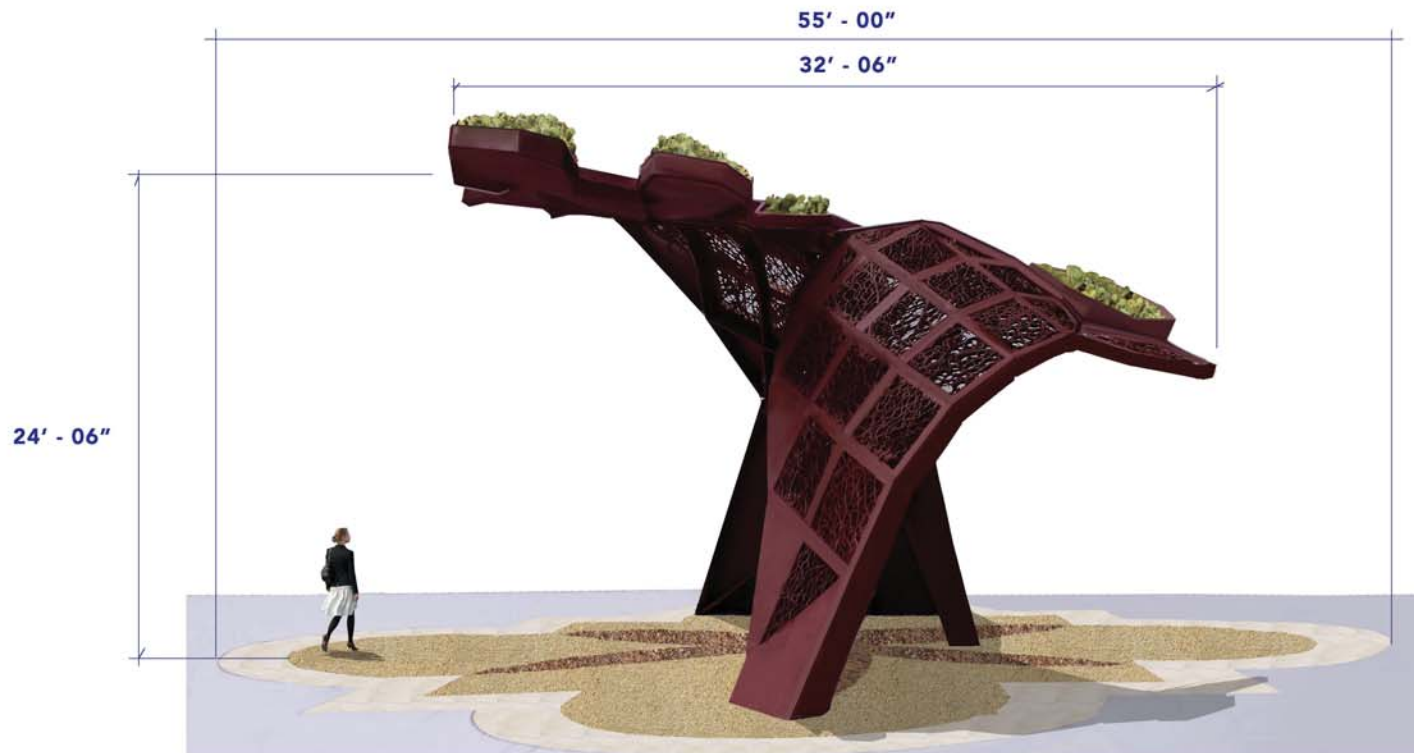
View toward Northeast

CONCEPTUAL & STRUCTURAL NOTES

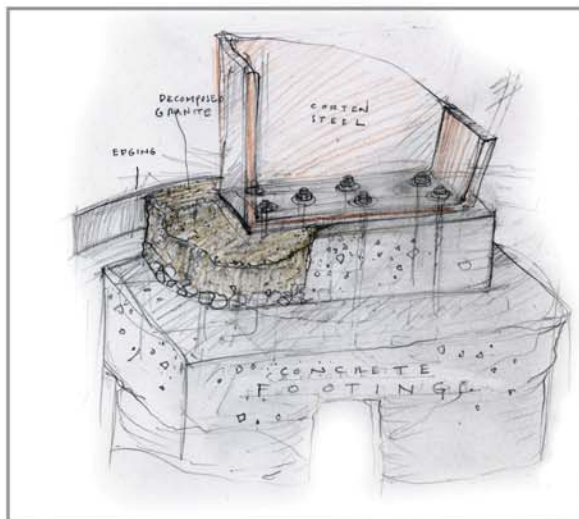




CoCobijos



View: Looking North



Footing Study





Looking East into CoCobijos



Placement Study : Portal at Mission San Jose, San Antonio, TX