

Gathered Reflections

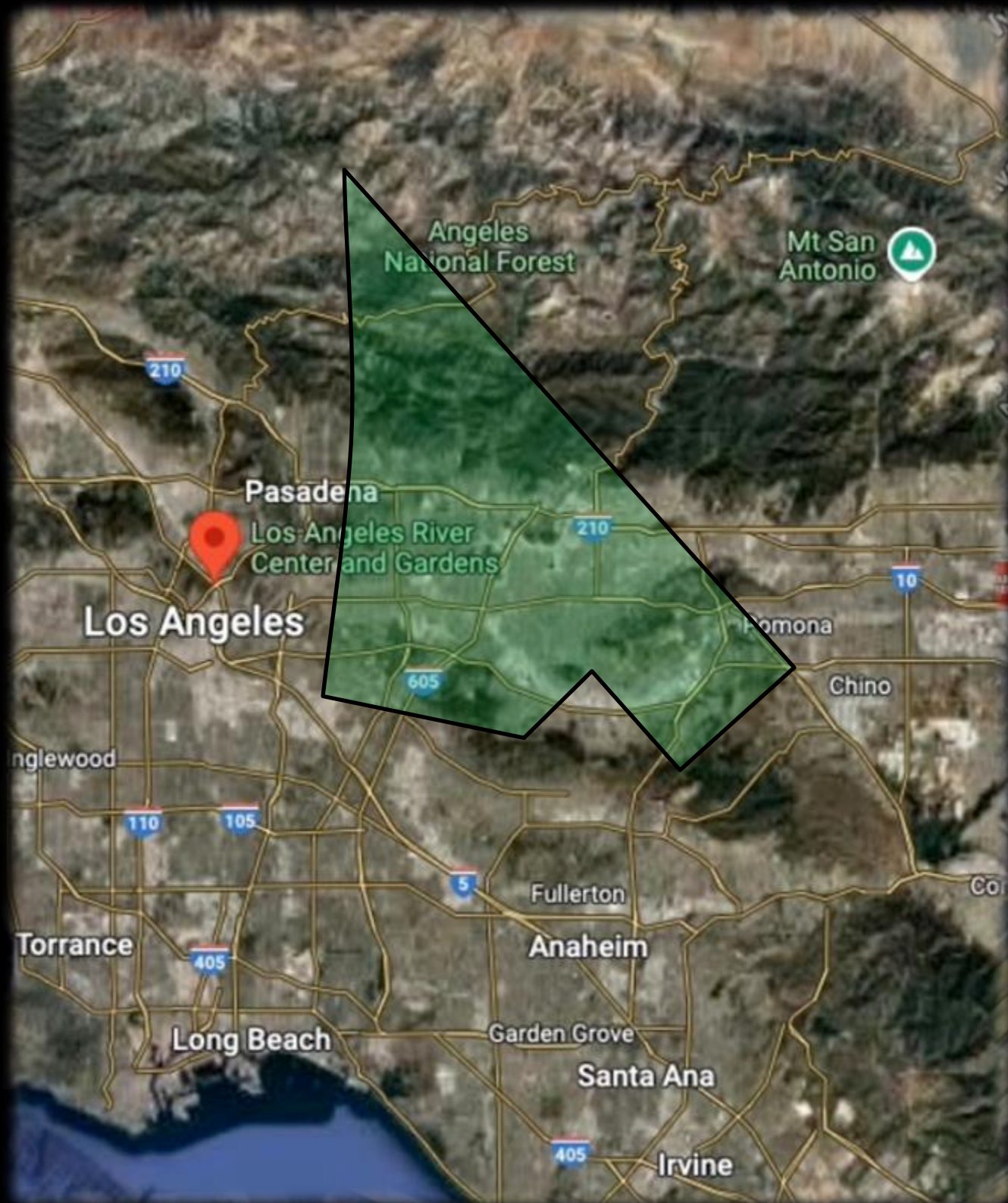
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens

Landscape Lighting Upgrade

Design by Max Okst

Gathered Reflections

- LA River Center & Gardens is a shared space that offers many unique opportunities for gathering, reflection, and connection within the greater LA community
- Through our lighting transformation, the park can become a welcoming hearth within the city. One where people can come together, appreciate its historically inspired architecture, and create shared experiences.
- The center is dedicated to water and by blending the life-giving force of water with the transformative energy of fire, the center symbolizes harmony and balance, celebrating the essential elements that shape our region and our lives.
- Through the creation of this haven for collective reflection and celebration, the center provides a vital natural retreat for the local community to gather, connect, and reflect.



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



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.





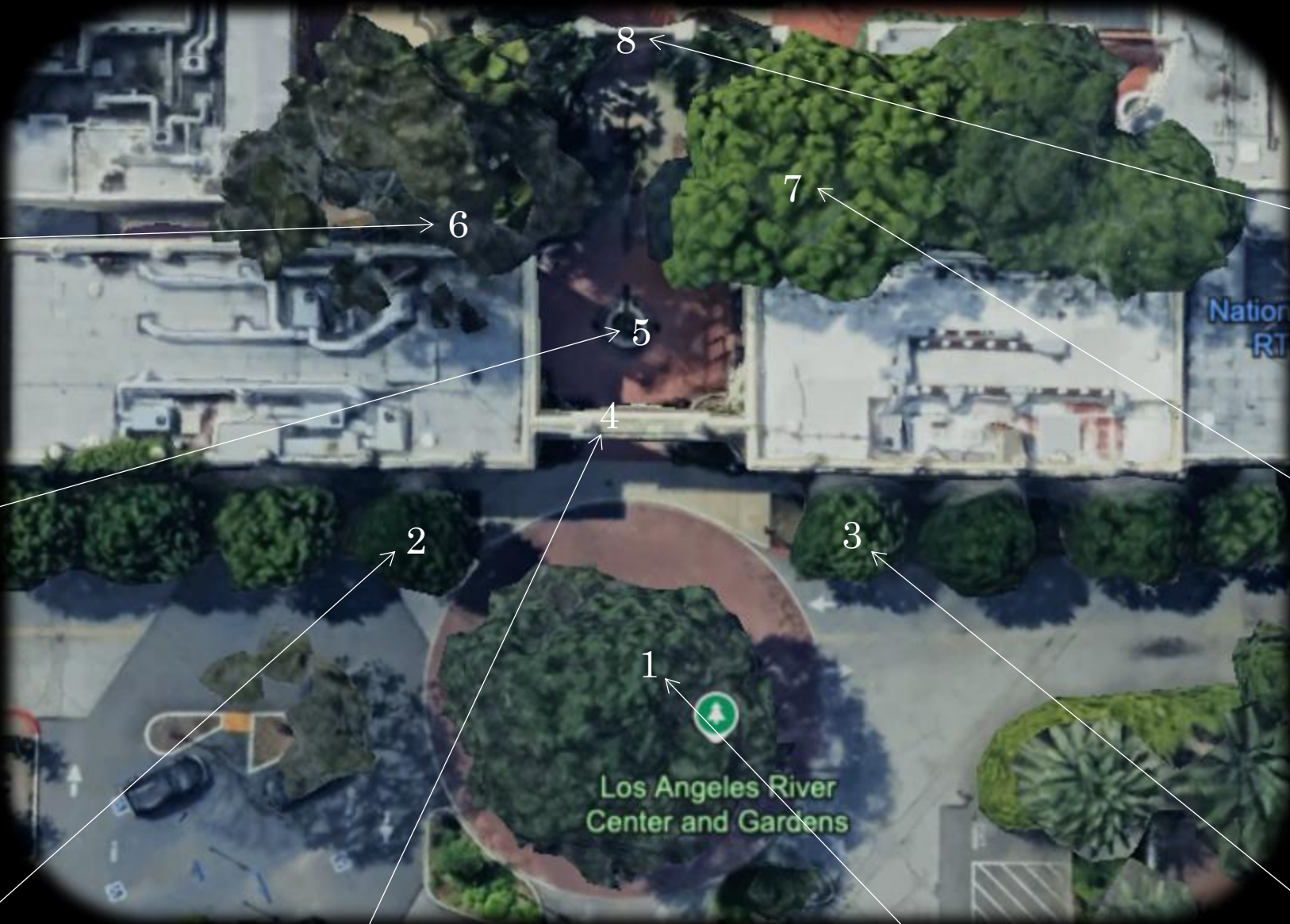
East River Garden



River Courtyard



East Entryway



Grand Entry



Welcome Tree



River Gateway



West River Garden



West Entryway



Gathered Reflections:

Concept Intention

- Light and more specifically, the sun, is the bringer of life. People have found a similar comfort in fire and candlelight.
- Moments of reflection and celebration are essential to our communities and the lighting will help enhance these moments within the park.
- Light will highlight the meaningful features of the architecture, while creating a beautiful gathering space that feels ancestrally familiar.





Glow From Below



Highlight Texture



Natural Light – Gas Lanterns

Gathered Reflections | Application Inspirations



Uplit Glowing Trees

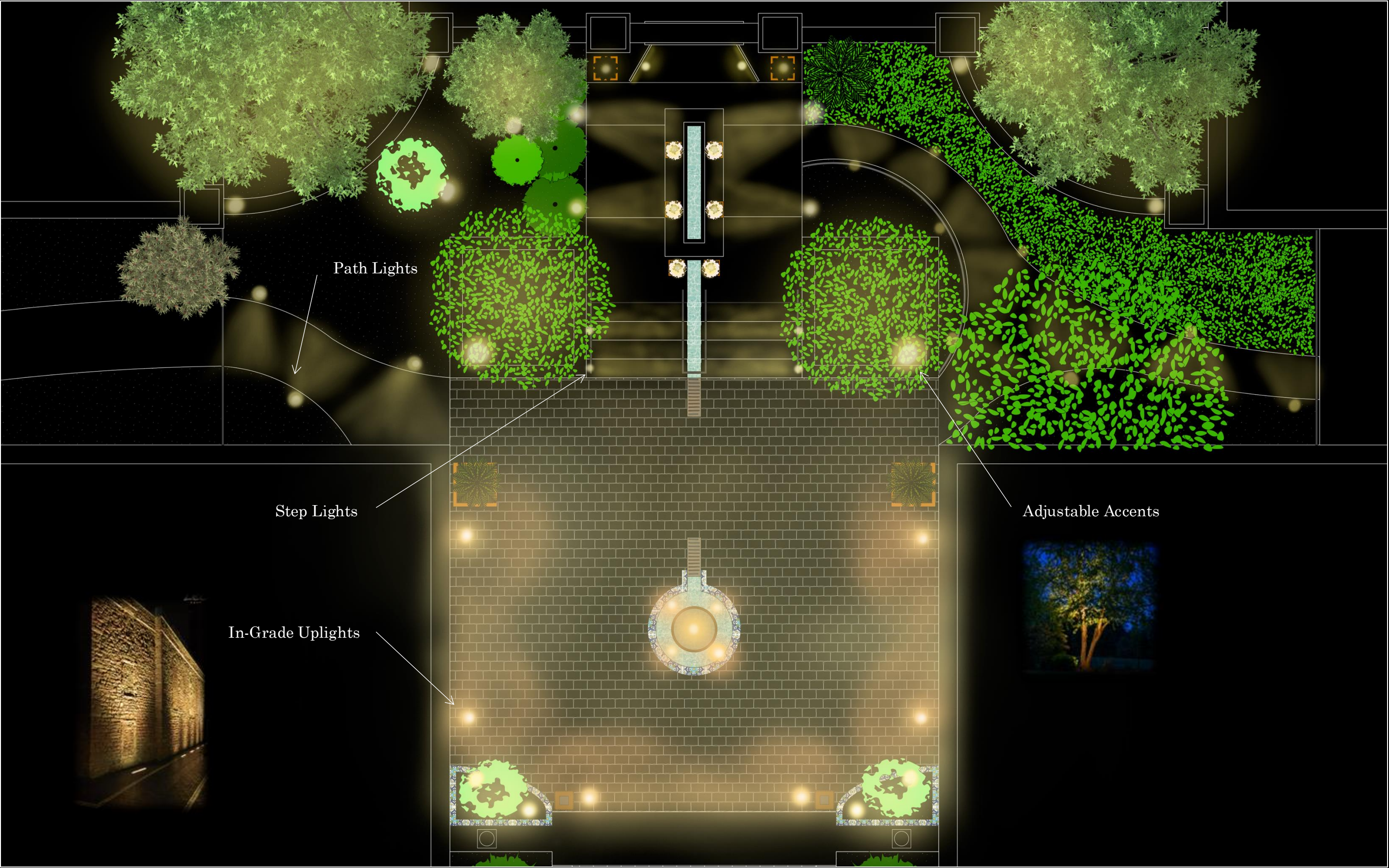


Flickering Lanterns In Trees





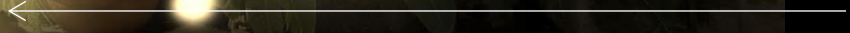
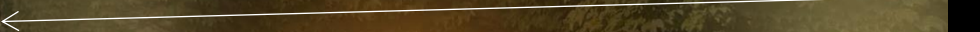
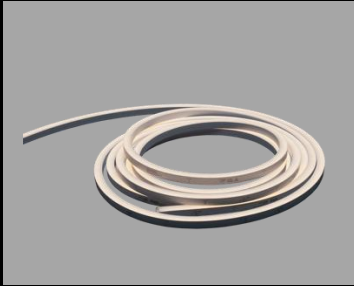
Gathered Reflections | Grand Entryway



Gathered Reflections | River Courtyard



Gathered Reflections | Welcome Tree



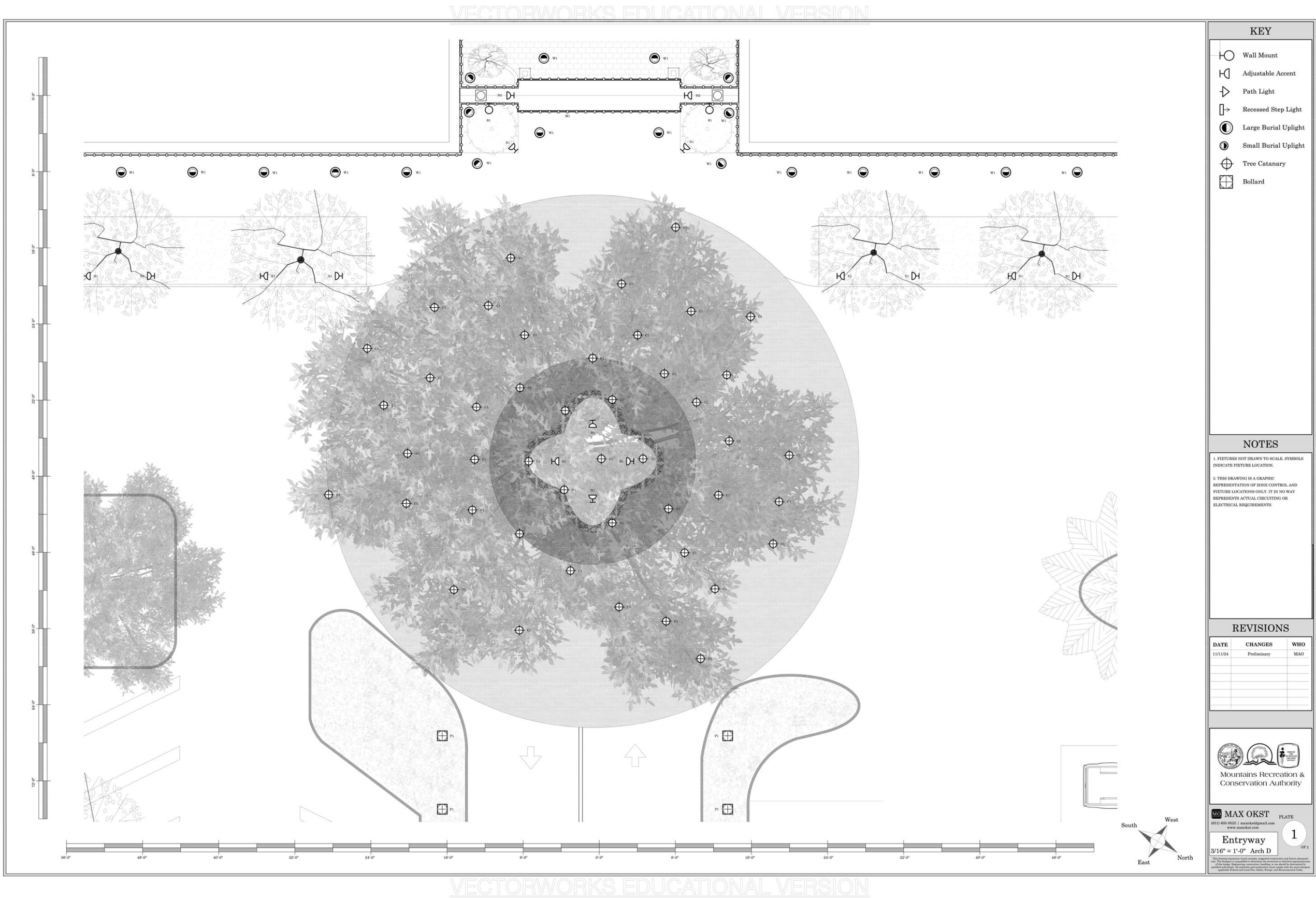
Gathered Reflections | Grand Entryway



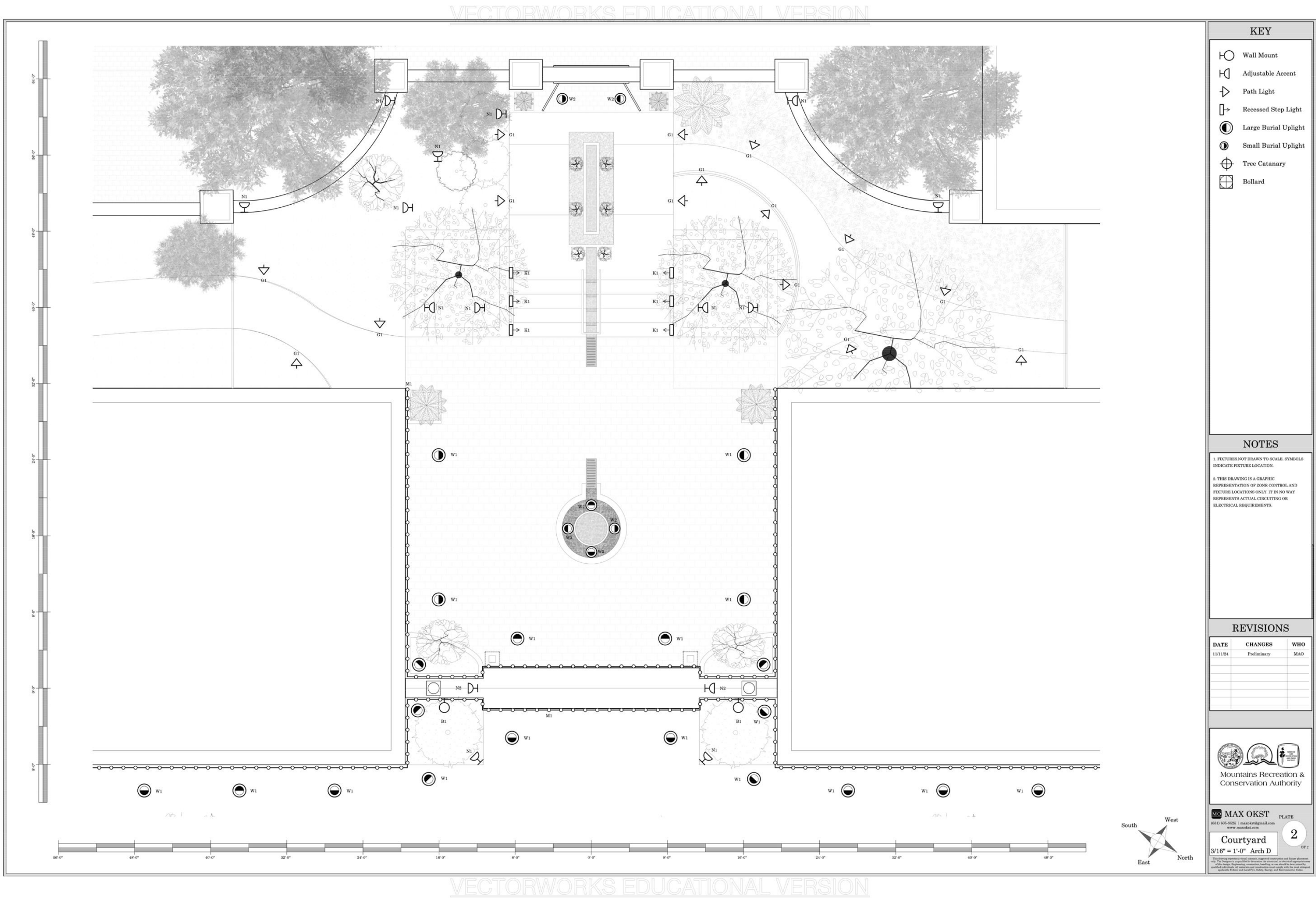
Gathered Reflections | River Courtyard



Gathered Reflections | River Courtyard (Wedding)



Gathered Reflections | Entryway Plot



Gathered Reflections | Courtyard Plot

Gathered Reflections

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens

Thank You!