Background

- The Los Angeles River Center and Gardens is located near where the LA River and the Arroyo Seco meet, close to Elysian Park and downtown Los Angeles.

- The park was formerly known as Lawry's California Center and opened in 1953. It was the site of their corporate HQ and restaurants, which featured Mexican and Southwestern-style entrees designed to showcase Lawry's seasonings and sauces.

- The center, which at its peak attracted 50,000 visitors a year, closed in 1992. The city then purchase the land, and block proposals for industrial uses.

Background Cont.

- The park as we know today officially opened on March 4, 2000

- The mission-style grounds serve as a home base in the renewal of the LA River, and is a key location for community gatherings, weddings, and other special events.

- The onsite exhibit honors the history of the 51-mile river from the time of early native settlements through today.

- At the northern end of the park is the River Garden Park which provides a green space to the local community.

Mission-Style Architecture

- The Mission Revival movement began in the late 19th century. Missions were a place of community gathering, often on hot days, due to the natural climate control of the building materials.

- The Mission Revival style has a unique historical narrative specific to the American Southwest, especially California. It combines a blend of historical nostalgia, resistance to heat, and low cost of construction.

- Key elements include:
    - Stucco walls
    - Tile roofs
    - Arched doorways & windows
    - Covered arcades & overhanging eaves
    - Towers

Gathered Reflections | Mission-Style

Current Use

- The grounds are commonly used as a gathering place, often for community events. It is also frequently transformed into a beautiful indoor/outdoor wedding venue, providing a stunning natural oasis for the local community.

- My intention for the space is to continue cultivating it as a beautiful gathering place after the sun sets. One that enchants guests and fosters connection through shared experiences.