

WEAVING TOGETHER PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE:

*IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITY WITHIN
THE ARTS + CULTURAL DISTRICT
OF TAOS, NM*

*DESIGN + PLANNING ASSISTANCE CENTER (DPAC)
SPRING 2010*

*SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO*

DPAC STUDIO:

The Design and Planning Assistance Center (DPAC) is a community outreach program established in 1969 at the University of New Mexico. DPAC provides design and planning assistance to communities and organizations throughout the state of New Mexico. As an interdisciplinary design studio for students in the School of Architecture and Planning, the program facilitates collaboration between the community and regional planning, landscape architecture and architecture disciplines.

The Taos DPAC studio was funded through a competitive grant from the National Endowment for the Arts program, *YourTown: The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design*. The goal of the program is to bring design students and professionals to rural communities to help citizens address critical design and planning issues.

A design charrette was held in March 2010 with local residents and members of DPAC to identify these issues, and from which the students drew in developing design ideas. Therefore, the student work in this document would not have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the many dedicated individuals involved.

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- Cynthia Spray, Taos Arts + Cultural District Coordinator

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In March 2010 a group of graduate students and professors from UNM’s Design Planning and Assistance Center (DPAC) traveled to Taos, NM, to participate in a three-day design charrette with local residents, business owners, and community leaders. The purpose of the exercise was to assist the community in identifying the design and planning issues facing the town, and in articulating ways in which community members would like to see them addressed. The geographic core of the charrette, the Taos Arts and Cultural District, was pared into discrete zones, and several primary sites were identified within this matrix.

The charrette also gave the students the opportunity to explore the town, its culture and its people so as to better understand the context for which their eventual design solutions would be based. Taos is a vibrant town with a rich history and a bright future, a fact which was clearly demonstrated through the hospitality and enthusiasm of its citizens. It is also a place that has a very strong sense of identity, what it was, is, and would like to become.

A number of opportunities and solutions were generated during the process, thanks to the lively and thoughtful contributions of the community. These were documented, and in turn became the basis for the design solutions generated by the students during the subsequent five weeks in the DPAC studio.

Following the charrette, the students developed a series of project goals. Key among them were: improved circulation, legibility, flexibility and programming, and increased amenity for visitors and locals alike. Informed by what they had learned in Taos, the students endeavored to reveal the “story” of the town through responsive design and planning. The primary zones of the Arts and Cultural District, identified during the charrette, became the basic site map for design intervention, while careful attention was paid to those areas where adjacent sites overlapped. Students also worked at providing solutions across the spectrum of cost and practicability.

Throughout, students received valuable input from UNM School of Architecture and Planning faculty, and the continued support and involvement of Taos community members. It is the hope of all those involved in the Taos DPAC studio that the ideas and solutions that resulted from this process will help Taos to move forward as a vital and unique community, while maintaining its identity and its values.

INTRODUCTION

TAOS: *Our Town*

“Taos” is a unique word and name that has many meanings. It refers to the ancient Taos Pueblo, a magnificently preserved adobe village and community nestled beneath the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico. Taos also refers to the Spanish Colonial Hispano communities that were settled in the Taos valley after 1700. Taos also is a well-known American art colony that helped pioneer American modernism after 1900. Taos is all of these meanings and much more.

After the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and the reconquest of New Mexico by Don Diego de Vargas, a beautiful and verdant mountain valley known as “Taos” was colonized. Spanish colonists settled six plaza communities in the Taos valley named for a patron saint, including San Francisco (presently Ranchos de Taos), Santa Gertrudis, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (present Taos), La Purísima Concepción (upper Ranchitos), and Nuestra Señora de Dolores (Cañon). Thus Taos is a broad geographic concept incorporating numerous villages, neighborhoods and the ancient Pueblo.

The isolated mountain villages and plazas of Taos were fortified and survived the hardship of long winters and limited food supplies. Trade fairs between Native Americans, Spanish households, and European/Anglo traders and mountain men during the Nineteenth Century were critical to survival.

After Mexican Independence from Spain in 1821, the New Mexican frontier was opened to trade and Americans crossed the border in wagons of the Santa Fe Trail or in small bands of “mountain men” and other explorers. Taos became an oasis and supply station for beaver trappers, buffalo hunters and Missouri traders during the mid-Nineteenth Century. Legendary scout and soldier Kit Carson made his home in Taos on a street that bears his name. French trappers and merchants such as Lucien Beaubien, Ceran St. Vrain, and Ledoux also lived in Taos, lending the small village a cosmopolitan character that it retains today.

The arrival of the railroad in New Mexico in 1879 eclipsed the Santa Fe Trail, and Taos remained isolated as Las Vegas and Albuquerque were “Americanized” by boomtown economies and new populations of “Easterners.” Taos’ unique adobe architecture and design traditions were protected and survived.

TAOS: *Our Town*

With the Twentieth Century however, Taos emerged dramatically from a secluded yet pristine milieu into the global stage of modernism. The fabled Taos Society of Artists established residency in their mountain Shangri-la after 1900, creating an American art colony of astonishing success. Striking canvases of Pueblo Indians living and working in the majestic Southwestern landscape not only influenced generations of artists and writers, but also helped transform popular American attitudes and perceptions of the “Wild West.”

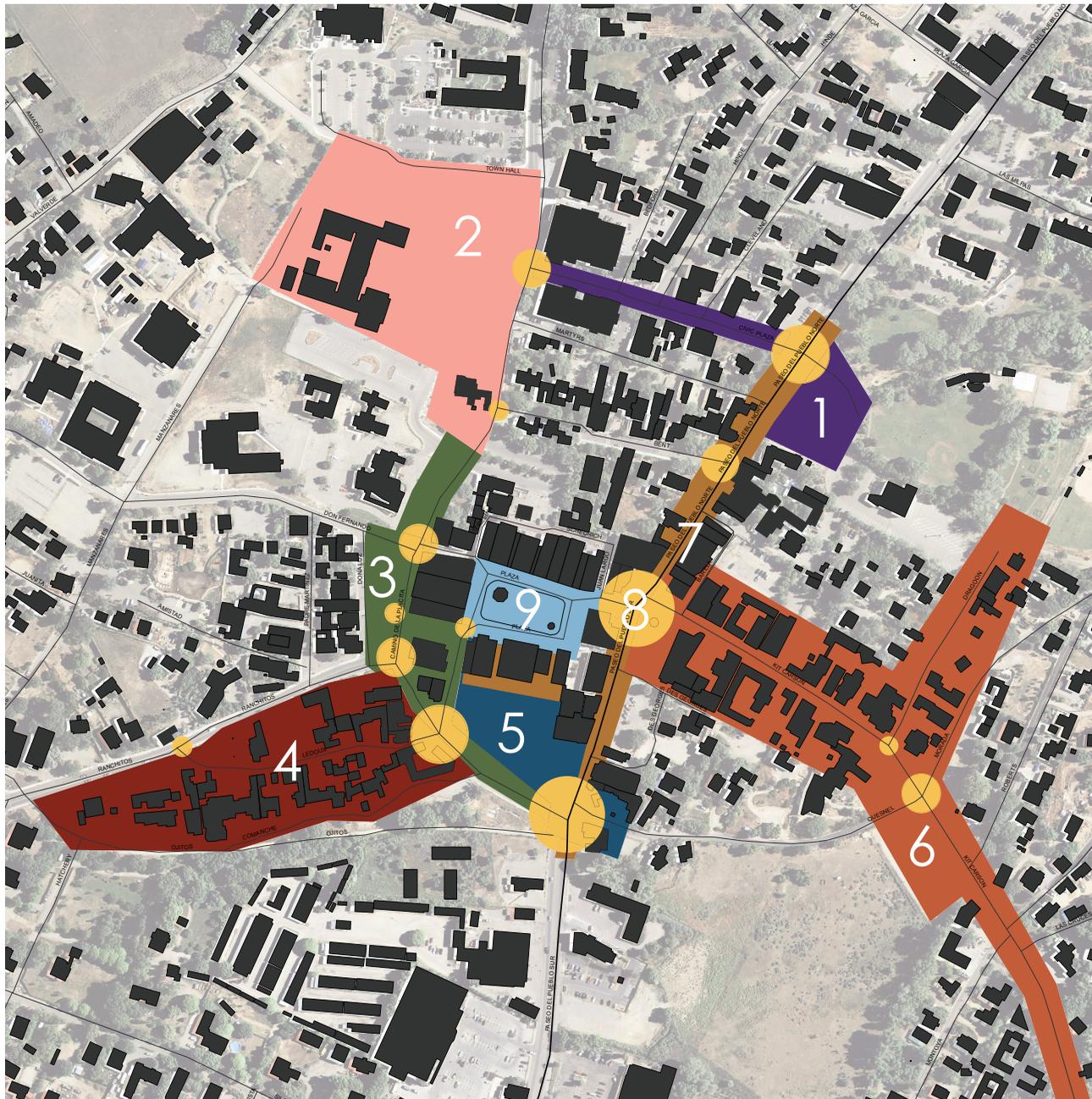
Mabel Dodge Luhan, an art patroness, bon vivant, and avant-garde modernist, moved to Taos in 1917. With the assistance of her husband Tony Luhan and Taos Pueblo workers, Mabel built an adobe “villa” estate fusing indigenous, American and European architectural forms that epitomized the rapid cultural integration of Taos. Her compound and extended properties would host a galaxy of leading American artists and writers on summer sabbaticals that would place Taos at the vanguard of American modernism.

A wave of hippie counter-cultural fervor swept into Taos in the 1960’s, and several communes were established nearby. The landscape yields some remnants and ephemera of the “flower power” revolution, sometimes in junked VW minivans, outdated signs and graffiti. The breakthrough movie “Easy Rider” of 1968 starring Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper and Jack Nicholson was largely filmed in the Taos area. Taos observed the occasion with a 50th anniversary “Summer of Love” festival in 2009.

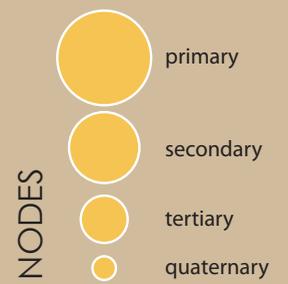
Like many other communities, Taos is re-examining its cultural and economic traditions and re-positioning itself in a challenging global economy. Enhancing its illustrious creative economy is an over-arching goal that informs the work of the faculty and students of the University of New Mexico Design, Planning and Assistance Center (DPAC), the New Mexico Main Street Program, the National Endowment for the Arts’ Your Town Design Institute, and most importantly the community of Taos.

- Elmo Baca, for *the Taos “YourTown” Design Institute*, May 2010

The Taos Arts and Cultural District comprises a number of smaller sites, each with a unique character. During the charrette, those with the greatest potential were determined, and the key intersections (nodes) catalogued.



NODES + CORRIDORS





civic



commercial



residential



mixed-use

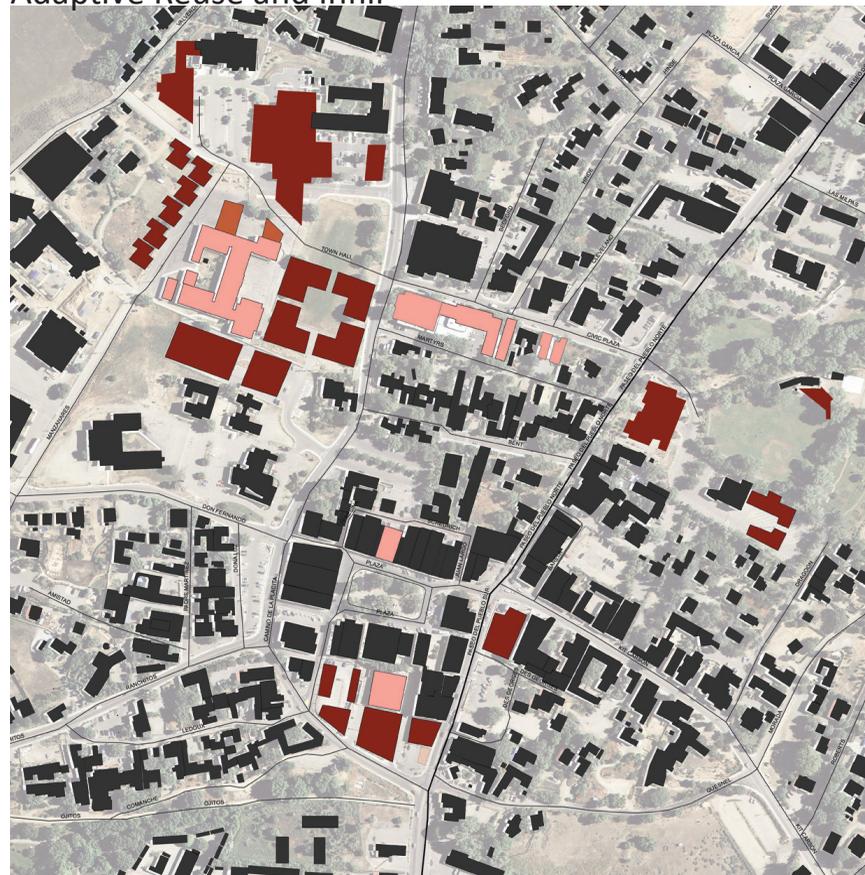


open space

proposed

existing

Adaptive Reuse and Infill



adaptive reuse

infill

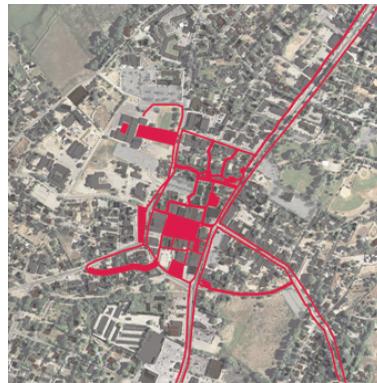
existing

SOLUTIONS: LAND USE

Having identified existing land usage patterns, sites were identified which have a high potential for redevelopment or infill. While the majority of these sites were deemed to be most appropriate to house new mixed-use development, other sites were found to have potential for open space planning, civic, commercial, and residential usage.



existing pedestrian circulation



proposed pedestrian circulation



Wayfinding signage, Paseo at Quesnel

SOLUTIONS: CIRCULATION

PROPOSED
IMPROVEMENTS
to circulation and
parking include:

System-wide sidewalk
/ crosswalk / paving
improvements

Pedestrian clarity and
prioritization

Street narrowing /
realignment

Coordinated traffic signals

Introduction of speed tables

Introduction of North and
South Gateways

CIRCULATION LEGEND

-  primary vehicular circulation
-  secondary vehicular circulation
-  primary pedestrian circulation
-  secondary pedestrian circulation
-  water circulation
-  street improvements
-  opportunity for wayfinding





Park + ride on Kit Carson Rd.



bike rack

PARKING ESTIMATES:

EXISTING SPACES:	850
SPACES REMOVED:	500
SPACES ADDED:	1,250
TOTAL PROPOSED:	1,600

SOLUTIONS: PARKING

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS *cont.:*

Increased connectivity from parking to amenities

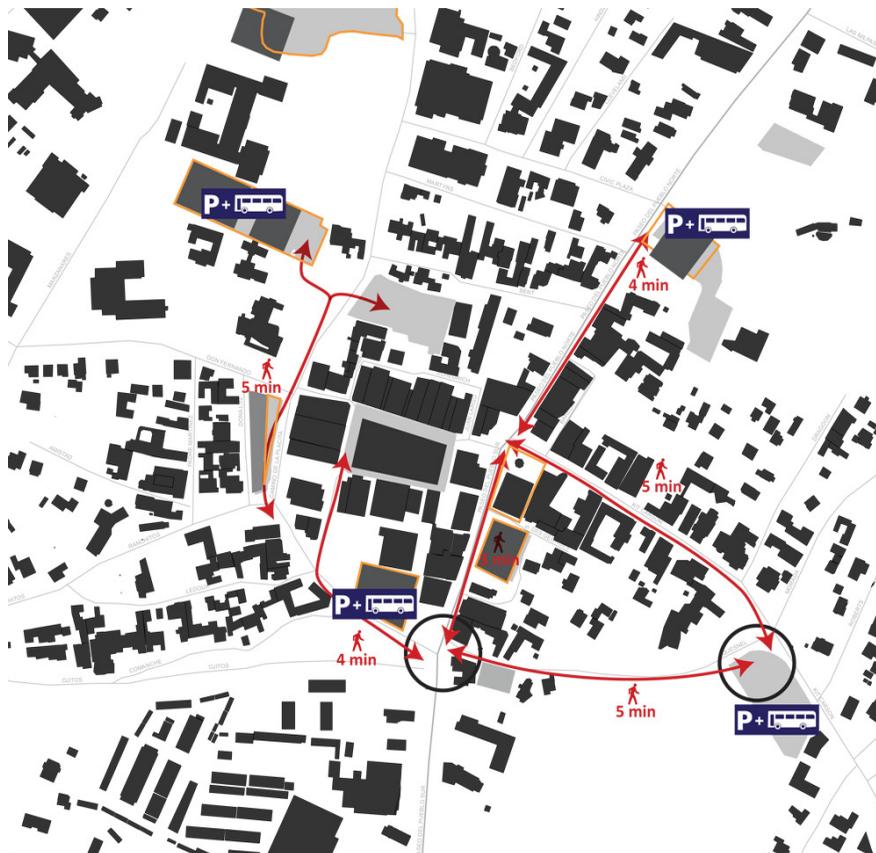
Turn-lane extensions at key intersections

Improved vehicular mediation in key pedestrian areas

These improvements are consistent with the outcomes of the Taos design charrette; the scope of the plan does not include potential vehicular diversions outside the town core.



wayfinding signage



PARKING LEGEND

- existing parking lot
- parking lot removed
- proposed parking lot
- proposed parking structure
- park + ride stop
- walking distances

KIT OF PARTS: PAVING

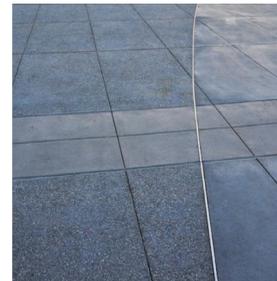
Improved surface treatment was identified as highly desirable, both from an aesthetic standpoint and that of wayfinding and district cohesion.

Generally, areas primarily for pedestrian circulation will be composed of concrete, and vehicular areas will be asphalt.

The development of a standardized paving vocabulary is suggested, within which framework variations in pattern and material can be made to suit the character of individual streets and neighborhoods.

KIT OF PARTS: UNIVERSAL SUGGESTIONS

The kit of parts is a list of elements, paving, street furniture and vegetation, selected for their district-wide applicability, and which are relevant, in varying degrees, to each site-specific project. They are meant as suggestions rather than specific design solutions; the idea is to unify the district through a consistent vocabulary, while the form they take is left up to the citizens of Taos.



Concrete street paver/ stamped concrete

Diagonal score lines every 1'



Concrete park'g paver/ stamped concrete

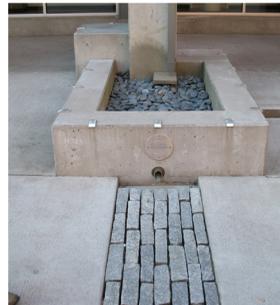
Diagonal score lines every 6"



The Paseo Corridor will have a uniform surface treatment of textured concrete integrated with the acequia re-introduction and the Plaza redevelopment. Variations in pattern and material would occur in areas such as Ledoux Rd., the Placitas corridor, and Kit Carson Rd. to provide for unique neighborhood identification within the context of the district as a whole.

CRAFT HOUSES, COMPETITIONS, AND STREET FURNITURE

The phased roll out of Taos infrastructure elements will work in concert with the development of the Craft Houses on Placitas. These craft houses will provide live/work opportunities in a variety of craft works, with on-site fabrication capabilities.



Design Competitions will be held to determine schemes for all the elements of street furniture. The competitions will be managed by a professional, and encourage local entries. Once the winning scheme is determined, the craft houses will construct the street furniture.

KIT OF PARTS: STREETSCAPE

The introduction of a cohesive language for street furniture and other infrastructure elements is a key element of the connectivity plan, but the form and design of those elements will be determined by the community.

*Elements include,
but are not limited to:*

- Benches
- Bollards
- Trash Cans
- Drainage Grates
- Manhole Covers
- Bicycle Racks
- Street Lamps
- Pavers
- Bus Shelters

KIT OF PARTS: DECIDUOUS TREES



Horsechestnut
Aesculus Hippocastanum
Grows to 35-40'. Good street tree.



Honey Locust
Gleditsia triacanthos
Grows to 35-40'. Good street tree.



Black Locust
Crataegus spp.
Grows to about 20'. Good street tree.



Hawthorn
Robinia pseudoacacia
Naturalized shade, street, and specimen tree.



American Elm
Ulmus americana
Grows up to 50'.
A good street tree, but should not be placed in grates.



Gambel Oak
Quercus gambelli
Grows up to 25'. Attractive bark, limb and trunk structure.



Green Ash
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Grows up to 30-40'. Good street and shade tree.



White Ash
Fraxinus americana
Grows up to 50' high. A good street or median tree.





Bradford Pear

Pyrus calleryana

Good flowering ornamental, shade and street tree.



Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

Grows to about 10-20'. Is a good patio shade tree.



Mountain Ash

Sorbus aucuparia

Grows up to 25'. Good for accent and moderate shade.



Crabapple

Malus 'Hopa' et al.

Hardy, exotic flowering ornamental. Grows 12-16' high.



Box Elder

Acer negundo

Can grow up to 40' high. Can be used for shade or in groupings for a windbreak.



Purple Leaf Plum

Prunus Cerasifera

An okay street tree, offers color in spring, summer and fall.



Apple

Malus sylvestris

Fruit tree. Has white flower blossoms in spring.



Burr Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Grows up to 100' high. One of the most tolerant of urban conditions.

KIT OF PARTS: DECIDUOUS TREES

KIT OF PARTS: EVERGREEN TREES



Austrian Pine

Pinus nigra

Grows up to 30-40'. Used often for winter color and accent planting.



Western Red Cedar

Thuja plicata

Grows up to 50-60'. Good accent or windbreak tree. Drought resistant, cold-hardy.



Ponderosa Pine

Pinus ponderosa

Grows up to 100'. Good specimen tree or winter color plant.



Engelmann Spruce

Picea engelmanni

Widely used as ornamental; good winter background or specimen tree.



Japanese Black Pine

Pinus thumbergiana

Good as specimen tree. Good substitute for native pinon.



Chinese Juniper

Juniperus chinensis

Good as tall windbreak. Able to grow in narrow spaces.



Limber Pine

Pinus flexilis

Good specimen landscape tree. Very cold-hardy and sturdy.



Douglas Fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Stately tree for parks and large spaces. Highly adaptable.





New Mexico Olive

Forestiera neomexicana

Good for accent tree or in a mass as a hedge.



Bridal Wreath Spirea

Spiraea prunifolia

Good informal hedge plant. Fragrant spring blooms.



Sand Plum

Prunus americana

Good along walls, fences and watercourses. Attracts wildlife.



Forsythia

Forsythia spp.

Very striking, bright yellow spring display. Grows up to 10'.



Flowering Quince

Chaenomeles speciosa

Hardy. Grows easily under any conditions.



Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Great large area groundcover. Fast growth. Can be invasive.



Apache Plume

Fallugia paradoxa

Continuous, delicate flowers. Can be cultivated as a hedge.



Winterfat

Ceratoides lanata

Attractive next to adobe walls. Works well in small masses.



Barberry

Berberis spp.

Great choice for parks and other large public landscapes.



Parney Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster lacteus

Grows up to 8'. Good hedge specimen.



Mahonia

Mahonia spp.

Robust and hardy, grown for yellow flowers and fall berries.



Lavender Cotton

Santolina spp.

Very aromatic. Fast mounded growth. May form a low hedge.



Virginia Creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Naturalized vine with good red and pink fall color.



Wisteria

Wisteria sinensis

Highly fragrant spring-flowering vine. Great for shade



Clematis

Clematis spp.

Best to plant on north side of short fence. Grows to about 10'.



Trumpet Vine

Campsis radicans

Great on fence or trellis. Attracts hummingbirds. Hardy.

KIT OF PARTS: SHRUBS + VINES

SITE-SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

NORTH GATEWAY

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CAM. DE LA PLACITA

29

LEDOUX ROAD

41

SOUTH GATEWAY

49

KIT CARSON ROAD

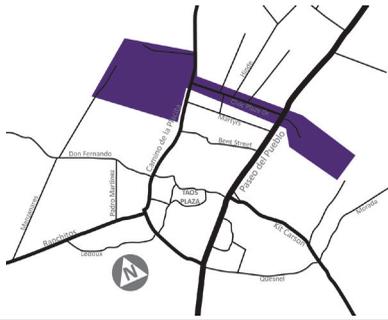
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PASEO DEL PUEBLO

73

TAOS PLAZA

79



NORTH GATEWAY

OPPORTUNITIES:

A number of desirable programs for development were identified through the YourTown charrette:

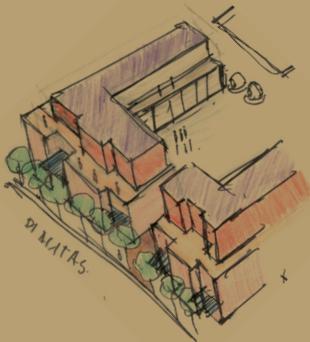
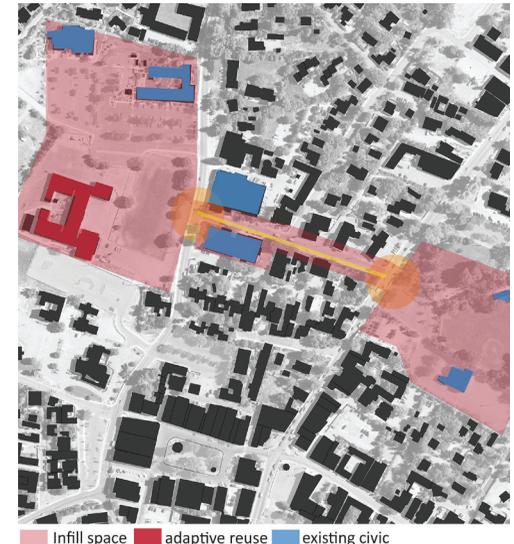
- A 'learning center'
- Open event space
- Mixed-use building types
- Community education resources
- Recreational amenities
- Residential studios

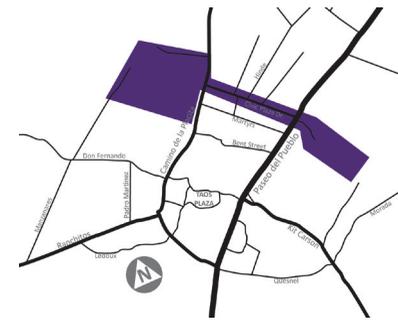


Existing Conditions:

- Civic Plaza Dr.** and the Intersections with Placitas and Paseo are an opportunity to define the entry into the Arts and Cultural District.
- Parking lots** sprawl across sites adjacent to intersections.
- Civic buildings** such as the Town Hall, Library, UNM Taos, and the TCA hint at a Civic Corridor but lack connection and fail to define a street edge.
- Open spaces** are under-utilized and break apart the more dense urban fabric found around the Plaza.
- Adaptive reuse** is considered for the old elementary school and Parr Field.
- Public realm** of the street is dominated by the automobile.

Existing Structure:





NORTH GATEWAY

The North Gateway is composed of three design visions: the Civic Center and Trade School, Civic Plaza Dr., and the eastern edge of Kit Carson Park. Together, these sites work to create, through infill and adaptive reuse, a vibrant gateway to the town from the north.

Youth Engagement

The future of Taos depends on our ability to provide opportunities for student education, and free expression. Taos already has a rich cultural heritage and artisan legacy. Instituting a system for passing on this knowledge to the next generation will foster a self-sustainable ethic

Parking Nodes

Parking structures allow for development of sprawling surface lots into active buildings. The structure becomes the mechanism for pedestrian dispersal and generator of Arts and Cultural events.

Mixed Use Programs

Building Types that integrate residential use with commercial, civic and institutional use will create a synergy of compatible activities that invigorate the public realm for locals and tourist alike .



NORTH GATEWAY

Town Hall Drive is realigned to connect with Civic Plaza Drive. A section of Parr Field is enhanced to become the central open space of the Civic Node. A parking structure replaces surface lots, allowing for the Town Hall to expand and encompass a processional forecourt on axis with the park. The structure itself is wrapped with a Youth and Rec. Center as well as Civic meeting halls. The south part of the site where the elementary sits is developed into a UNM Taos Trade School for the study of both contemporary / traditional Taos crafts.

Civic Plaza Park

Civic Center

- A. Town Hall Expansion
- B. Convention Space
- C. Youth Center
- D. Rec. Center
- E. Parking Structure
- F. Library Expansion
- G. Skate Plaza

Trade School

- H. Craft Houses
- I. Factory
- J. Craft Studios
- K. Parking Structure



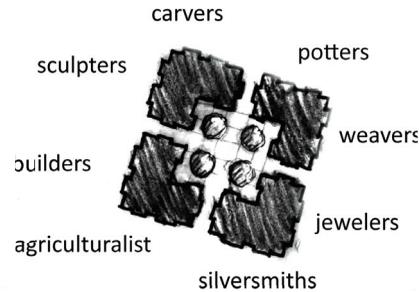
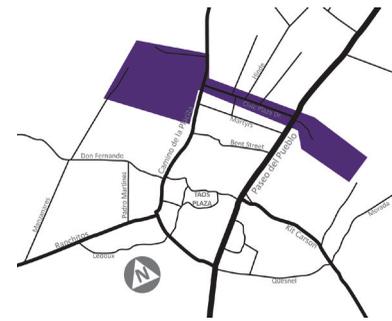
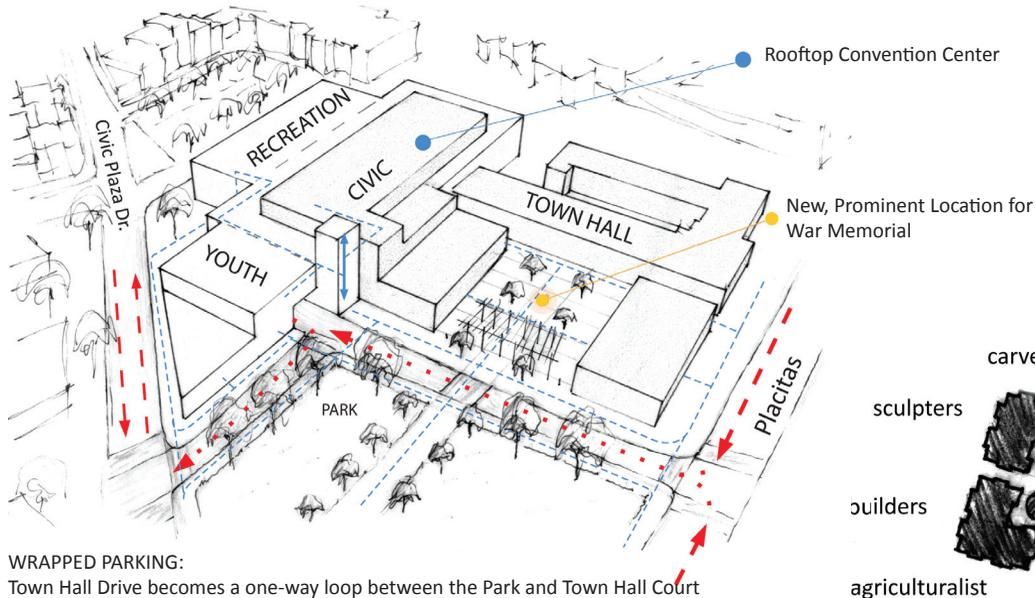
1. CIVIC AXIS:
The Civic Node opens onto the corner of the Trade School, and the park, with the vertical circulation tower marking entry to the parking structure

MIXED USE LEGEND

Gallery ■

Workshop ■

Faculty / Student Apts. ■



NORTH GATEWAY

As the old elementary gets converted into a community Fabrications Factory, the adjacent site is developed into communal 'Craft Houses' which integrate student living quarters with shared workspace and gallery. The school will initiate apprentice mentorship programs based on traditional Taos crafts. The houses form an interior Plaza that serves as an open-air craft market. Students will be directly engaged with competitions to design and build various elements of proposed street furniture which will then be fabricated in the converted factory.



2. LIVE / WORK STUDIOS:
2 - 3 story live / work studios line the west side of the Fabrications Factory, accommodating long-term faculty / students

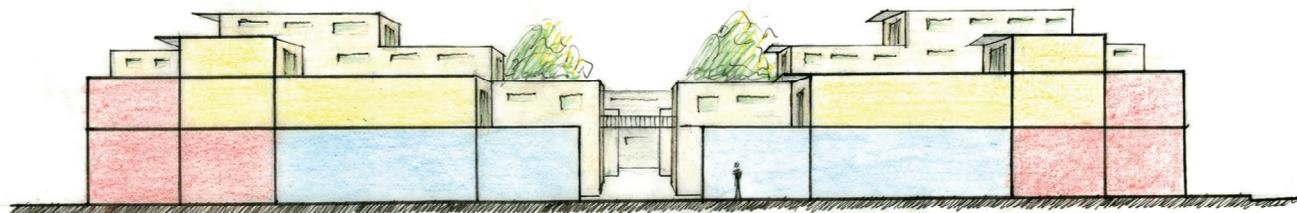
Appx. 15,000sf / house:

10,000sf:

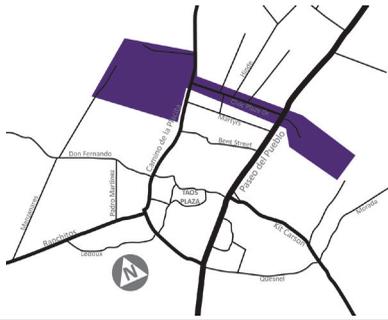
- workspace
- gallery
- amenities

5000sf:

- studio apts.
- appx. 25 residents



Section through Craft House showing usage division (legend at left)



Kit Carson Park

Gateway Center

- A. Media Center
- B. Retail Amenities
- C. Parking Structure
- D. Event Space
- E. TCA Alleyway

Performing Arts

- E. TCA
- F. BlackBox Expansion
- G. Studios
- H. Entry Court



NORTH GATEWAY

An Event Parking Structure will anchor the North entrance to the Arts and Cultural district along Paseo, beckoning drivers to park their vehicles and walk. An extension of the Craft School is then integrated with the TCA to create a Performing Arts Center. The structure is wrapped by Commercial Spaces and a Media Center where event offices are located. As it peaks above the facade, the structure itself becomes signage for the Arts and Cultural District.

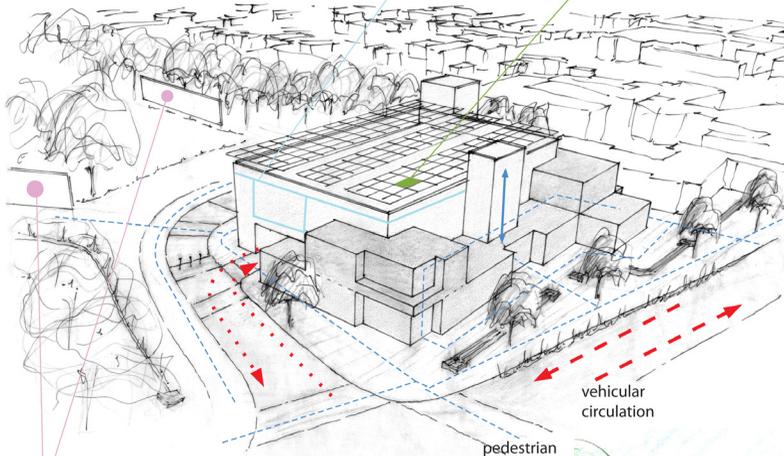


2. EVENT SPACE:

The back facade of the structure is outfitted with a flexible stage area and perforated metal panels which act as a screen for film events that spill into the park

LED Information display and image projection

PV shade structure on the upper level powers LED display



Park Art Walls provide free urban canvases for community expression, while buffering Kit Carson Park events from the TCA auditorium.

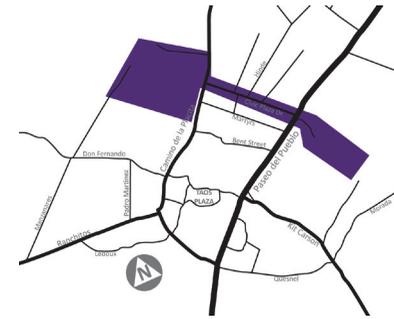
pedestrian circulation

vehicular circulation

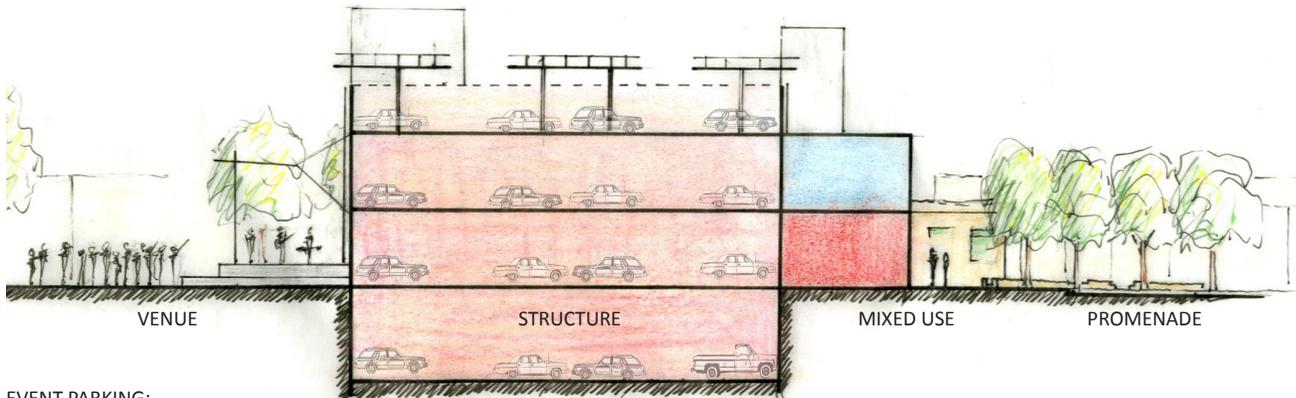


1. TCA ALLEYWAY:

The Gateway Center kisses the Stables Art Gallery with a broad alleyway on axis with the TCA's existing entry way.

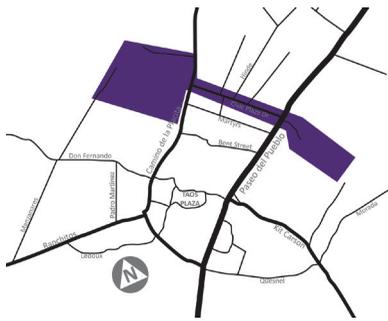


NORTH GATEWAY

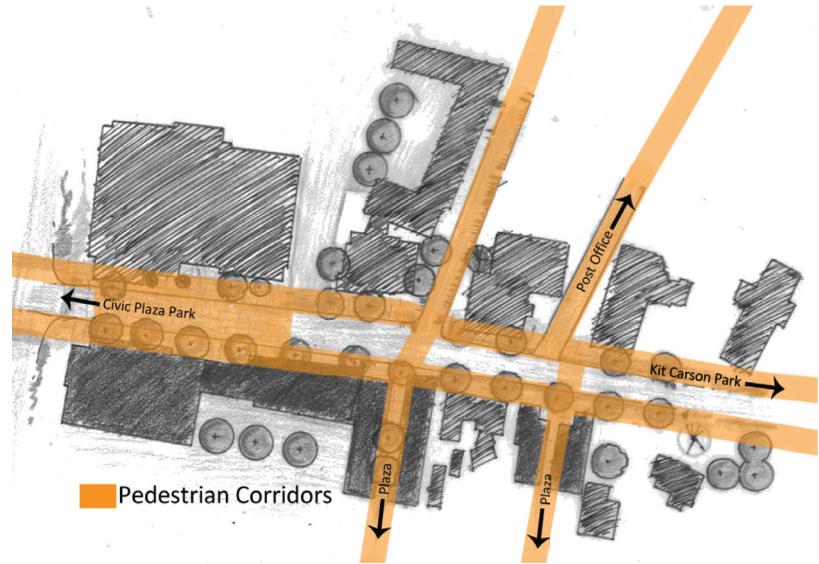


EVENT PARKING:

Structure will supply 150+ parking spaces, while creating active street and park facades for commerce and performing arts events.



Civic Plaza Drive

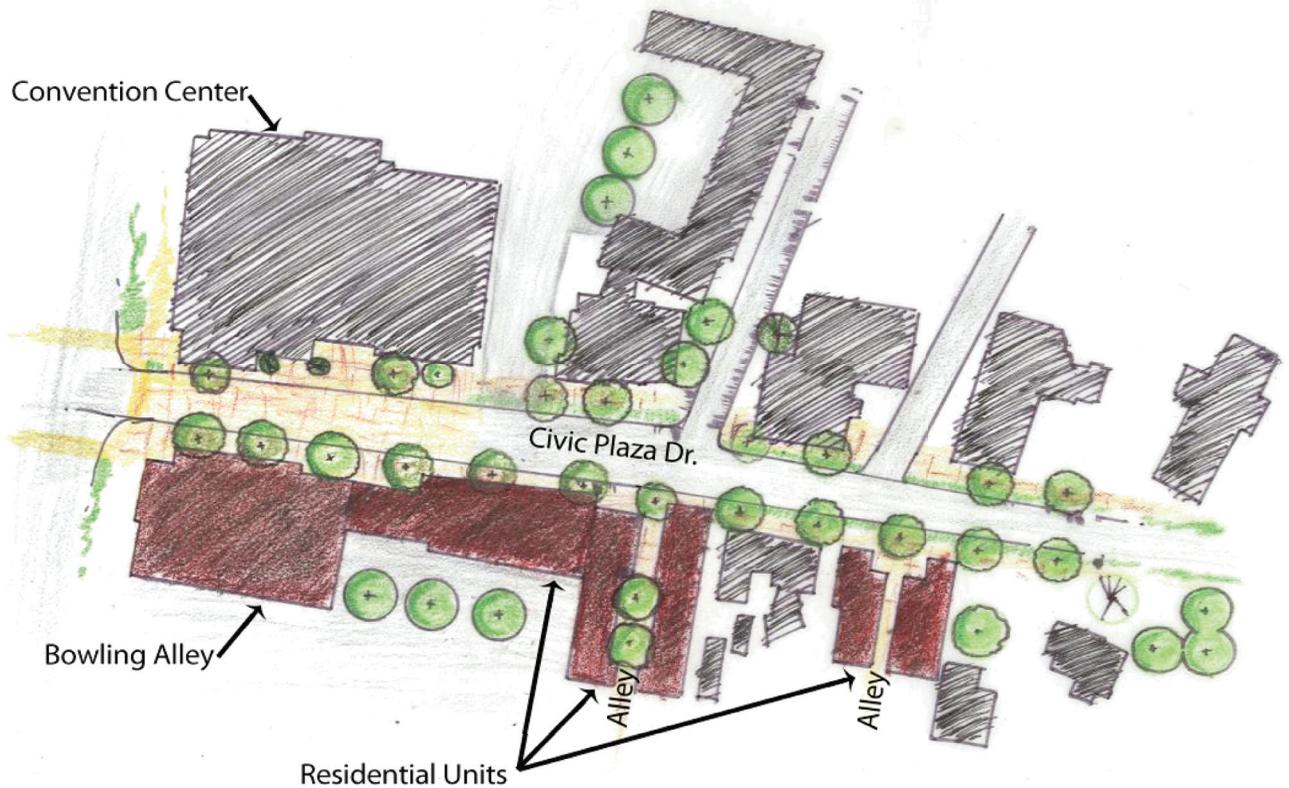


NORTH GATEWAY

The intent for Civic Plaza Dr. is to create a strong connection between existing Civic buildings and the Arts and Cultural District. The realignment of the street creates an immediate connection with Town Hall and parking.

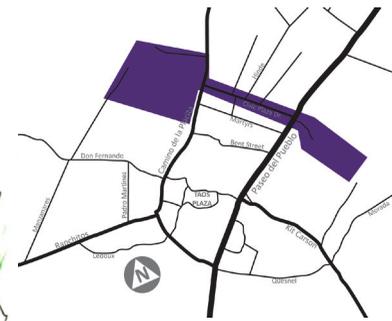
The Infill buildings include residential units and a community bowling alley. The new units allow for more residents to live within the District. The bowling alley is a source of entertainment for the youth of Taos.

All new structures create a strong presence along the street and alleys, defining pedestrian circulation and connections through the area.





LOOKING SOUTH, PLACITAS AND CIVIC PLAZA DR.



NORTH GATEWAY



LOOKING WEST ON CIVIC PLAZA DR.



CAMINO DE LA PLACITA



CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

The southern end of Camino de la Placita, from the intersection at Paseo del Pueblo north to Don Fernando Rd., is a corridor rich in history and ripe with opportunity. It is the historic site of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, as well as the link between the Plaza and the gallery district along Ledoux Rd., one of the oldest streets in the town. It is also an important point of entry for tourists to the Plaza.



Historic site of OLOG Church, circa 1916



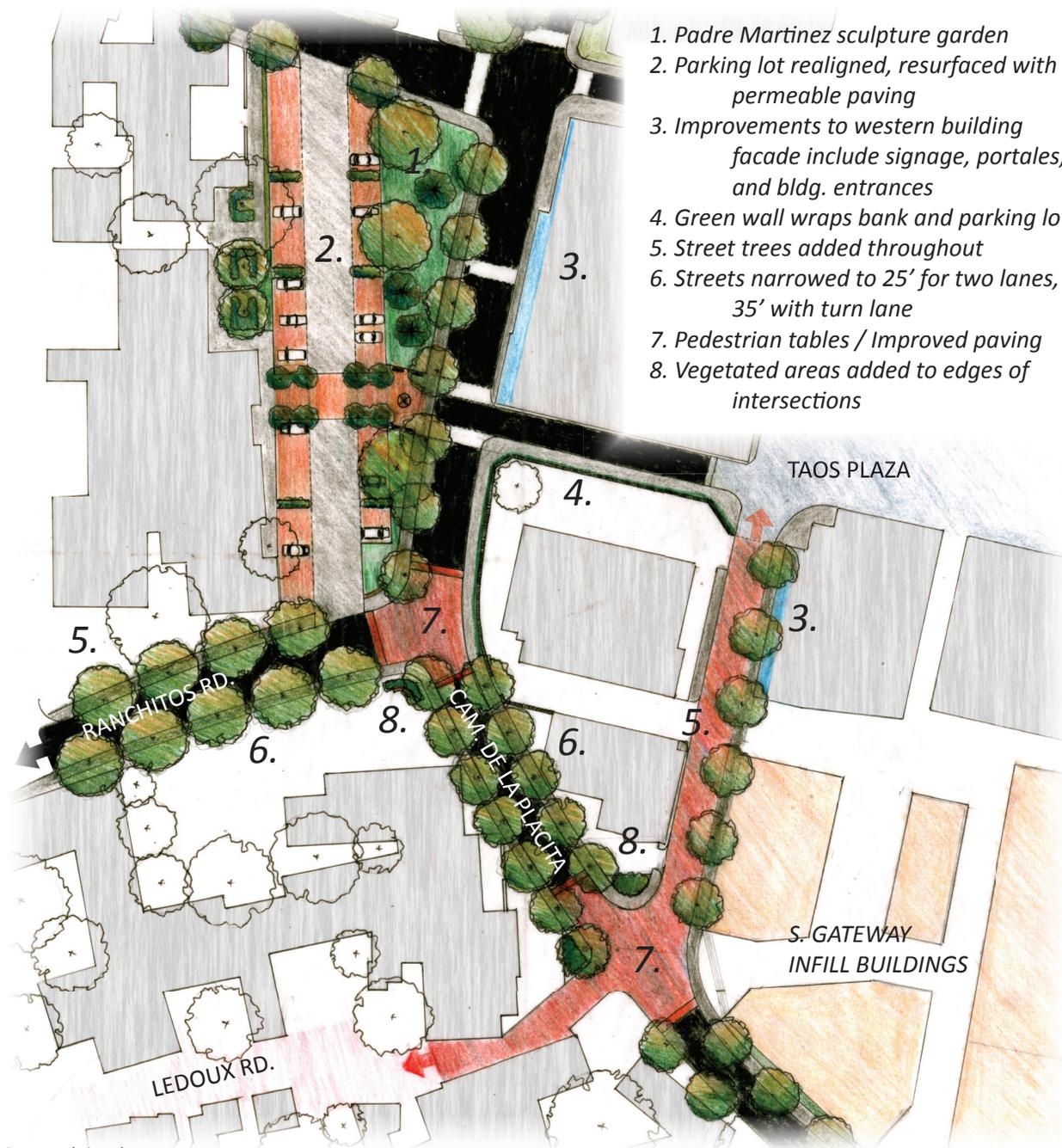
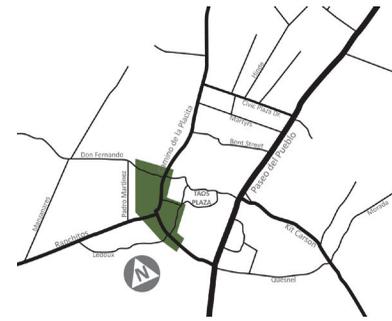
Site today; a parking lot



Existing conditions



Existing condition; historic site of OLOG church is outlined in orange



1. Padre Martinez sculpture garden
2. Parking lot realigned, resurfaced with permeable paving
3. Improvements to western building facade include signage, portales, and bldg. entrances
4. Green wall wraps bank and parking lot
5. Street trees added throughout
6. Streets narrowed to 25' for two lanes, 35' with turn lane
7. Pedestrian tables / Improved paving
8. Vegetated areas added to edges of intersections

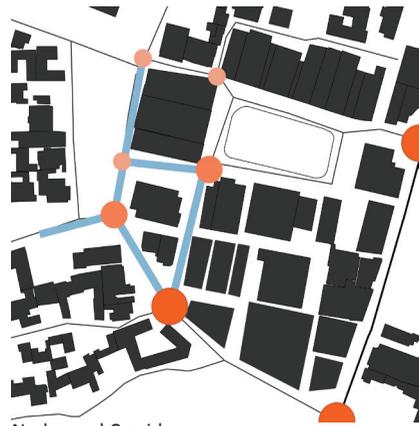
CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

During the YourTown design charrette, residents expressed the desire to implement a number of solutions, on a variety of scales, addressing the connectivity issues in Taos' arts and cultural district. These include: increased walkability, legibility, and amenity. All improvements are intended to enhance the overall pedestrian and vehicular experience.

A number of sites have been identified along the Placitas corridor and addressed in a manner congruent with the existing and historic character of Taos.



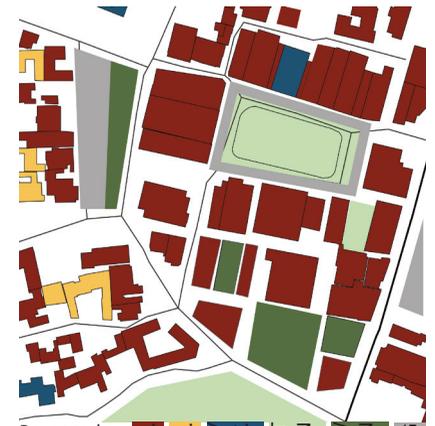
CAMINO DE LA PLACITA



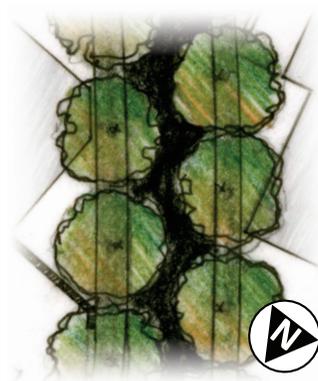
Nodes and Corridors



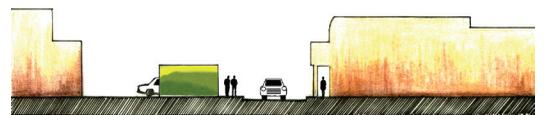
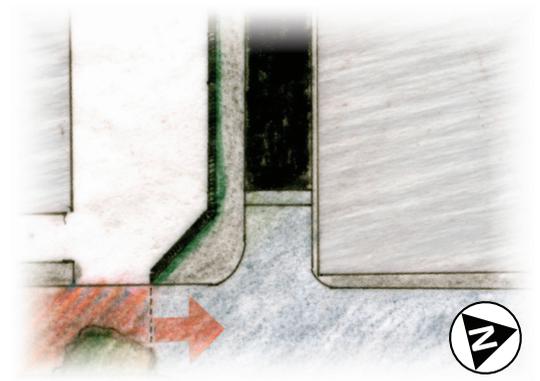
Proposed edge conditions



Proposed land use



Section to NW through Placitas



Section to West through green wall



CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

CORRIDOR OPPORTUNITIES:

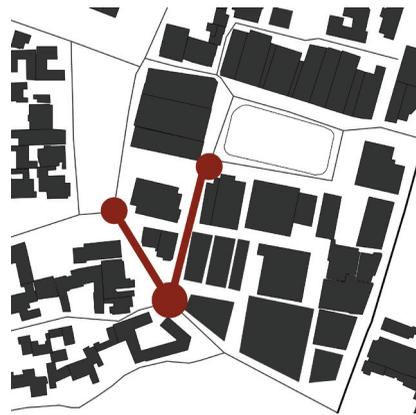
Pedestrian tables and paving changes @ intersections slow traffic and allow for a shared pedestrian / vehicular experience.

Road width narrowed to 24', sidewalks widened and street trees installed along conventional roadway.

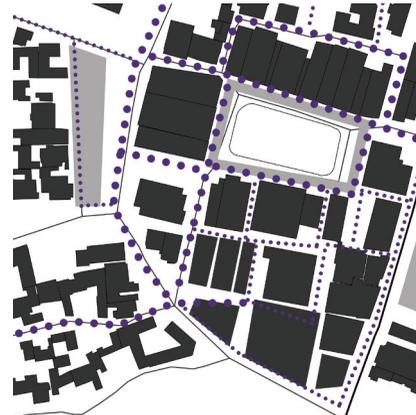
Facade improvements to existing structures enhance the pedestrian experience.

Permeable lots with drainage into bio-swales for a more integrated and aesthetic parking solution.

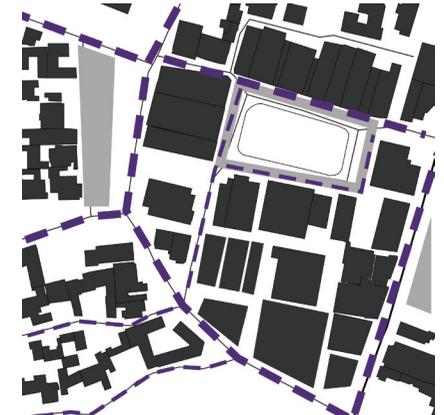
Surface and Paving



Pedestrian tables: Paving at sidewalk Level



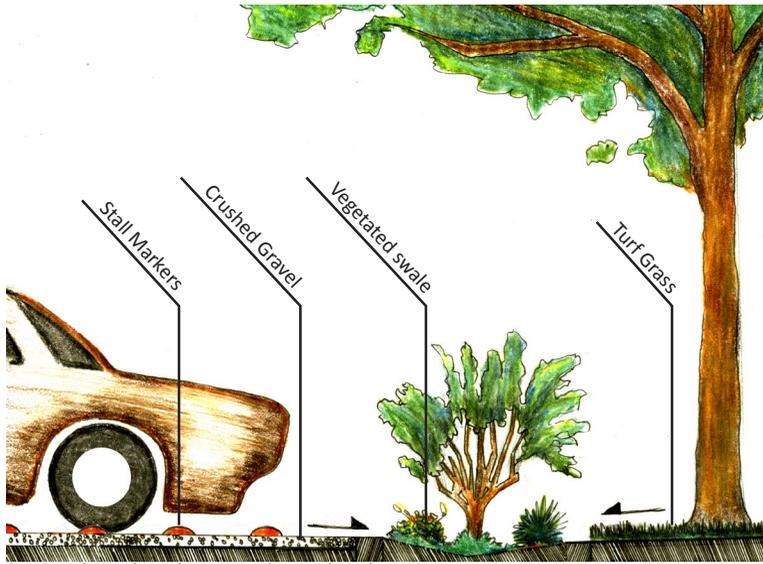
Pedestrian circulation and parking



Vehicular circulation and parking



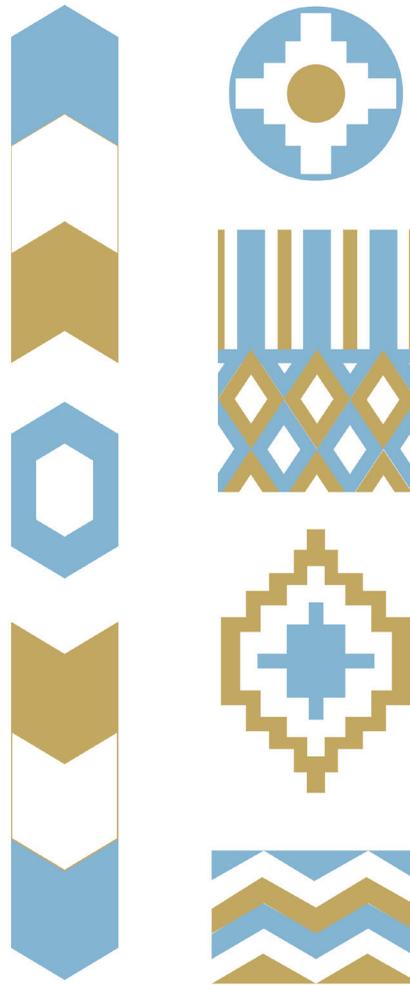
Camino de la Placita and Ledoux looking NW toward sculpture garden



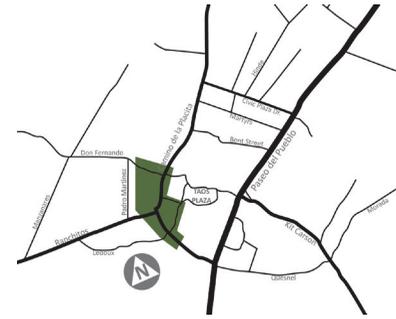
Section through sculpture garden parking lot



PRECEDENT: Heifer International, Little Rock, AR



Potential paving patterns



CAMINO DE LA PLACITA



Pervious parking w/ paved circulation



Pedestrian table



Shared pedestrian and vehicular street



Jardín de las Tres Culturas

A vertical herb garden

CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

A GREENWALL FOR TAOS:

Anchors the southwest corner of the re-designed Taos Plaza.

Enhances a sense of destination upon reaching the end of Ranchitos Rd. at Cam. de la Placita.

Provides visual, olfactory, and tactile interest at a variety of scales.

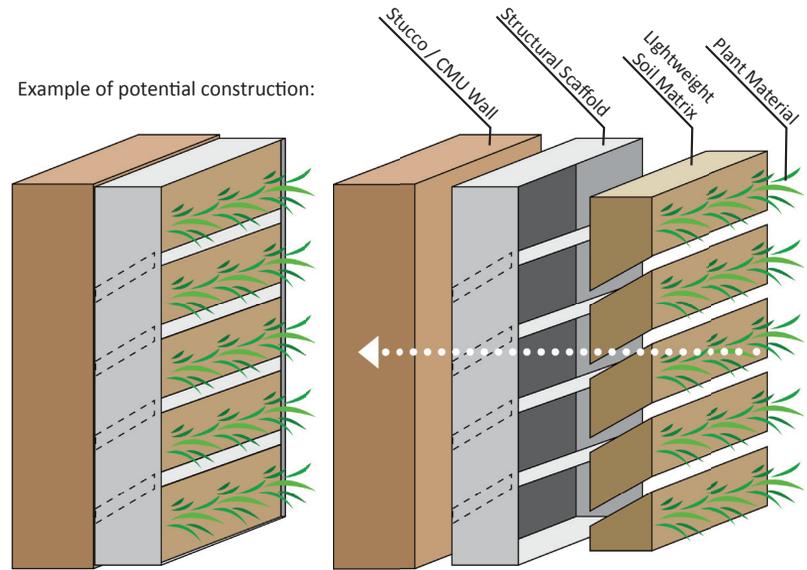
Leads pedestrians to the new location of the Padre Martinez Statue & Sculpture Garden.

Reflects the intertwined cultures of Taos via plants



PRECEDENT: "Wooly Pockets"

Example of potential construction:

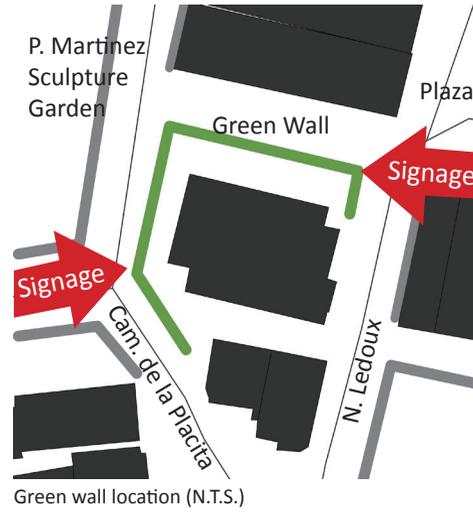


Plant Origin	Suggested Species	Design Concept
Native	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> verbena horsemint wild onion yerba mansa 	
European	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thyme fennel cilantro garlic 	
C. American	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paprika m. tarragon cayenne hierba santa 	

Diagram of concept for green wall: the 3 intertwined cultures of Taos



PRECEDENT: Patrick Blanc - "Vertical Garden"



CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

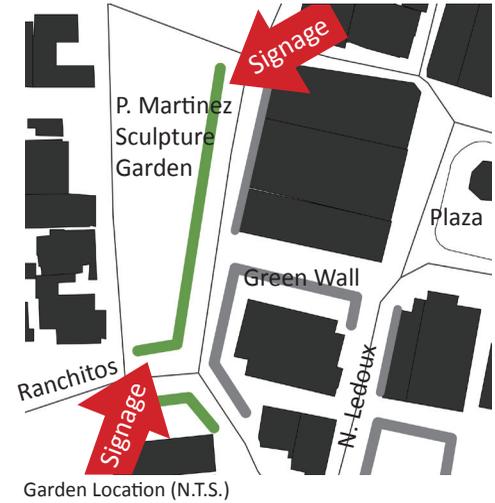


Looking West past Greenwall to new location of Padre Martinez statue



Padre Martinez Sculpture Garden

A new home for the Padre



CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

DESTINATION + REFUGE:

The statue of Padre Martinez has been moved to the historic grounds of the original church courtyard, a more historically appropriate site for such a significant figure.

Centered prominently along the street axis leading in from the Plaza, the statue anchors a sculpture garden that is highly visible from the road and offers the opportunity of a "windshield gallery" for passing motorists. At the same time, a proposed...



"WINDSHIELD GALLERY" PRECEDENT:
Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, NM



PRECEDENT:
Shidoni, Tesuque, NM



Looking North through the Ranchitos Rd. Intersection



Enlarged Street Section through Sculpture Garden Steps



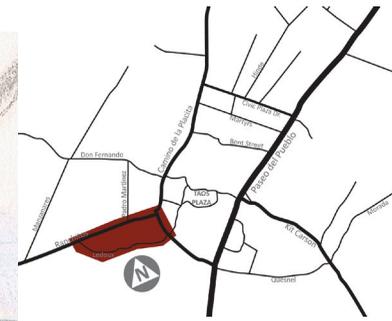
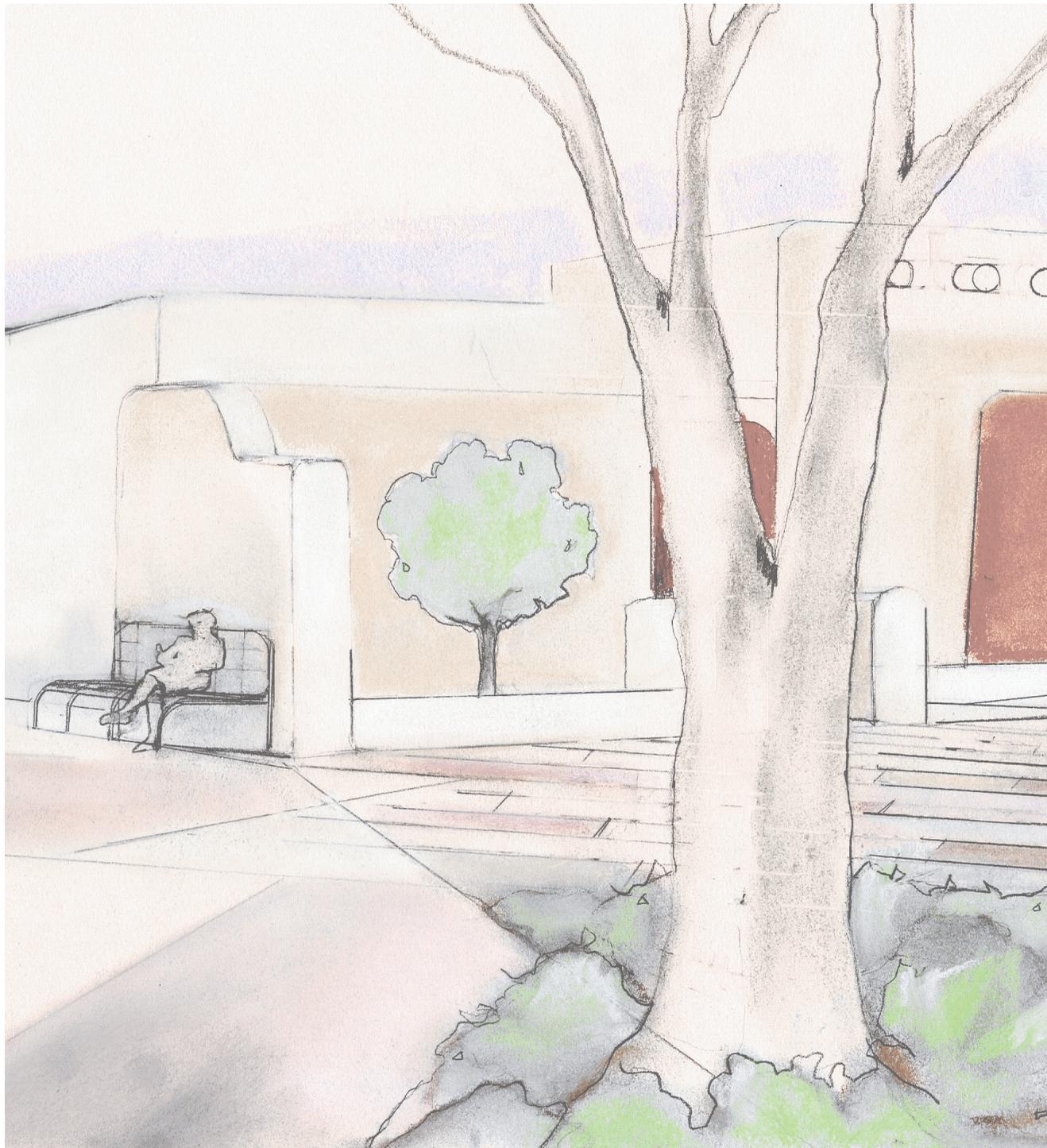
CAMINO DE LA PLACITA

...grade change will allow the garden to be sunken from the sidewalk level, offering the chance to step down into a place of quiet respite shielded from the noise and bustle of the road.

Dona Luz Rd. has been eliminated and the parking lot re-configured, using a permeable surface treatment, both to make room for the garden, and to provide an enhanced parking experience, without having to lose a single parking space.



Looking South from Don Fernando Rd.

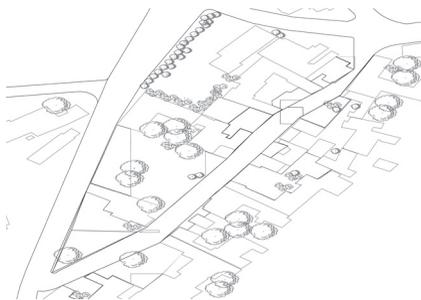


LEDOUX ROAD

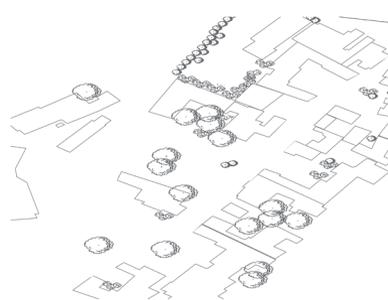


Proposed site plan

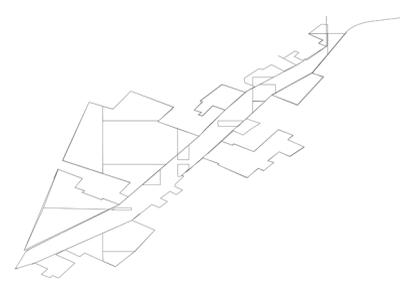
A “plaza street” becomes the design solution; the street is integrated into the open spaces through a pavement material.



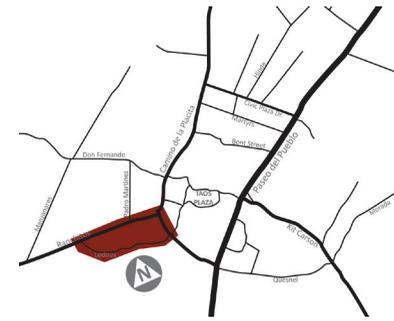
Existing condition



Open space



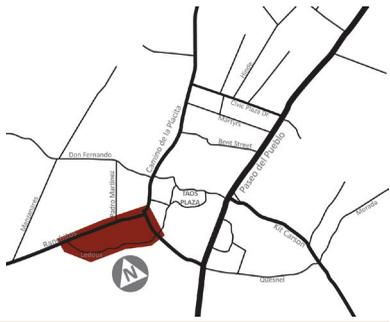
Street Plaza floor



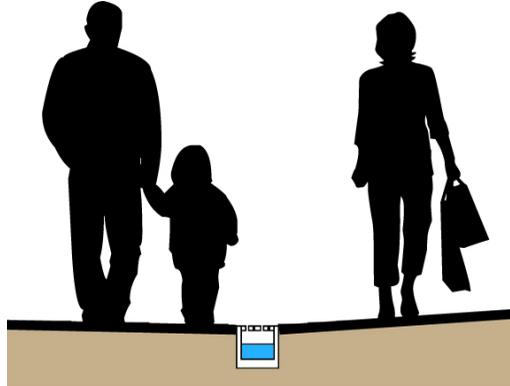
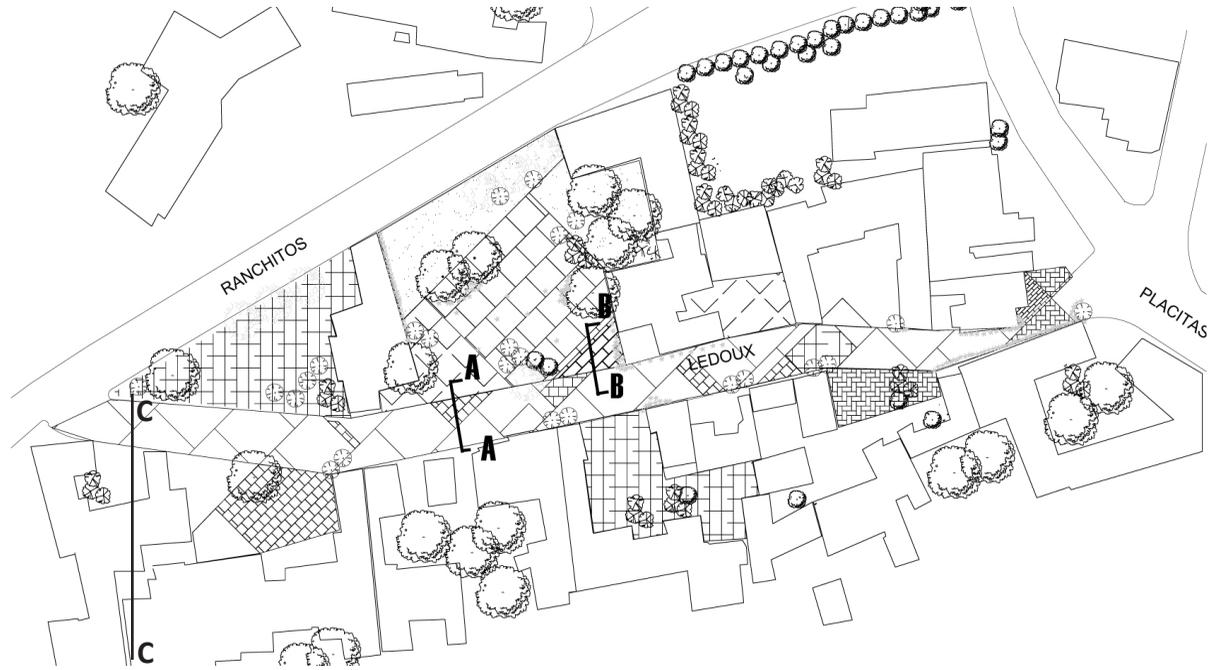
LEDoux ROAD

The charrette gave citizens an opportunity to discuss the opportunities for Ledoux Rd. Seating, and lighting, as well as a more pedestrian friendly environment were noted as lacking. Other items discussed were program, paving, food, comfort, conservation, and small performance spaces.

The participants are seeking a restful and quiet street, yet would also like to create a welcoming space for the public. Another concern was the lack of visibility at the Placitas intersection. Different ideas were generated to make the street more easily recognizable and accessible.



LEDOUX ROAD



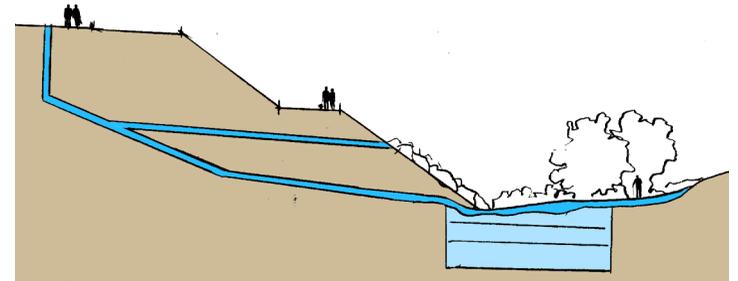
SECTION A: Road with rill drain



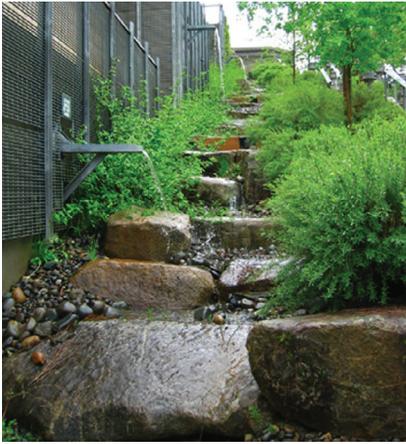
SECTION B: Patio and stairs



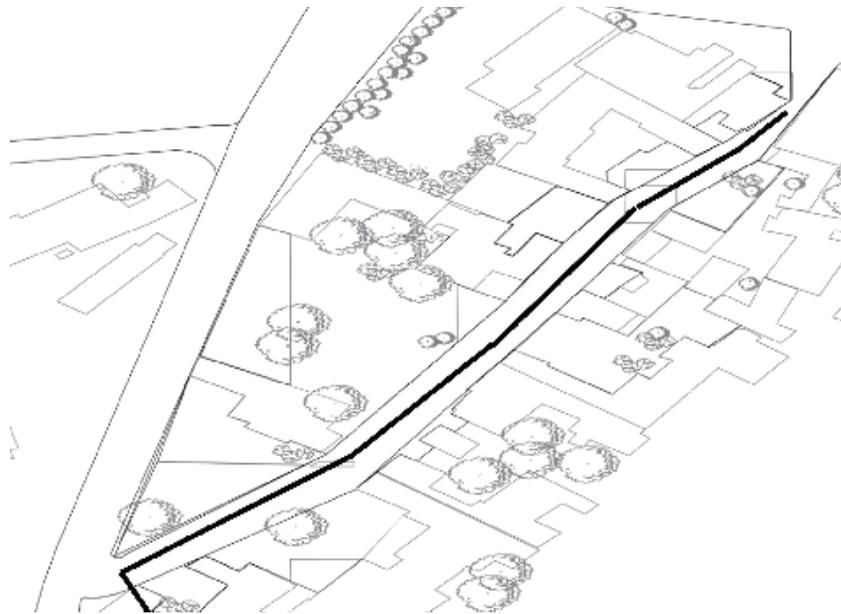
PRECEDENTS: Rill drains



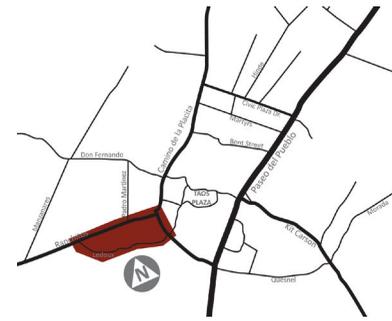
SECTION C: Pipe drains to bio-swale garden; water storage beneath



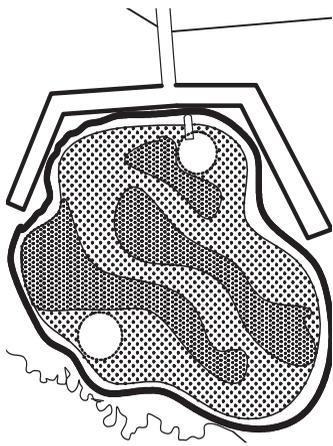
PRECEDENT: Rock waterfall



Water drains to bio-swale garden below Comanche Rd.



LEDOUX ROAD



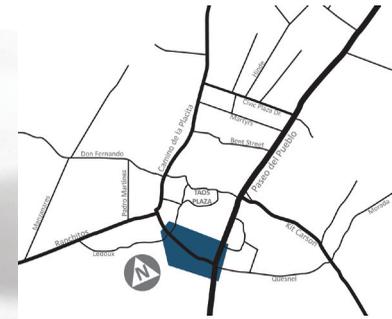
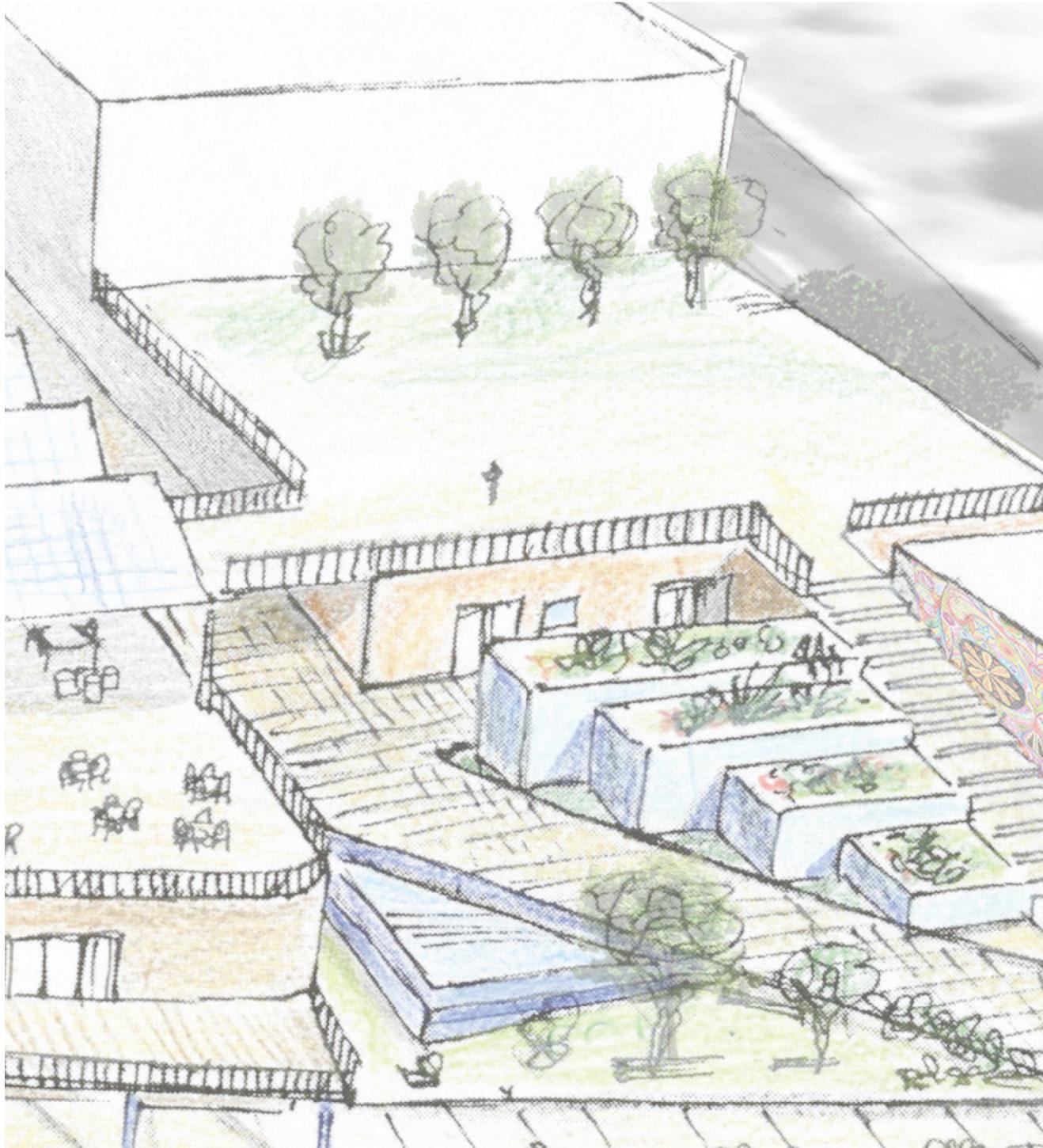
Bio-swale garden



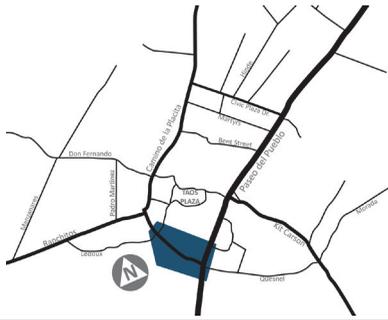
PRECEDENT: Vegetated bio-swale



Plant palette



SOUTH GATEWAY



Evolution of the South Gateway



The current trend is to fence and reject the street and sidewalk, creating a disjointed series of districts rather than a united urban framework.



SOUTH GATEWAY

The south gateway to Taos seeks to create a vibrant new district which acts as a vital anchor point to the plaza district. The south gateway is a mixed use area which is composed as an urban framework of stairs, bridges, patios and occupy-able roofs which create layers of spaces both public and private. The south gateway is designed for the pedestrian and encourages foot traffic and mingling as people pass through allies and patios and under portales which frame colorful spaces filled with trees, water and people.



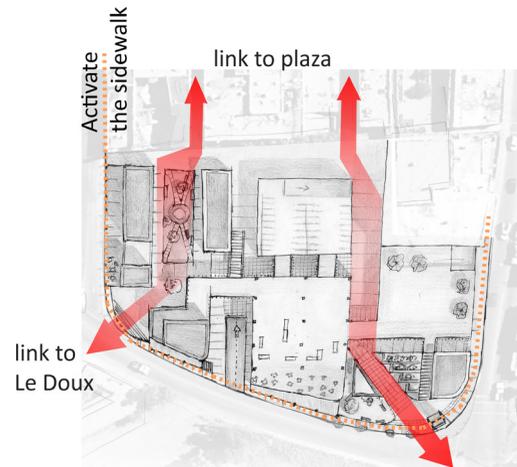
1909 - The area south of the plaza in 1909 was more developed than it stands today; it served as primarily a storage area and was built entirely out of adobe structures.



1929 - Nearly 80 years ago the south gateway was developed as a series of homes, studios, storage areas and even a hall -- all of which no longer exist. Multiple courtyards and enclosed public spaces were beginning to become evident.

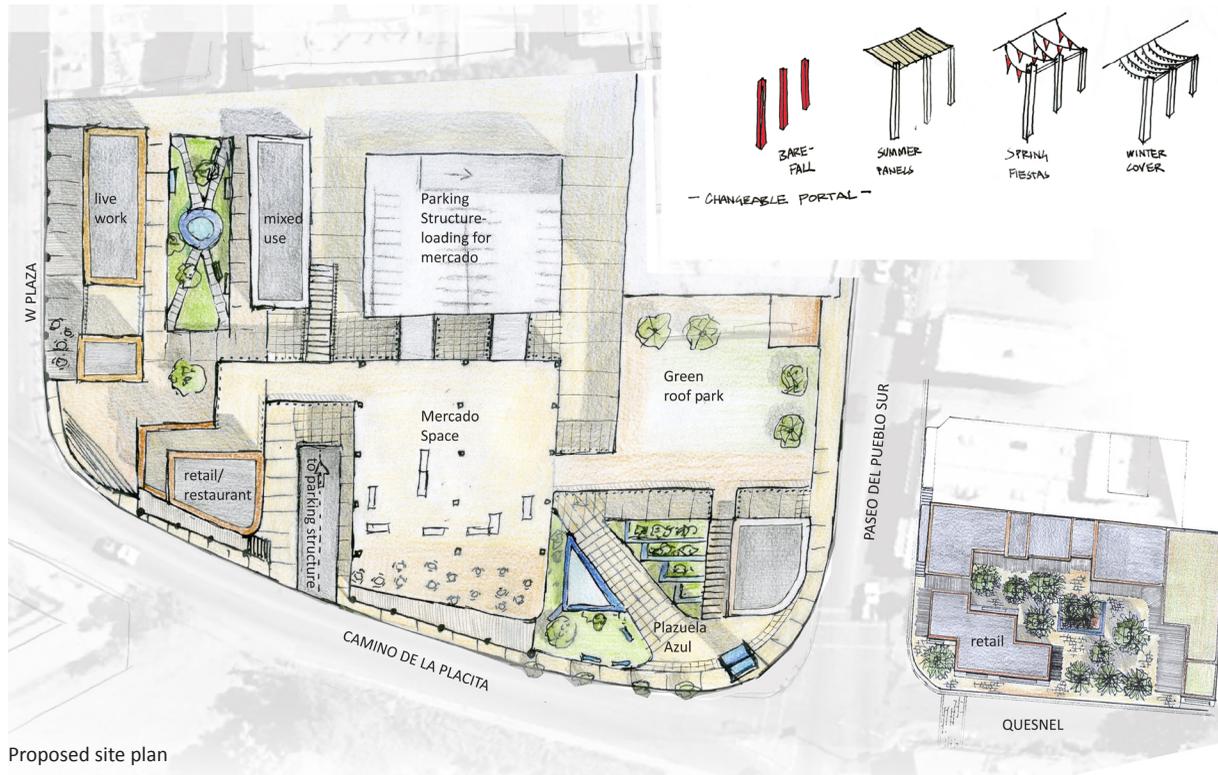
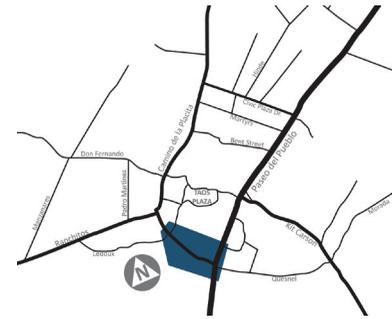


1980's - After the rise of the automobile, the area south of the plaza became primarily used for parking, with the exception of one green space at the corner of west plaza and Camino de la Placita which has since disappeared as well, leaving only a sea of asphalt as the existing south gateway



2020 The simple urban parti is to connect to surrounding areas by identifying existing paths and districts and uniting them.

Restoration and connection



Proposed site plan

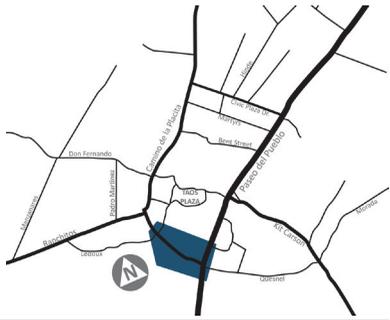


Looking North up Paseo del Pueblo Sur from Quesnel

SOUTH GATEWAY

KEY GOALS

- Connect to the plaza and its existing alleys
- Connect to Ledoux and Quesnel
- Activate the street edge
- Create legible parking away from the street edge
- Create a large PV array which also harvests water
- Provide spaces for vendors to sell art, food, clothes etc.



SOUTH GATEWAY

The proposed re-development of the south gateway is not an infill project, but a restoration project which seeks to bring back the density and green spaces which existed in the past. The south gateway connects alley's to the plaza and plays out to visually connect to Ledoux street as well as Quesnel creating a unified, legible walking district.



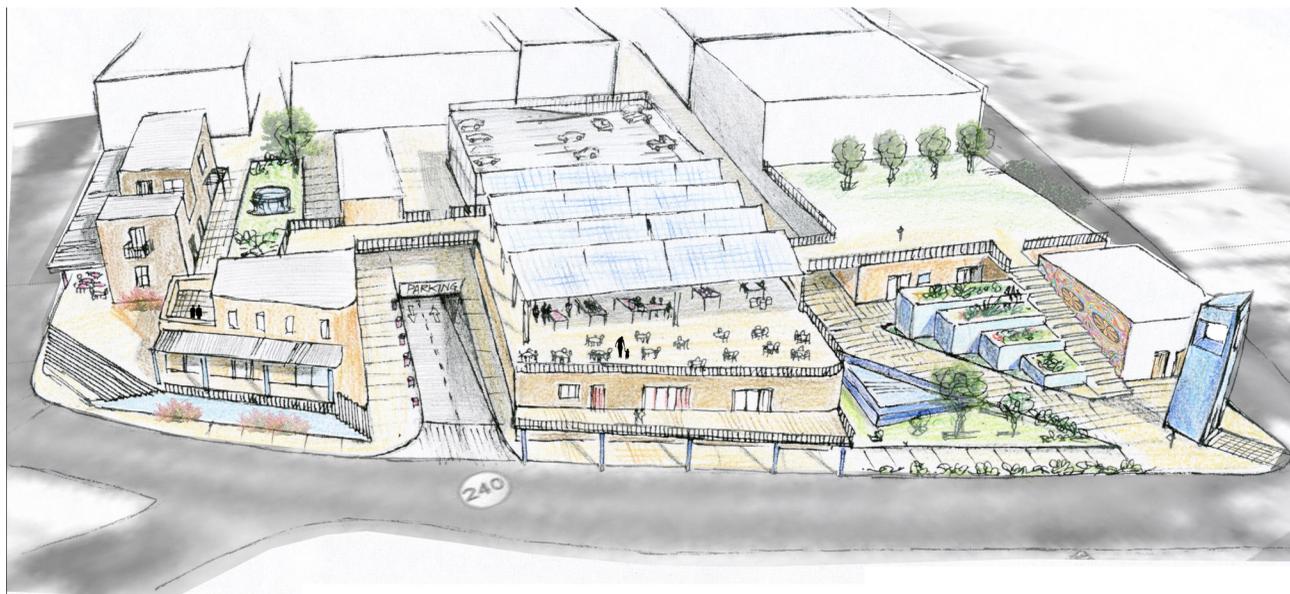
Walking from Paseo del Pueblo Sur into inner plazuela



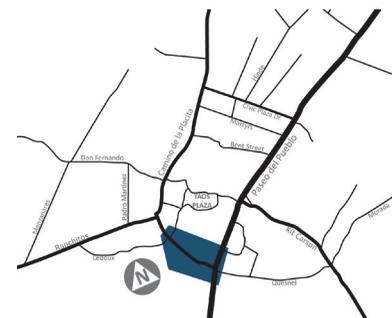
Quesnel Lane

Walking from Quesnel west to gateway south

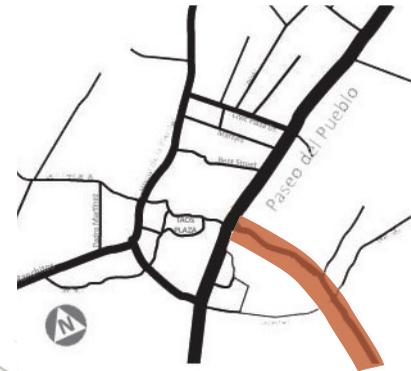




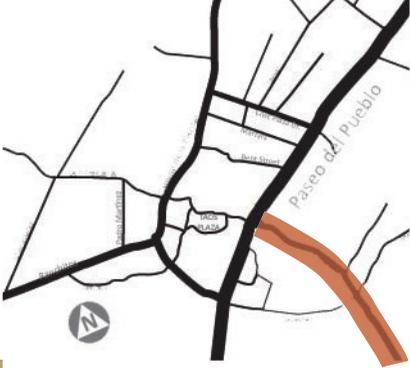
Aerial view to the North over Camino de la Placita



SOUTH GATEWAY



KIT CARSON ROAD



KIT CARSON ROAD

LAND USE AND ZONING PLAN

STRATEGIC GOALS

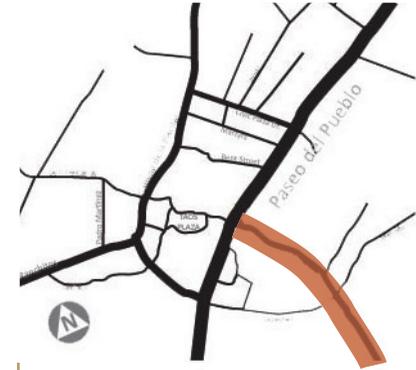
Identify Kit Carson Road Association District boundaries

Identify current land use and zoning restrictions



COMMENTS

Kit Carson Road in addition to its long history as an overland mountain road connecting Taos to Cimarron and Las Vegas currently hosts an array of important historical, cultural and economic districts. It acts as a link with Taos Plaza connecting the Kit Carson Memorial State park and historical cemetery, the Mabel Dodge Luhan and Couse foundations along a spine containing leading contemporary and tradition based art galleries. As a major artery it also routes vehicular traffic including commercial trucks through narrow passages shared with at time voluminous pedestrian traffic. The purpose of this diagram is to identify a broader district that links together historical, cultural, commercial and green spaces that would be united under an umbrella organization of merchants and residents responsible for decisions affecting direction, design, implementation and maintenance of proposed improvements. This group would be known as the Kit Carson Road Association.



KIT CARSON ROAD

CIRCULATION,
PARKING, LINKS

STRATEGIC GOALS

Create parking and pedestrian plazuelas

Provide pedestrian, bicycle and equine links

Identify and link cultural landmarks and system of orientation

TACTICAL ACTIONS

- Create safe pedestrian, bicycle and equine movement zones
- Encourage off street parking with series of pocket parking zones

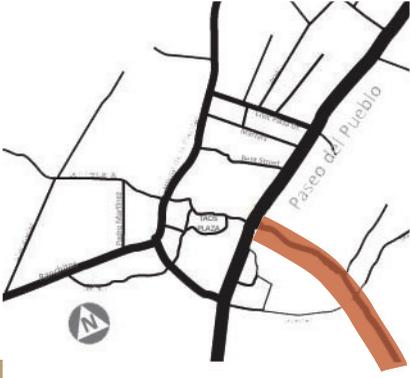
COMMENTS

Current pedestrian circulation is confusing and particularly dangerous at the major traffic node intersections of Paseo del Pueblo and Quesnel Road.

Pedestrian circulation along Kit Carson Road is narrow and restricted at choke points and amenities; shade, seating, way finding and color are lacking.

Cultural, community and economic assets of the district are under utilized and poorly integrated into pedestrian circulation.

Available parking is fragmented and poorly linked to pedestrian and commercial areas of Kit Carson Road.



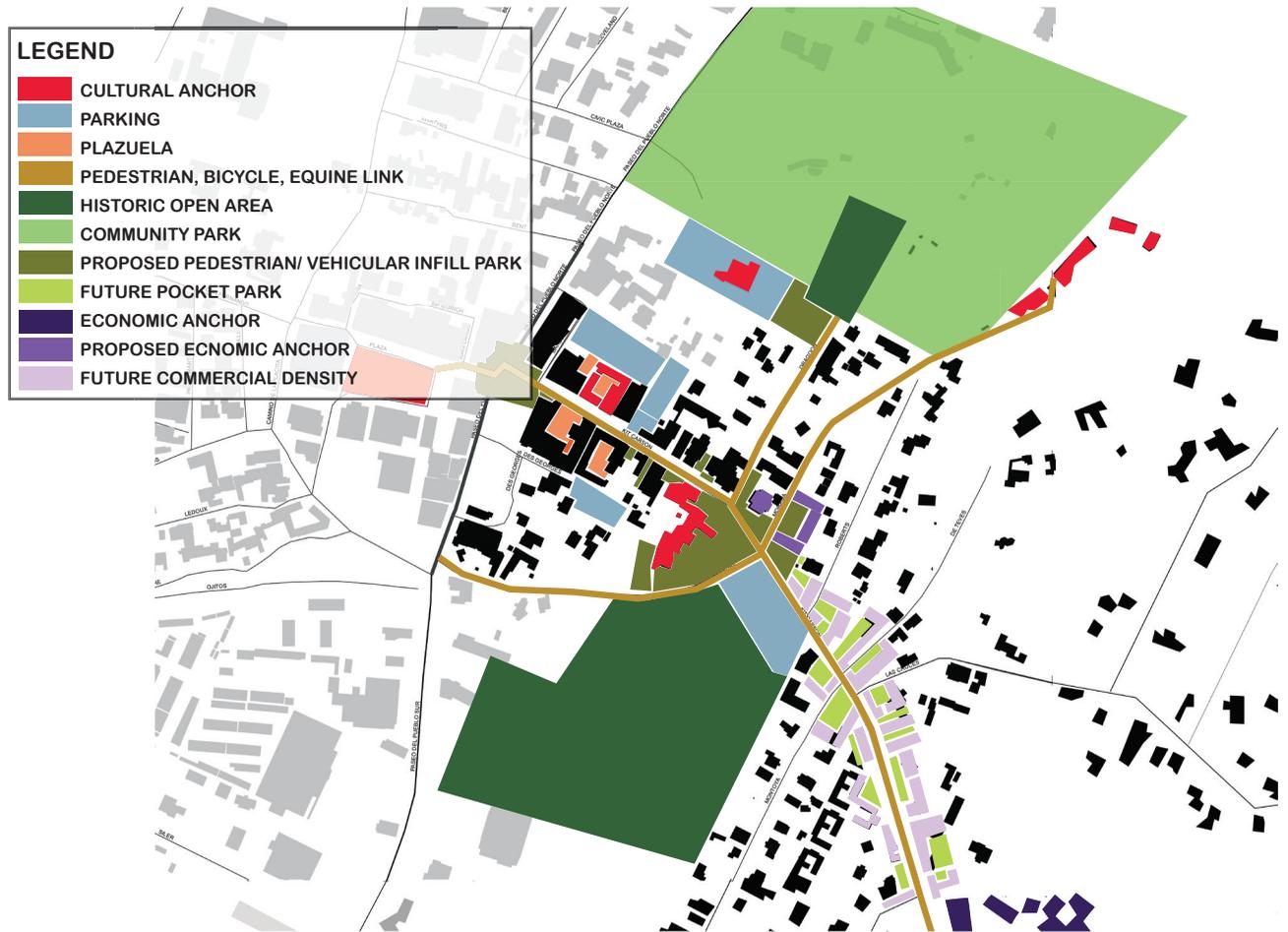
KIT CARSON ROAD

ECONOMIC ANCHORS

STRATEGIC GOALS

Encourage mix uses and commercial and cultural density from Taos Plaza to Monte Sagrado

Encourage pedestrian movement through linkage of cultural landmarks, plazuelas, and green zones.

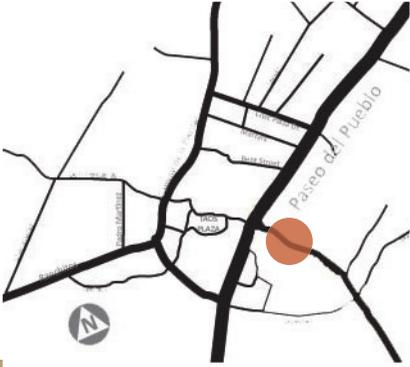


TACTICAL ACTIONS

Commercial density results from new linked circulation patterns
 Create new economic anchors, restaurant and hotel, to attract visitors to district

COMMENTS

Economic, Cultural and Green Anchors are linked together by Kit Carson, Quesnel, Morada and Dragoon Roads. Foundations, museums, historical open areas and businesses form the basis on which the Kit Carson Road Association will rebuild and revitalize the district. New amenities and safe and logical circulation networks will draw the out of town visitor to the district and provide the local resident population with a strollable and enlivened neighborhood. Increased foot traffic will migrate southward on Kit Carson Road and with time it is foreseen that commercial densification will occur between Quesnel Road and the Monte Sagrado Inn.

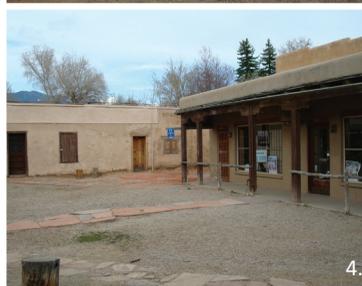
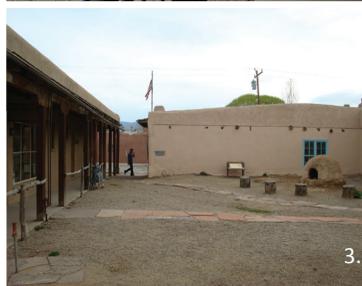
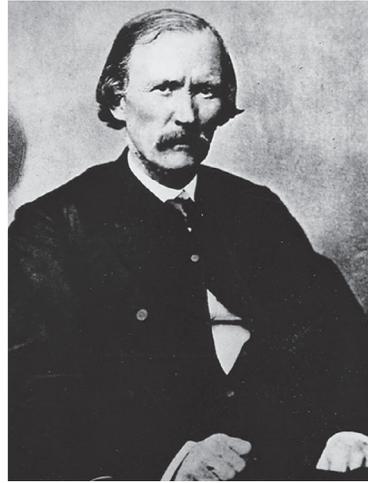


KIT CARSON ROAD

KIT CARSON MUSEUM ZONE

KEYED NOTES

1. Entrance off street - no indication of unique historical place or reason to enter
2. 2-4 Courtyard view - lack of amenities or sense of place for visitor
5. Street portico - enliven with color and shade
6. Burr Oak - Historic Tree program
7. Columner Oak - mark place of entry
8. Compacted crusher fine gravel
9. Open joint brick paving
10. Fountain in new annex courtyard
11. Rustic vocabulary for new portico
12. Climbing rose for color, shade and softening
13. Hollyhock for color and levity
14. Flowering Crabapple
15. Geraniums in container for character



STRATEGIC GOALS

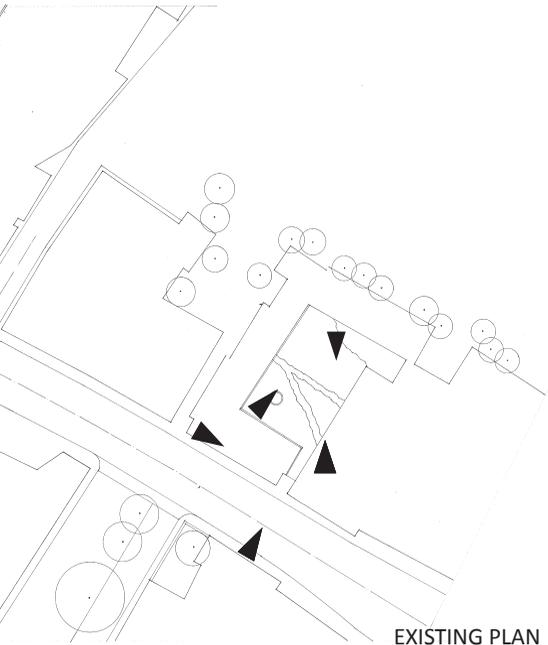
- Enliven and reclaim as historical and cultural anchor for the district

TACTICAL ACTIONS

- Create appropriate and dignified architectural enclosure with added east portico and connection to adjacent plazuela
- Addition of historic specimen tree (burr oak) as focal point and character of genius loci
- Propose appropriate commercial complement to museum store to attract visitors.
- Add color and enliven with climbing roses and perennial hollyhocks
- Extend museum zone out into Kit Carson Road

COMMENTS

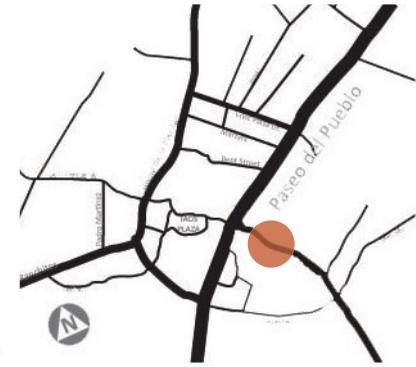
Kit Carson Museum housed in the historic residence of the iconic 19th century military figure Kit Carson is currently an under maintained and under-utilized cultural landmark of the Kit Carson Road Association District. A sensitive and well thought out renovation of the interior courtyard including the addition of a simple outdoor “café” providing a nexus of activity would attract pedestrian traffic in from Kit Carson Road. Exterior street planting including additions of color and foliage would enliven the street façade and help return this monument to its proper place as a fundamental and key element in the Kit Carson Road Association district.



EXISTING PLAN



COURTYARD PERSPECTIVE B

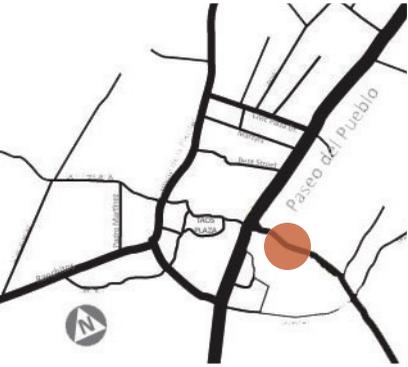


KIT CARSON ROAD

KIT CARSON MUSEUM ZONE

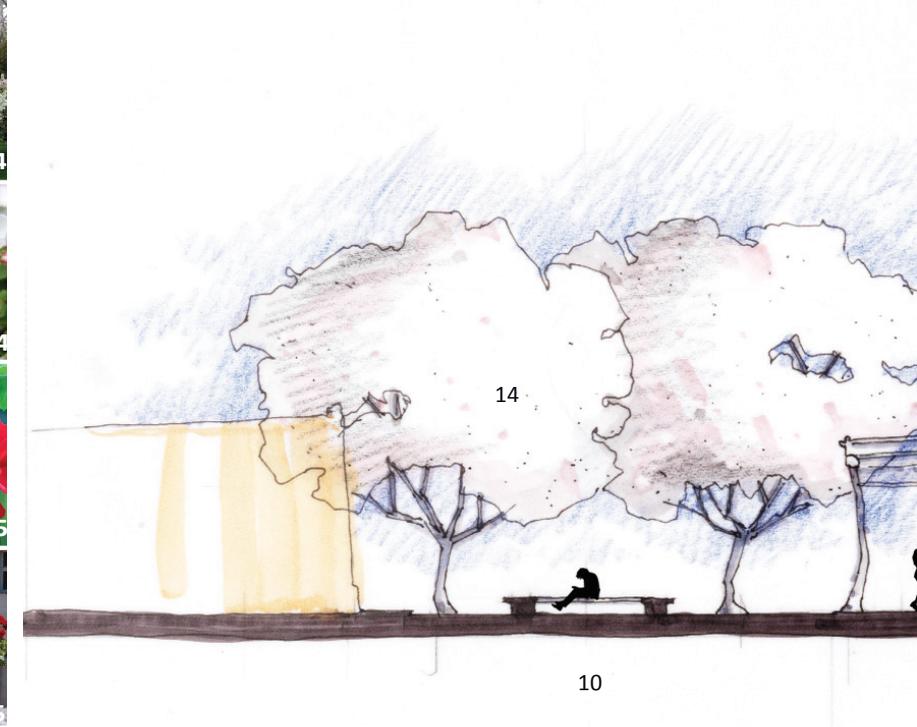
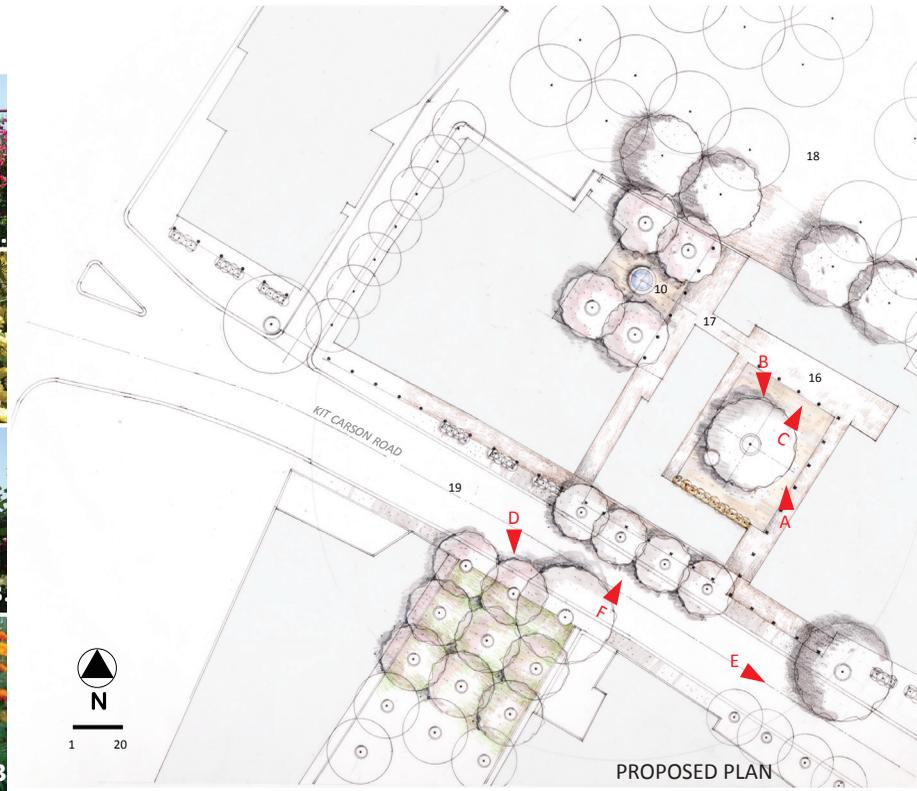


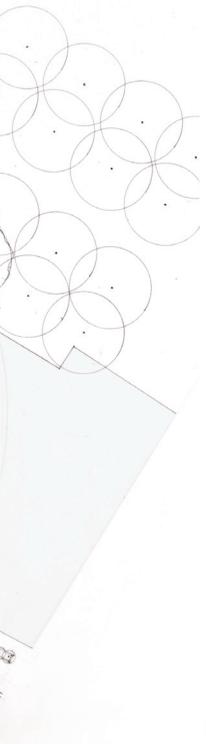
COURTYARD PERSPECTIVE A



KIT CARSON ROAD

KIT CARSON MUSEUM ZONE

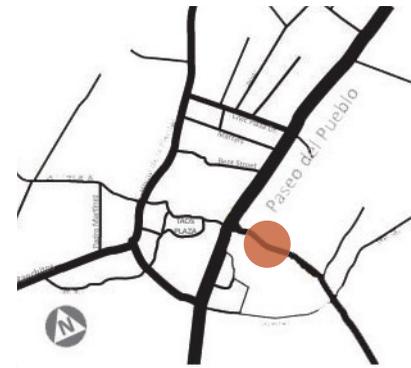




PERSPECTIVE SKETCH D



COURTYARD ELEVATION C



KIT CARSON ROAD

KEYED NOTES

6. Burr Oak - Historic Tree program
7. Columner Oak - mark place of entry
8. Compacted crusher fine gravel
9. Open joint brick paving
10. Fountain in new annex courtyard
11. Rustic vocabulary for new portico
12. Climbing rose for color, shade and softening
13. Hollyhock for color and levity
14. Flowering Crabapple
15. Geraniums in container for character
16. New East Portico
17. Connect with adjacent Courtyard
18. Canopy green parking
19. Narrowing of Kit Carson Road

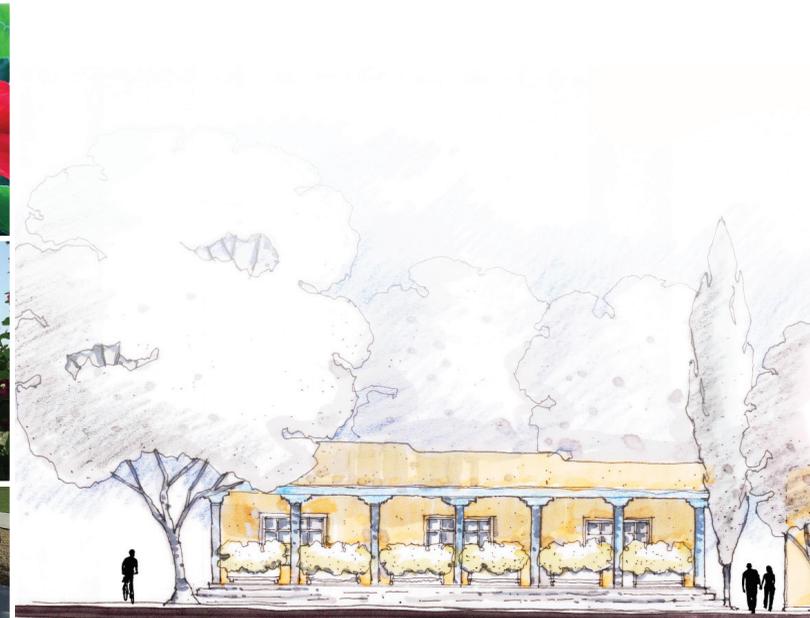
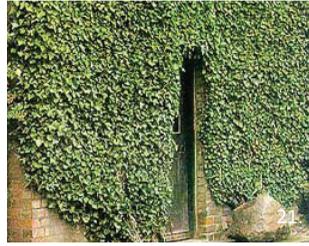


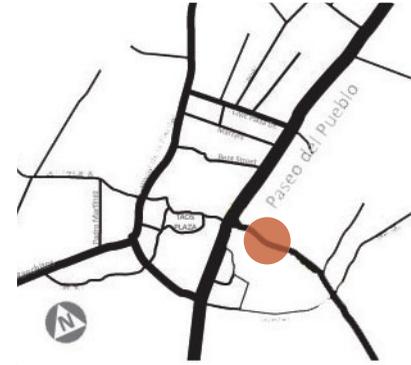
KIT CARSON ROAD

KIT CARSON MUSEUM ZONE

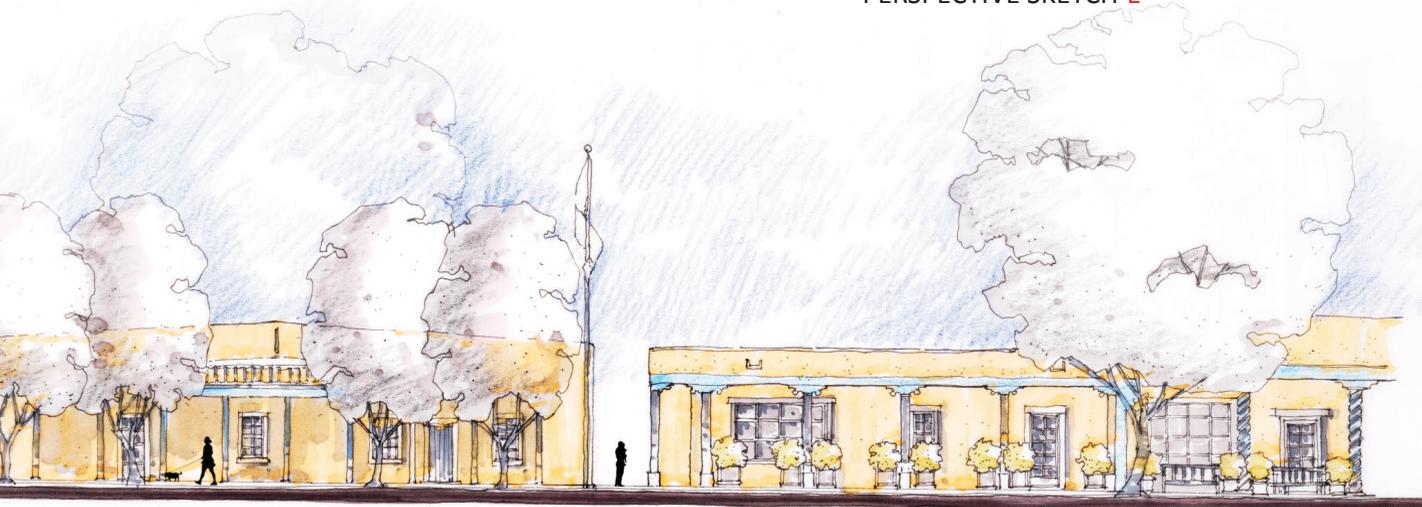
KEYED NOTES

6. Burr Oak - Historic Tree program
7. Columner Oak - mark place of entry
8. Compacted crusher fine gravel
9. Open joint brick paving
10. Fountain in new annex courtyard
11. Rustic vocabulary for new portico
12. Climbing rose for color, shade and softening
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14. Flowering Crabapple
15. Geraniums in container for character
16. New East Portico
17. Connect with adjacent Courtyard
18. Canopy green parking
19. Narrowing of Kit Carson Road





PERSPECTIVE SKETCH E

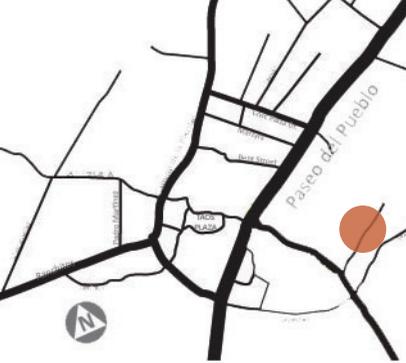


STREET ELEVATION F



KIT CARSON ROAD

KIT CARSON MUSEUM ZONE

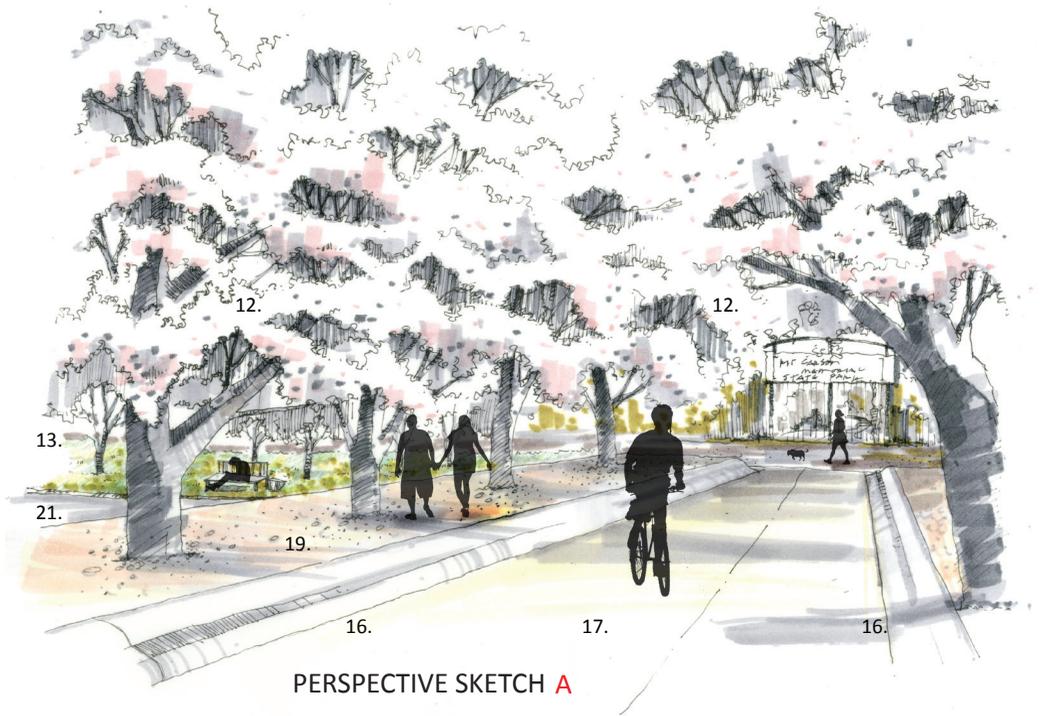


KIT CARSON ROAD

DRAGON ROAD AT CEMETERY

KEYED NOTES

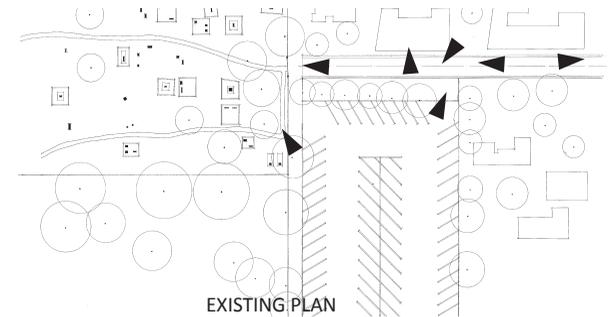
1. Entrance to Kit Carson Memorial State Park and Cemetery
2. Dragoon Road - dead end with sick trees
3. Historic Cemetery - add dignity and reverence
4. Chain link and dead trees as welcoming markers
5. Parking lot at TCA
6. A garden across the road - Dragoon
7. For locals only - view down Dragoon
8. Dragoon Rd. meeting Kit Carson Rd.
11. Compacted crusher fine gravel - for parking and paths
12. Flowering Sour Cherry - for allée along Dragoon Rd.
13. Heritage Orchard - 19th Apple specimen to acknowledge Place
16. Roll-down curbs everywhere - friendly to cars, bikes and pedestrians
17. Narrow and enliven Dragoon Rd.- local vehicular traffic only



PERSPECTIVE SKETCH A

STRATEGIC GOALS

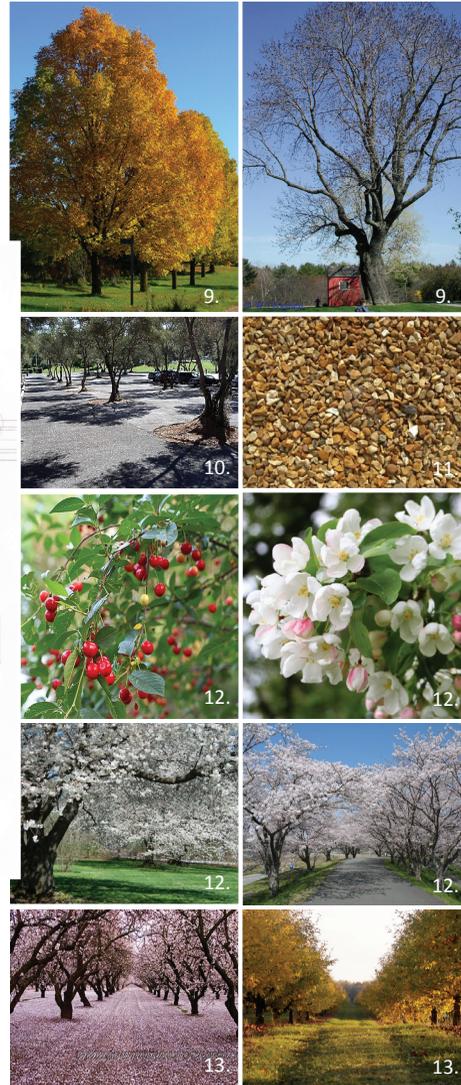
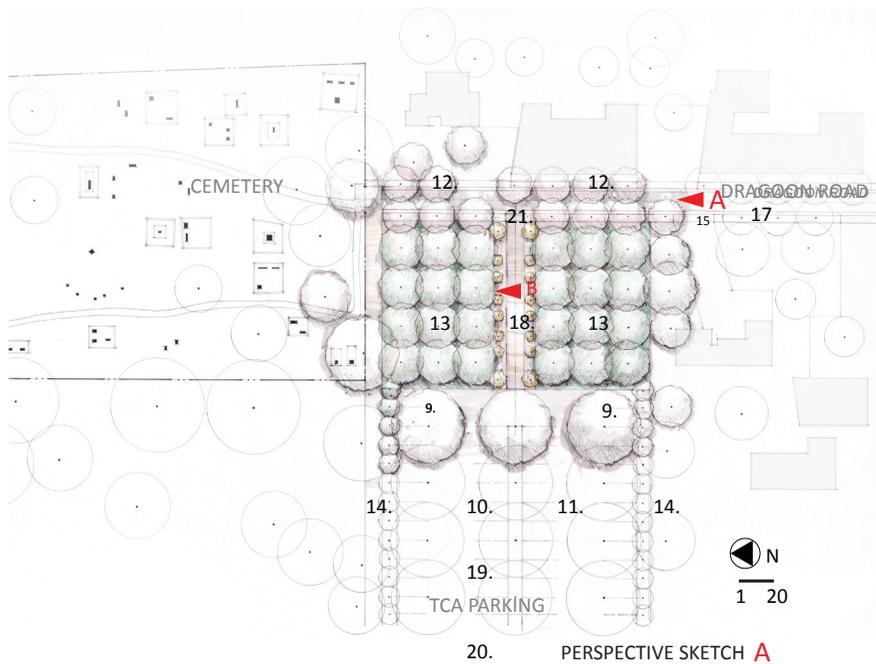
- Link historic cemetery and TCA parking area with Kit Carson Road Association District
- Identify and link cultural, historic and green anchors.



EXISTING PLAN

TACTICAL ACTIONS

- Narrow Dragoon Rd. adding roll down curbing and restrict vehicular traffic to local residents only.
- Create allée of flowering trees (crabapple, sour cherry) to enliven, encourage processions and link with Kit Carson Rd
- Create Heritage Orchard (19th century apple species) as forecourt to historic cemetery and as reflective gathering area in counterpoint to active state park

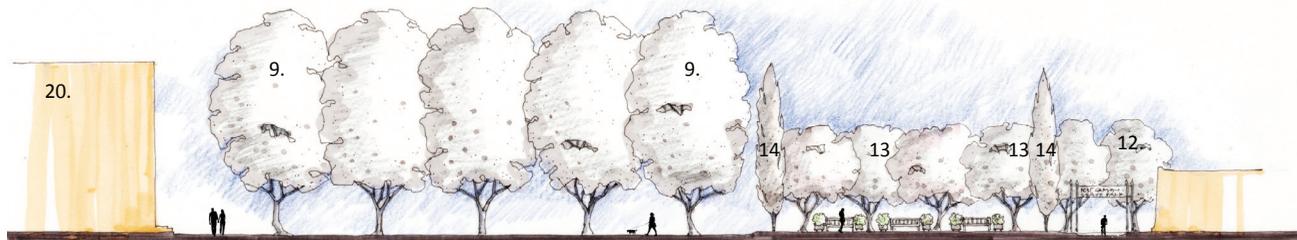


KIT CARSON ROAD

DRAGON ROAD AT CEMETERY

KEYED NOTES

9. Specimen shade trees - White Ash for canopy parking
10. Parking as Park - why not?
11. Compacted crusher fine gravel - for parking and paths
12. Flowering Sour Cherry - for allee along Dragon Rd.
13. Heritage Orchard - 19th Apple specimen to acknowledge Place
14. Columner Oak - marks transitions
15. Paths along Dragon Rd., Cemetery paths, orchard and parking paths
16. Roll-down curbs everywhere - friendly to cars, bikes and pedestrians
17. Narrow and enliven Dragon Rd.- local vehicular traffic only
18. Passage and seating area
19. Parking as park
20. TCA
21. Orchard as forecourt for Cemetery



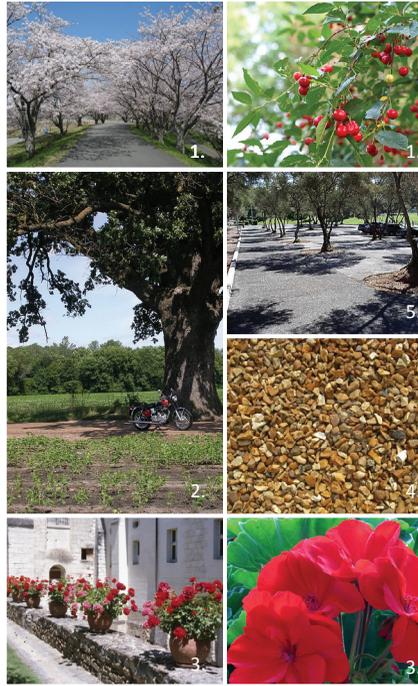


KIT CARSON ROAD

DRAGON AND KIT CARSON

KEYED NOTES

1. Flowering Sour Cherry or Plum allees along Dragoon Rd.
2. Burr Oak - Historic Tree program
3. Container Geraniums for color and character
4. Crusher fine gravel for paths and courtyard
5. Parking as Park!
6. Create infill court for pedestrians and enliven (non vehicular) entrance to Casa Benevides
7. Integral color alternating poured concrete for street crossings - pedestrian plaza
8. Create visitor plaza at Couse Foundation
9. Formalize entry to new restaurant (district economic anchor)
10. Narrow and enliven Kit Carson Rd.
19. Pedestrian seating area
20. Flowering crabapples for color along Kit Carson Rd.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- Encourage pedestrian link from Kit Carson Road District to historic cemetery, TCA parking and community state park
- Link these cultural and economic anchors across Kit Carson Rd. providing safe pedestrian crossing

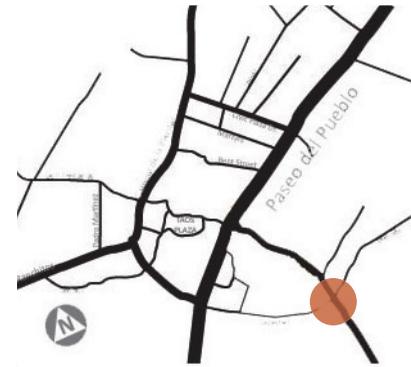


TACTICAL ACTIONS

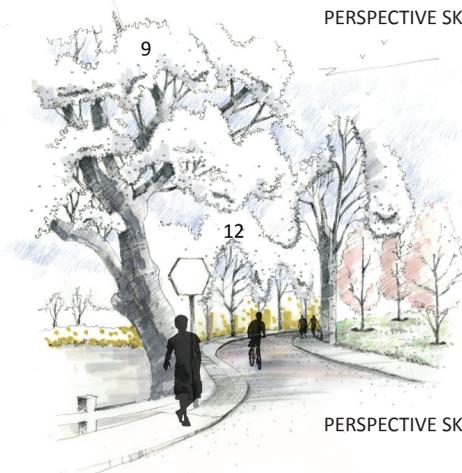
- Narrow Dragoon Rd. adding roll down curbing and restrict vehicular traffic to local residents only.
- Create allee of flowering trees (crabapple, sour cherry) to enliven link, encourage processions and provide promenade link with Kit Carson Rd
- Create economic anchor with new restaurant in existing historic Victorian. Establish Kit Carson Rd.
- Identity with planting of "historic" trees, pedestrian seating, infill pocket parks and container flower.



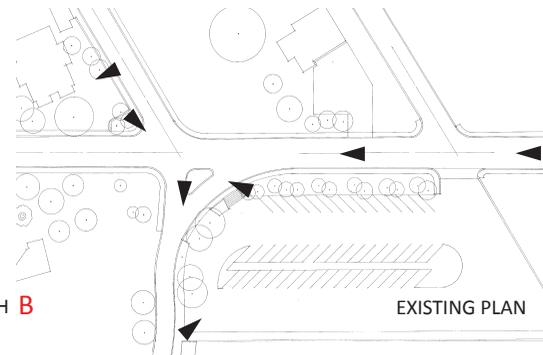
ELEVATION A 1 10



PERSPECTIVE SKETCH A



PERSPECTIVE SKETCH B



EXISTING PLAN

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Create safe pedestrian link at strategic node on major thoroughfare
- Add interest to intersection with pedestrian plaza and Historic Tree program
- Identify Quesnel and Morada Roads as pedestrian paths with limited vehicular traffic.

TACTICAL ACTIONS

- Create pedestrian plaza at intersection with vehicular stops and infill park areas.
- Provide safe link between canopy parking area and Couse Historic Meadows and other cultural and economic anchors of Kit Carson Road Association District.
- Propose ecologic restoration of Couse Meadows to highlight traditional grazing practices and wetland areas.

KIT CARSON ROAD

QUESNEL AND KIT CARSON

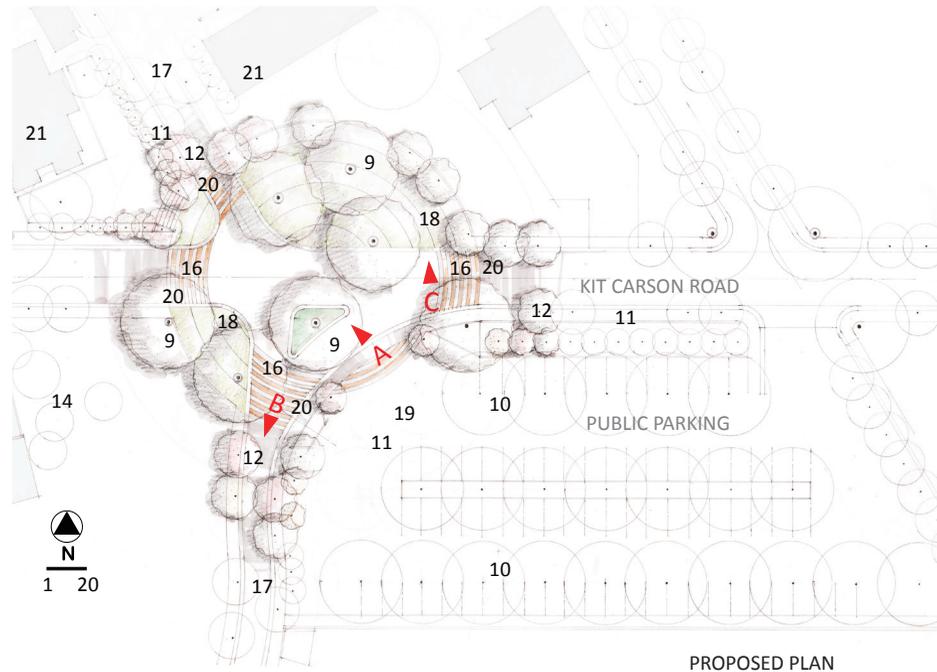
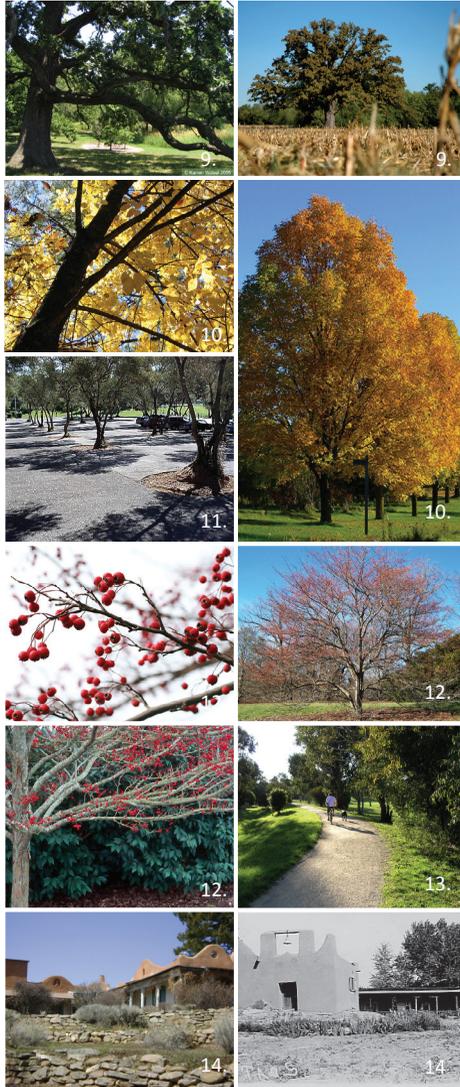
KEYED NOTES

1. View to intersection along Kit Carson Rd. - Sense of Arrival?
2. Unfriendly, unsightly and dangerous
3. Important node to revitalize district
4. Under-utilized public parking
5. Forboding view down Quesnel and across Historic Meadow
6. How to move pedestrians to new Economic Anchor? can they survive the crossing?
7. Restore historic Victorian as anchor restaurant
8. Curvilinear paving - confusing with no street buffer or shade



KIT CARSON ROAD

QUESNEL AND KIT CARSON



PROPOSED PLAN

KEYED NOTES

- 9. Burr Oak - Historic Tree program
- 10. Specimen shade tree for canopy parking - White Ash
- 11. Compacted crusher fine gravel - for parking and paths
- 12. Hawthorne - a dignified rustic tree with character for Quesnel and Morada Roads.
- 13. Paths along Kit Carson, Quesnel and Morada Roads.
- 14. Couse Foundation - Historic and Cultural Anchor
- 15. Couse Historic Meadows - Restore and Preserve!
- 16. Integral color poured concrete at pedestrian crossings
- 17. Narrow and enliven Quesnel and Morada Roads.
- 18. Pedestrian plaza
- 19. Parking as park
- 20. Traffic stop
- 21. New Economic Anchors - Hotel or Restaurant

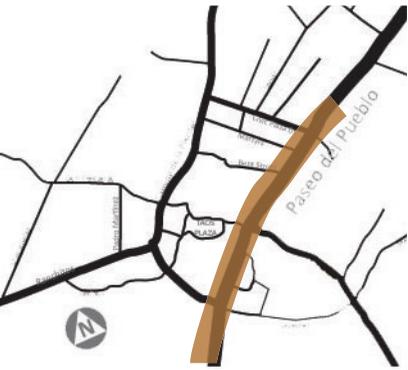


ELEVATION C





PASEO CORRIDOR



PASEO CORRIDOR

INSPIRATION: GREEN CORRIDOR

The proposed design for the Paseo del Pueblo Norte Corridor synthesized the charrette suggestions, a study of Taos history, an analysis of existing conditions, and a review of precedent to create the Paseo Green Corridor.



Existing Conditions: Paseo del Pueblo Norte Corridor.

Acequia History

Acequias have been widely used in Taos as a community oriented water distribution method for over 400 hundred years. The Taos Valley Acequia Association and the Taos Pueblo were able to reach an understanding about water rights in 2006.

However the management of historic acequias in the Taos core, particularly the springs on either side of Paseo del Pueblo Sur that feed the Spring Ditch, have recently had diminished flow, resulting in legal action.

The restoration of the acequia along Paseo, which would tie an acequia that currently dead ends in Kit Carson Park with a restored spring south of Placitas, would help to move the debate about water management in Taos in the right direction.



Existing acequias near the plaza in need of maintenance.



Acequia precedent: Japan.



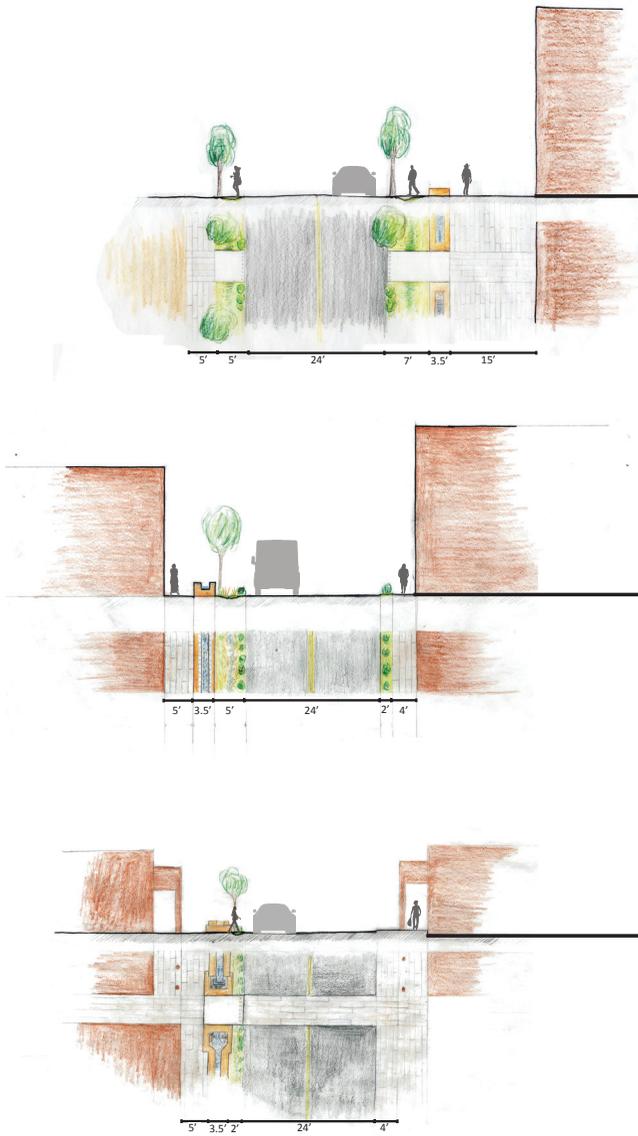
Acequia precedent: Argentina.

Swale Benefits

- Integrated system of stormwater management within the right of way
- Volume reductions in stormwater through infiltration
- Captures and cleans remaining water flow before entering into groundwater
- Key linking component in development of local green infrastructure network
- Enhanced economic development along the transit corridor
- Improved pedestrian experience along the street right of way
- Improves local air quality

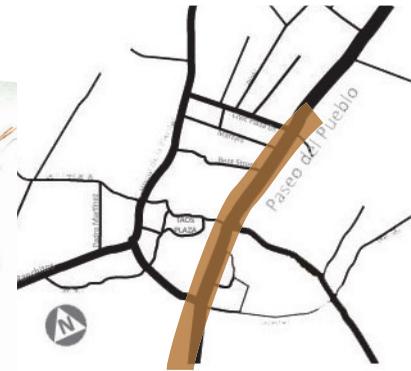


Swale precedent.



Swale Design

A vegetated strip of land will run between the acequia and the road, consisting of trees, shrubs, grasses, and a naturally channelized landscape to allow for efficient stormwater flow on Paseo from Civic Plaza Drive to Quesnel. The stormwater will be filtered before being introduced into the spring. At crosswalks, a steel plate will function as a bridge over the swales, with mounted LED lights at the street edge for safety.



PASEO CORRIDOR

GREEN CORRIDOR DESIGN

Paseo del Pueblo Norte has been redesigned as a walkable, green corridor with clearly defined vehicular gateways and pedestrian zones, highlighted by the addition of an acequia along Paseo from Civic to Placitas.



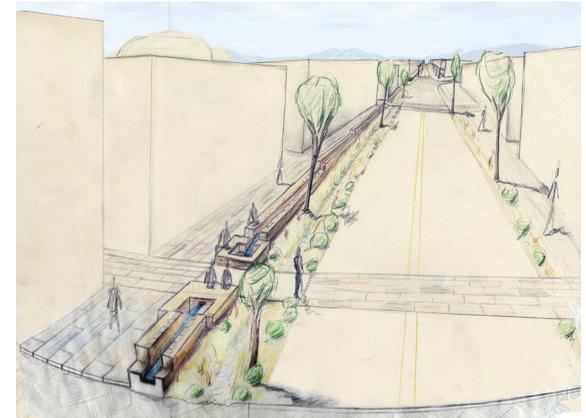
PASEO CORRIDOR

ACEQUIA RESTORATION

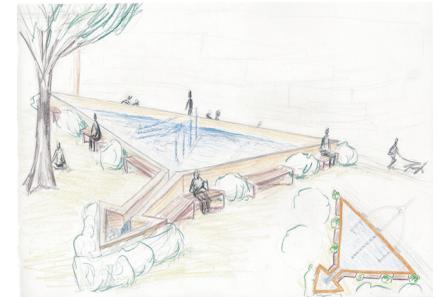
The acequia restores historic water management patterns and also creates a linear green corridor composed of water, seating, shade, and stormwater management.



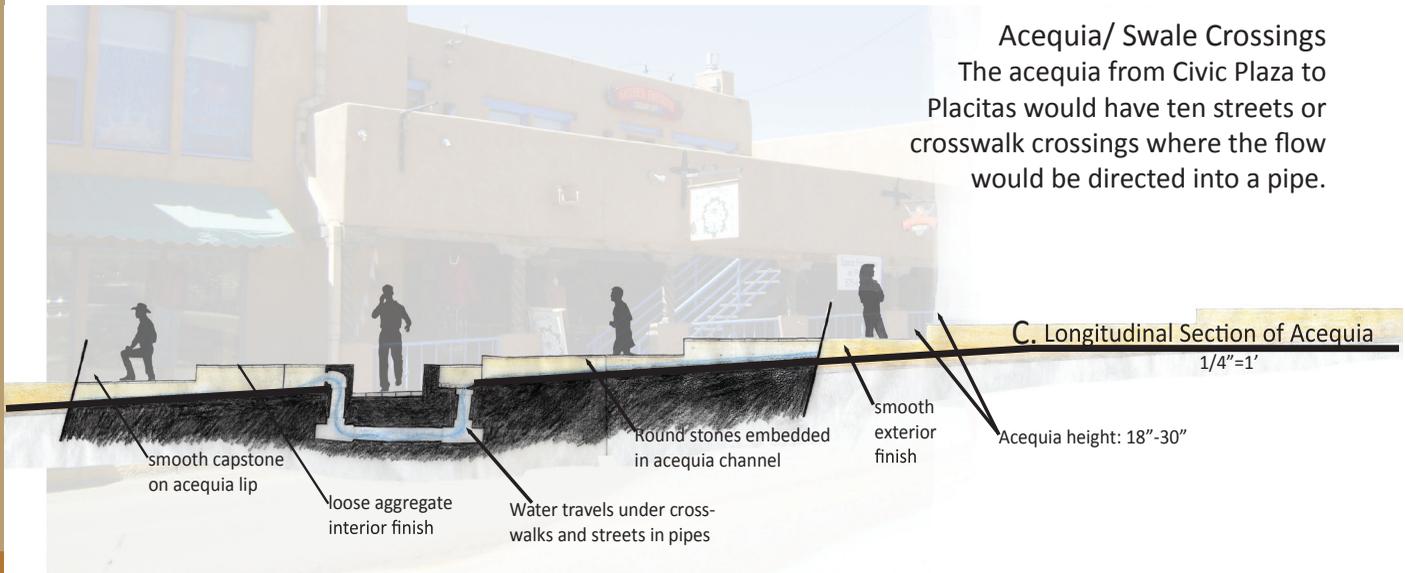
- Acequia
- Swale
- Under grade crossing
- Swale bridge crossing



A. Perspective through Paseo looking north to Carson Square.



B. Acequia Fountain at the South Gateway.



Acequia/ Swale Crossings
 The acequia from Civic Plaza to Placitas would have ten streets or crosswalk crossings where the flow would be directed into a pipe.

C. Longitudinal Section of Acequia
 1/4"=1'

smooth capstone on acequia lip

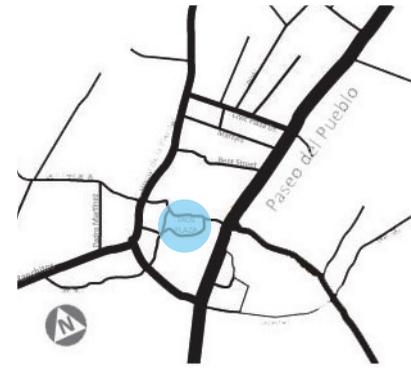
loose aggregate interior finish

Water travels under crosswalks and streets in pipes

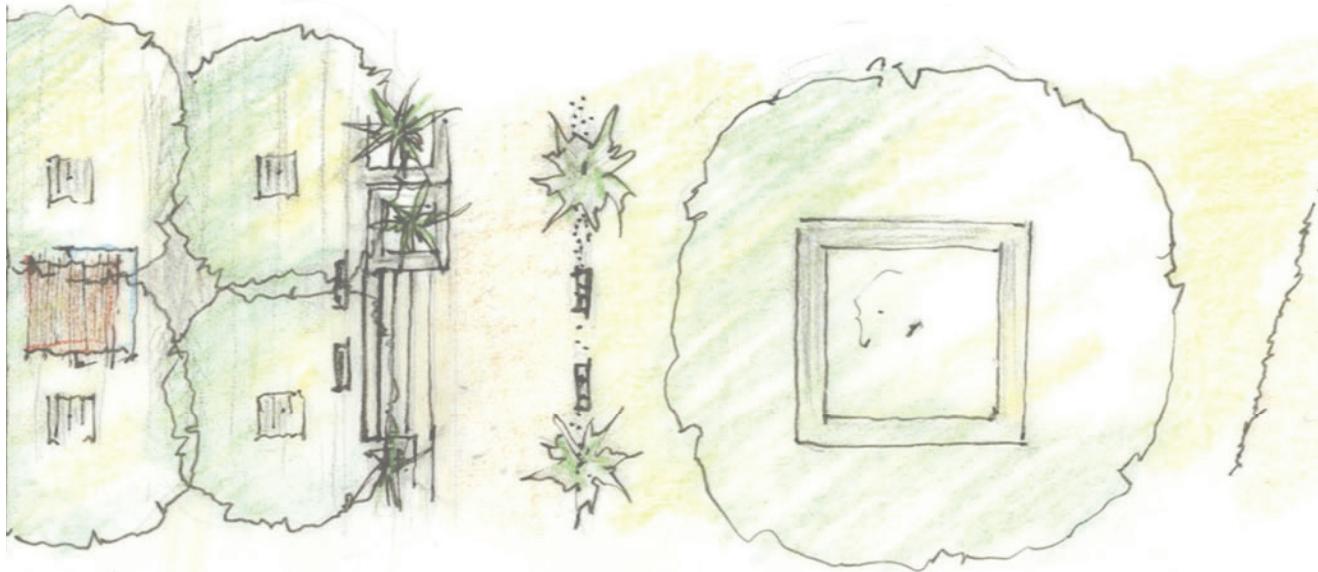
Round stones embedded in acequia channel

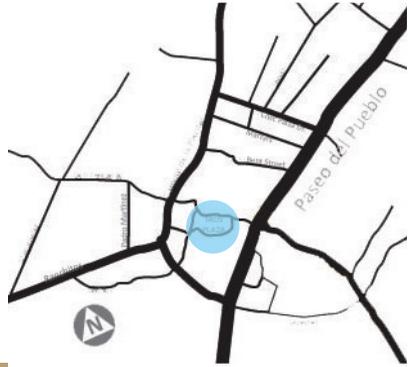
smooth exterior finish

Acequia height: 18"-30"



TAOS PLAZA

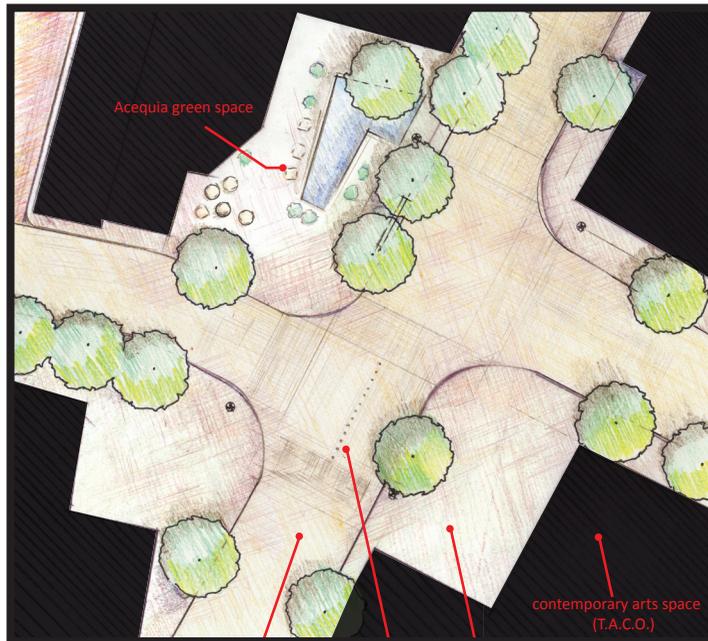




TAOS PLAZA

KIT CARSON SQUARE

The Intersection at Paseo del Pueblo Norte and Kit Carson Rd. is a confluence in which automobiles and pedestrians vie for unimpeded movement with conflicting results. Businesses on the east side of Paseo between Bent St. and Kit Carson suffer from a lack of pedestrian flow due to the difficulty in safely maneuvering across streets. Even businesses located east of Paseo within short distance from the central plaza accept a reduction in foot traffic because of the convoluted means of crossing the main street of Taos.

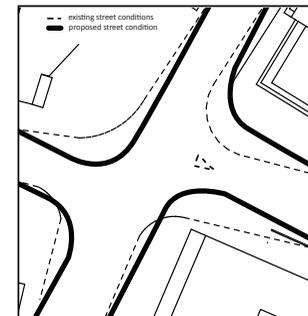


integrated paving pattern with Plaza

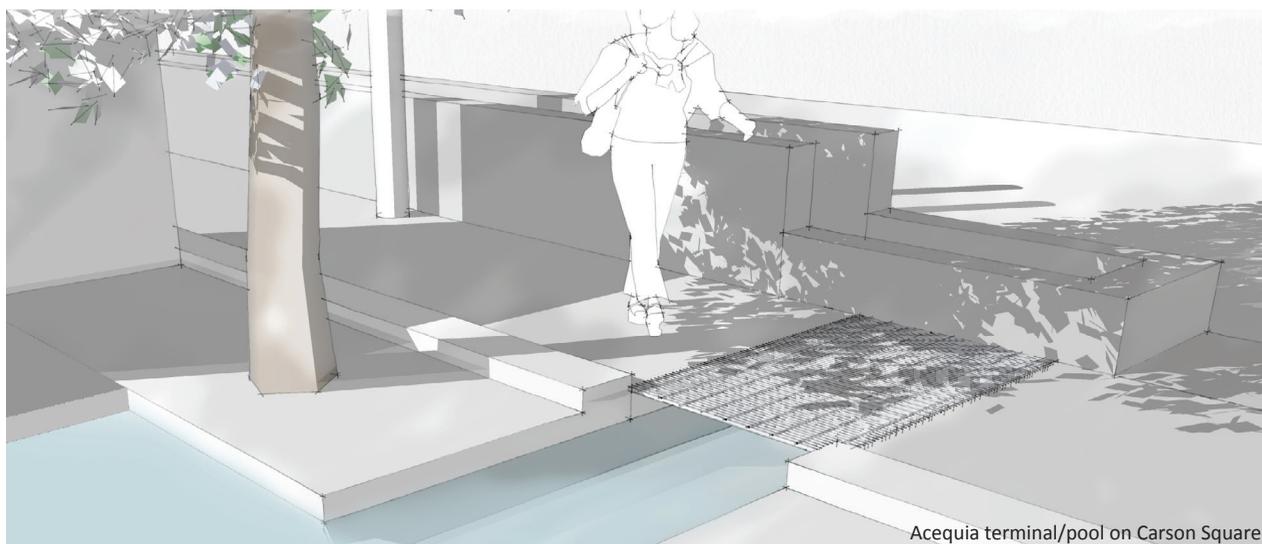
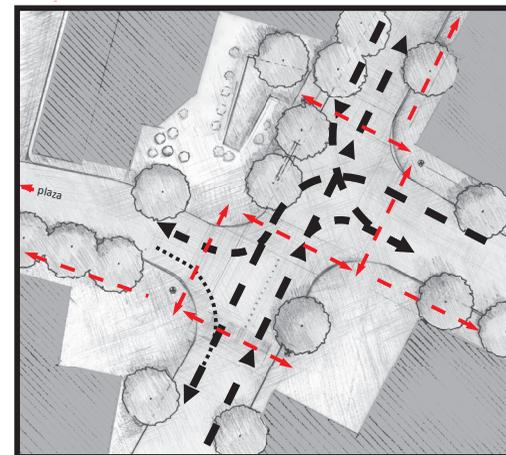
expanded art/sculpture plaza with Plaza

installed "no turn" traffic bumps

Simply reducing traffic with a bypass may facilitate pedestrian circulation, however, vehicular movement along the Paseo is a critical component to the urban vitality, commercial strength and cultural relevance to Taos.



Proposed Pedestrian/Vehicular Movement



Acequia terminal/pool on Carson Square.

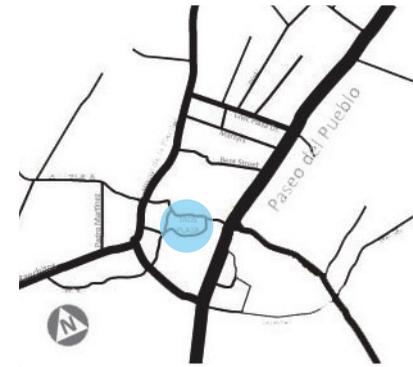


Proposed public arts building to occupy southeast corner.

Realigning the Paseo/ Kit Carson intersection will improve both pedestrian and vehicle circulation. Traffic lights will be pushed back from the intersections to increase a pedestrian friendly zone. Northbound Paseo traffic is reduced to one lane with traffic bumps prohibiting left turns into the plaza. The overall width of the road is reduced to 24' allowing easier cross pedestrian traffic and shorter walk signals. The width of Kit Carson road is reduced to 36' total width without any traffic islands. The perpendicular intersection accommodates safer pedestrian movement from all directions. The improvement of this junction is critical to circulation, connectivity and walkability in downtown Taos.

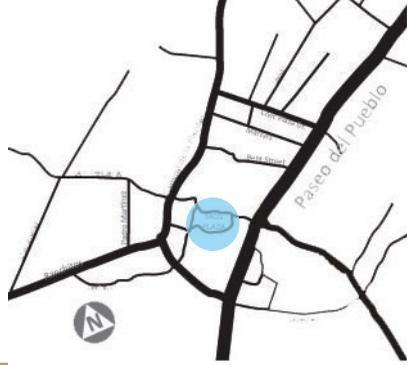


View looking northeast toward intersection.



TAOS PLAZA

KIT CARSON SQUARE



TAOS PLAZA

TAOS PLAZA CHARRETTE

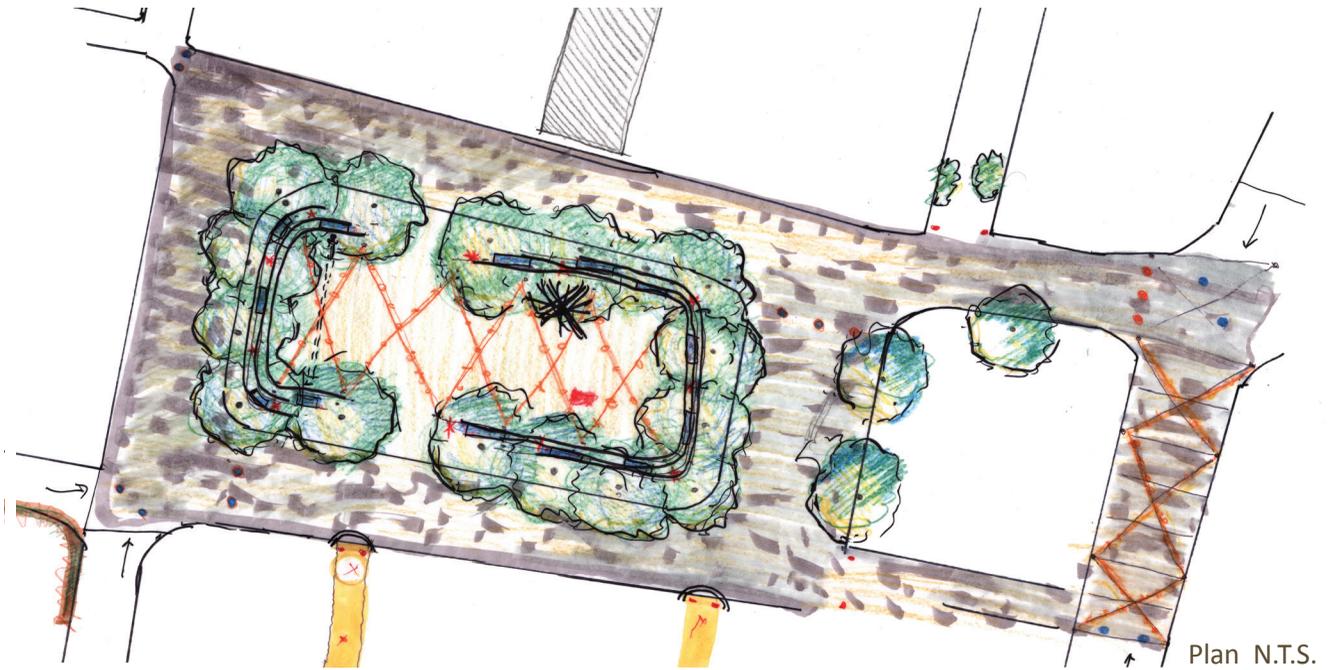
PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

EVENTS:

Old Taos
Senior Citizen Day
Taos Plaza Live
Drumming Circle
Art Making
Farmers' Market
Movies
Yoga Classes
Tai Chi
Dancing

EVERYDAY:

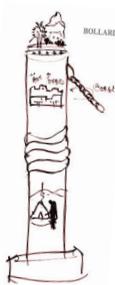
Buskers
Food Venders
Places of Shade
Gypsy Wagons
Photography History
Horno



Plan N.T.S.

Key:

-  Granite
-  Tree
-  Sculpture Ped
-  Gateway
-  Planter box
-  Flag
-  Lights
-  Movie Screen



Bollard

ADAPT AND RE-USE SUGGESTIONS

COURTHOUSE:

Visitor's Center
Gallery Exhibit
Preservation of Frescoes

MOVIE THEATER:

Performance Space
Bar/Restaurant

ADDITIONAL:

RV Parking
Technology-History Tours
Mayordomo "Plaza Steward"
"Localize" Fiesta
Veteran's Memorial
Father Martinez Statue

PHYSICAL SPACE SUGGESTIONS

FLOOR/GROUND:

Level Space
Resurface
Regrade

CEILING:

String of Lights
Tree Canopy

FURNISHINGS:

Native Plants
Shade Benches
Drinking Fountain
Water Feature
Art Pedestals
Bollards
Alley Arches

Current Water Flow



Water Flow After Regrading



Sheet Flow Away From Store Fronts

Trench Drains to Catch and Direct Flow towards Planters

Plaza Solutions

Brings Plaza Floor to Grade With Current Vegetation. Handicap Accessibility on Entire North Side

Splitting the Difference Allows Handicap Accessibility Naturally on Opposite Corners + Less Grade Change

Cut Plaza into Surface Brings Plaza Level to South Side. Handicap Accessibility on South Side

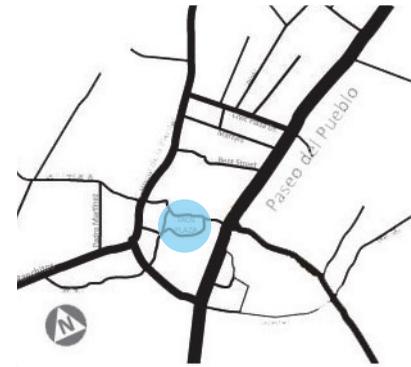
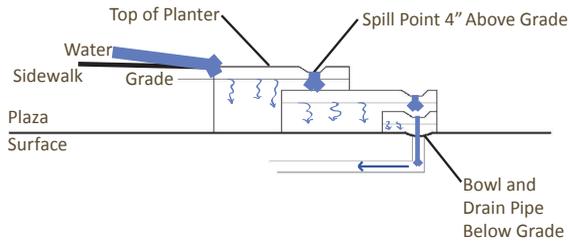


Current Water Flow



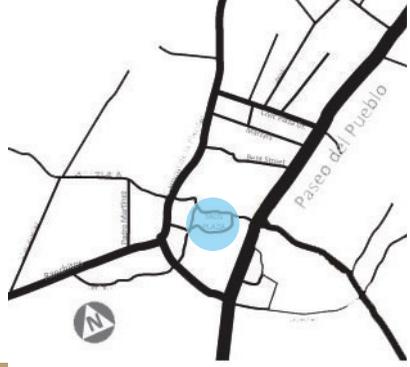
Creative Solutions -

Passive Three Stage Cleaning System



TAOS PLAZA

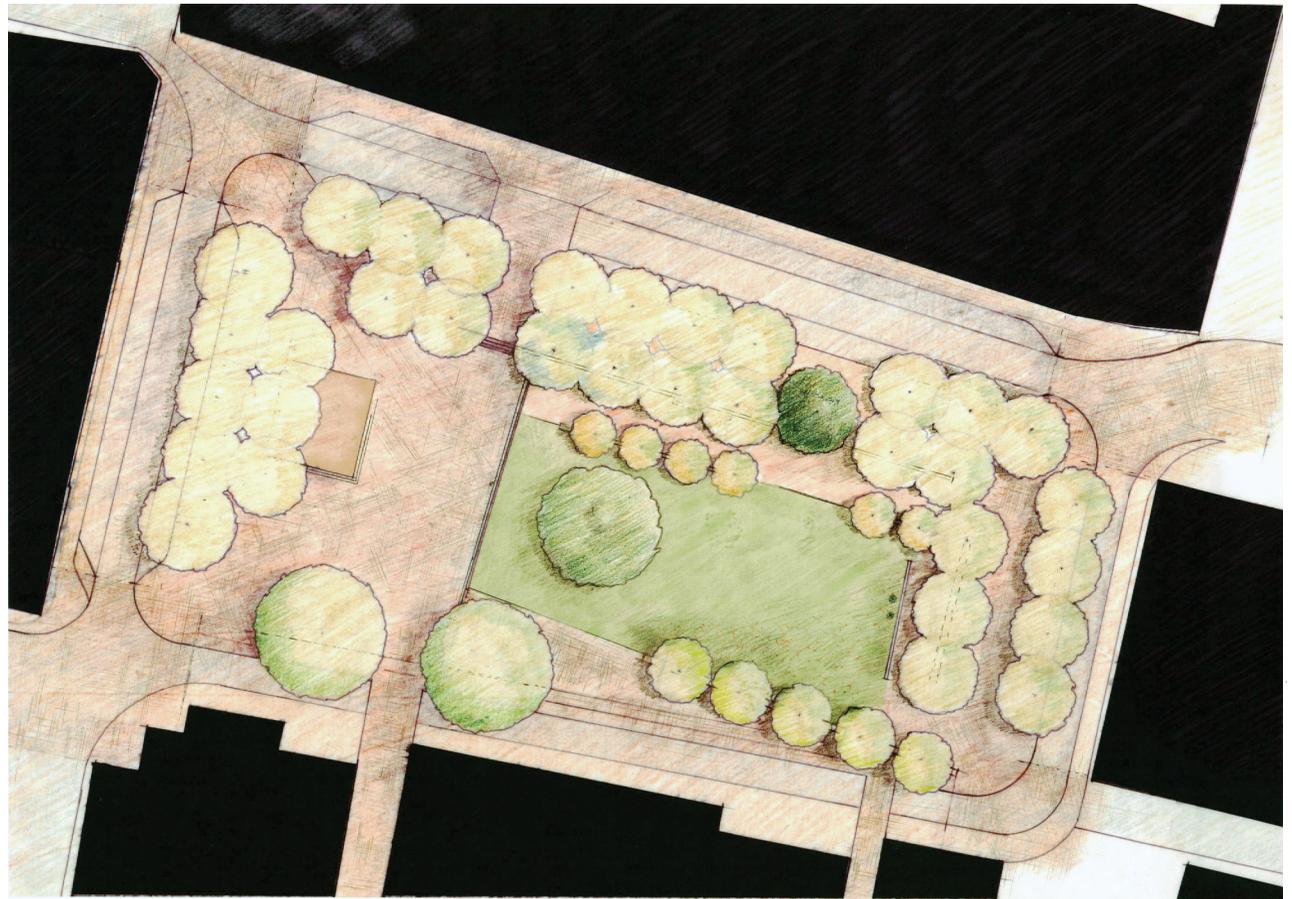
GRADING AND DRAINAGE



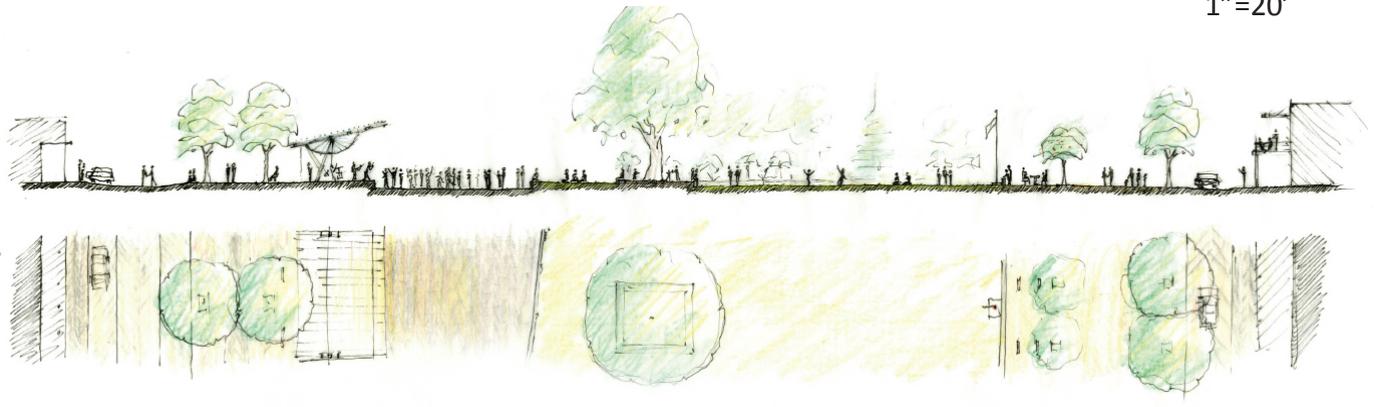
TAOS PLAZA

TAOS PLAZA VISION

The vision for the Taos Arts and Cultural District is the same as that for the Plaza: reveal the living history of Taos and plan for a self-sustaining future. The primary methods for achieving these design goals are conservation and connectivity.



1"=20'



Revealing

The Plaza improvements focus on an opening up of the space. There is already a structure to the Plaza, to Taos, so a reinvention is not needed; but a revealing, of what it has been and what it could be, could help create a dynamic civic space of community and commerce.

- Highlighting native species in the planters and street trees.
- The pedestrian and vehicular circulation are clarified and clearly differentiated.
- Maintaining key historic trees, primarily the Pueblo gift tree and the largest, central cottonwood.
- Expressing how water travels through the plaza with an integrated system of stormwater management tying into a cistern buried under the plaza used to water the plantings.

Weaving

The Plaza itself must be woven into the broader context of Taos. The weaving analogy emerged from the design charrette as a useful concept for integrating the Taos Community. This integration will be encouraged through a visual reinforcement of continuity.

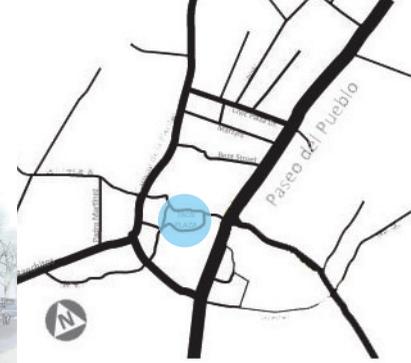
- Weaving a respect for the past with a progressively designed future
- Attracting tourists while enhancing amenities for locals.
- Balancing the culture of consumption with a culture of craft
- Allowing the constructed earth to celebrate the New Mexican sky



View from Carson Square into the NW corner of the Plaza



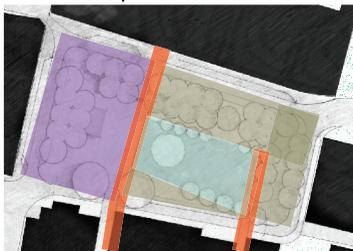
View of the lawn



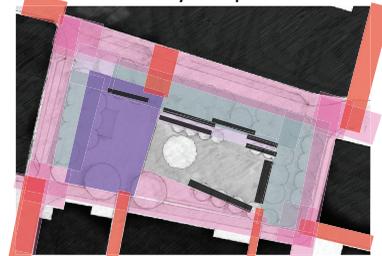
TAOS PLAZA

REVEALING AND WEAVING

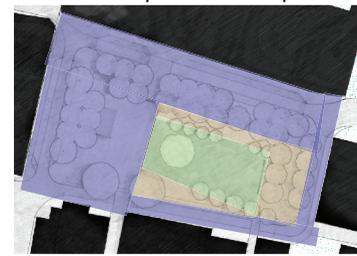
Spatial Parti

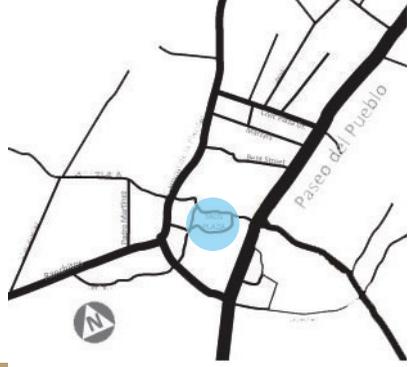


Hierarchy of Spaces



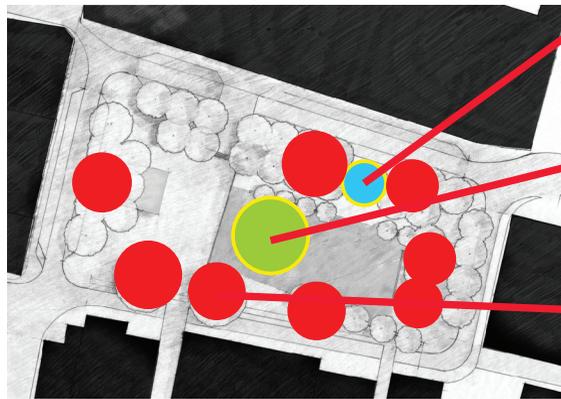
Hardscape to Softscape





TAOS PLAZA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Douglas Fir
Beautiful evergreen given by the Taos Pueblo to the town will remain a cared-for specimen.

Cottonwood
Gnarled historic tree will also remain a central feature for as long as it lives.

Siberian Elms
High maintenance shade trees will gradually be replaced by less disruptive Ash and American Elm.

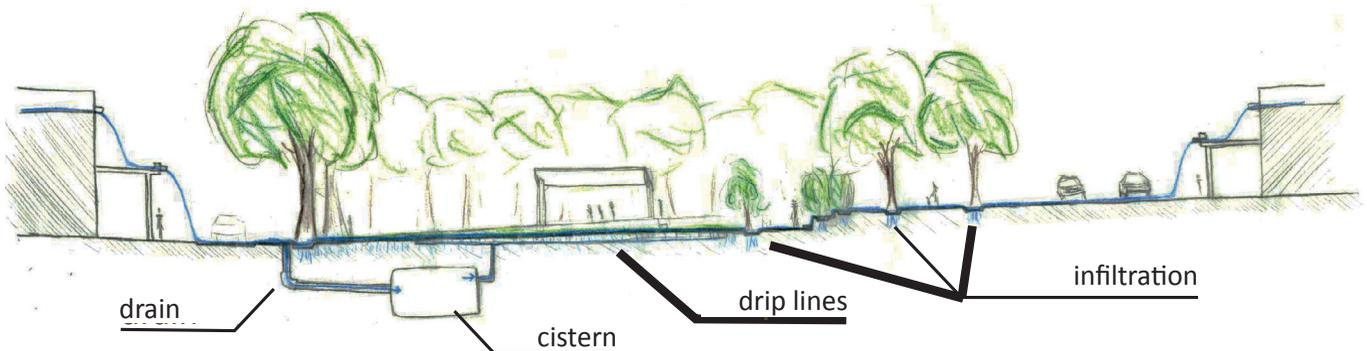
 "HANGING" TREE



 PUEBLO GIFT

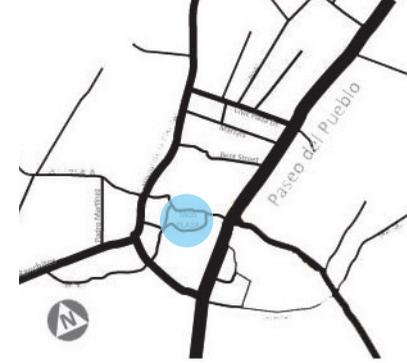


Stormwater Management



Proposed

The management of sustainable resources is critical to the long term viability of the Taos community. The main focus of the Plaza design is the conservation of the trees, water, and history. Historic and significant trees on the Plaza are preserved and protected. Re-grading of the Plaza allows for the collection of stormwater so that it may be re-used in the maintenance of trees and other vegetation in the Plaza. Plaques and signage commemorate trees and other items or areas of significance.



ACCENT



NM Olive
Foresteria neomexicana
10'-15'

STREET TREE

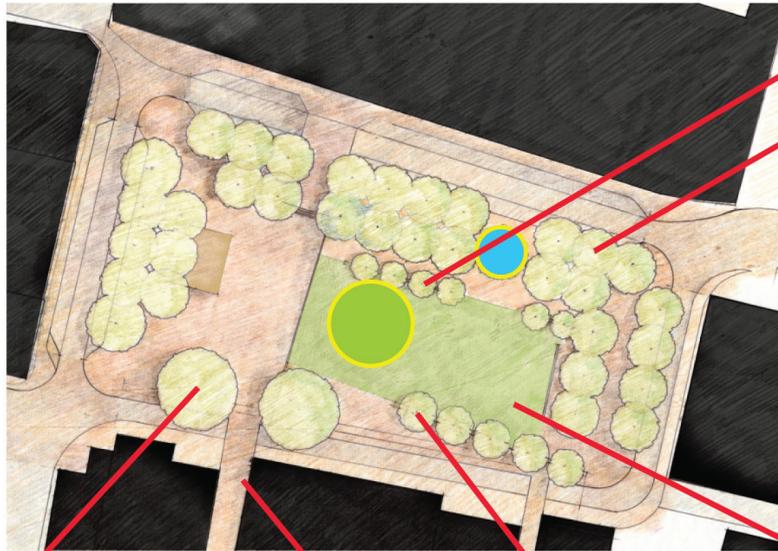


Green Ash
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
30'-40'

SHRUB



Fernbush
Chamaebatiaria millefolium
4'-6'



LARGE SHADE TREE



American Elm
Ulnus americana
40'-50'

PERENNIAL



Hollyhocks
Alcea rosea
6'-9'

ORNAMENTAL



Hawthorn 'Snowbird'
Crataegus spp.
15'-20'

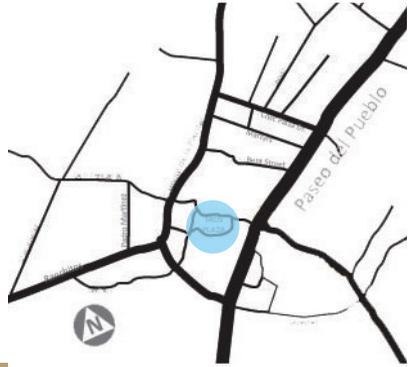
LAWN



Buffalo Grass / Blue Grama
Buchloe dactyloides/Bouteloua gracilis
turf mix

TAOS PLAZA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



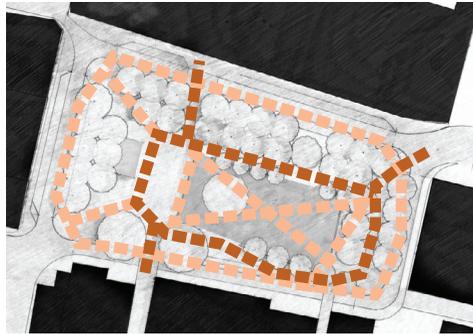
Circulation within the Plaza

The walkable green streets and alleys around the Plaza will connect a dynamic collection of civic spaces to encourage a confluence of diverse users and help foster a stronger sense of place and community.

TAOS PLAZA

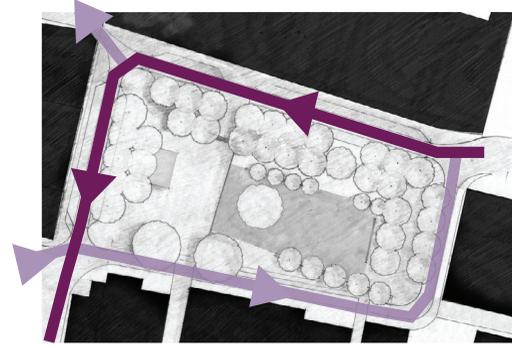
CONNECTIVITY OF SPACES

Pedestrian Circulation



- primary pedestrian circulation
- secondary pedestrian circulation

Vehicular Circulation



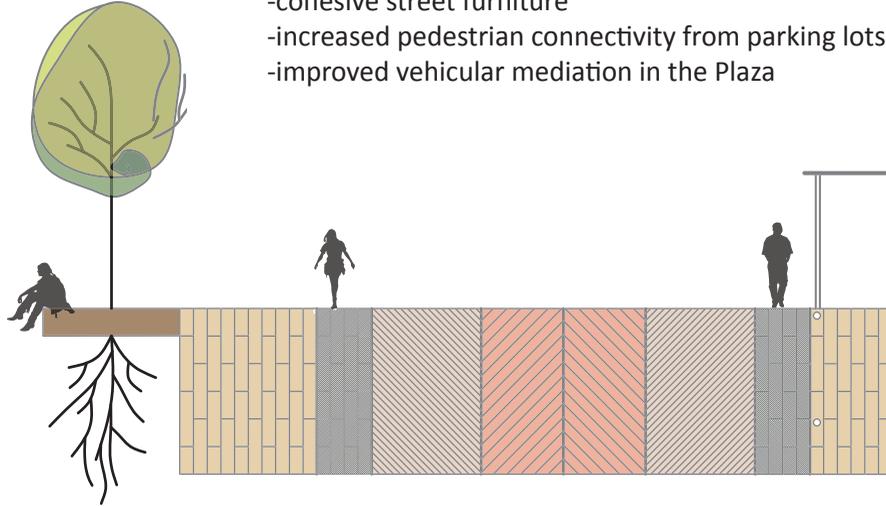
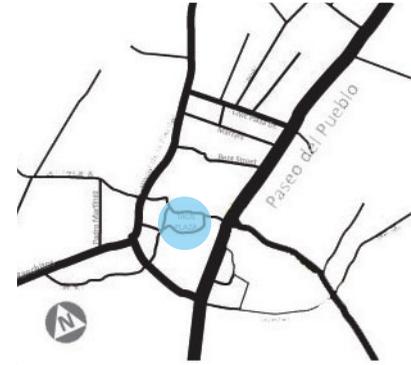
- primary vehicular circulation
- secondary vehicular circulation



Looking east from the Plaza through a proposed alley of White Ash trees.

Plaza Circulation Enhancements

- system wide sidewalk and crosswalk improvements
- pedestrian clarity and prioritization through wayfinding and streetscape improvements
- street narrowing and realignment
- cohesive street furniture
- increased pedestrian connectivity from parking lots to Plaza
- improved vehicular mediation in the Plaza



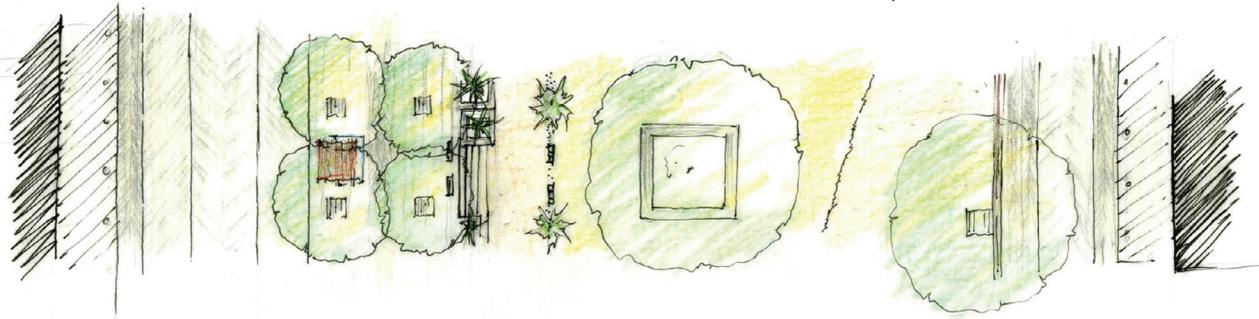
Plaza road surface: possible paving patterns.

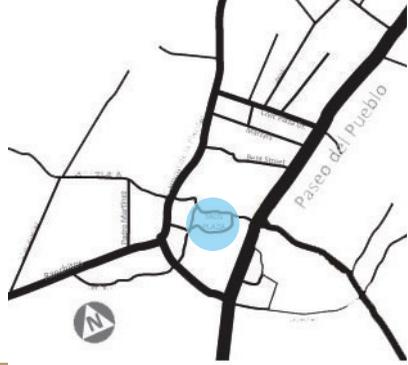


East/west Plaza section.

TAOS PLAZA

CONNECTIVITY
OF SPACES

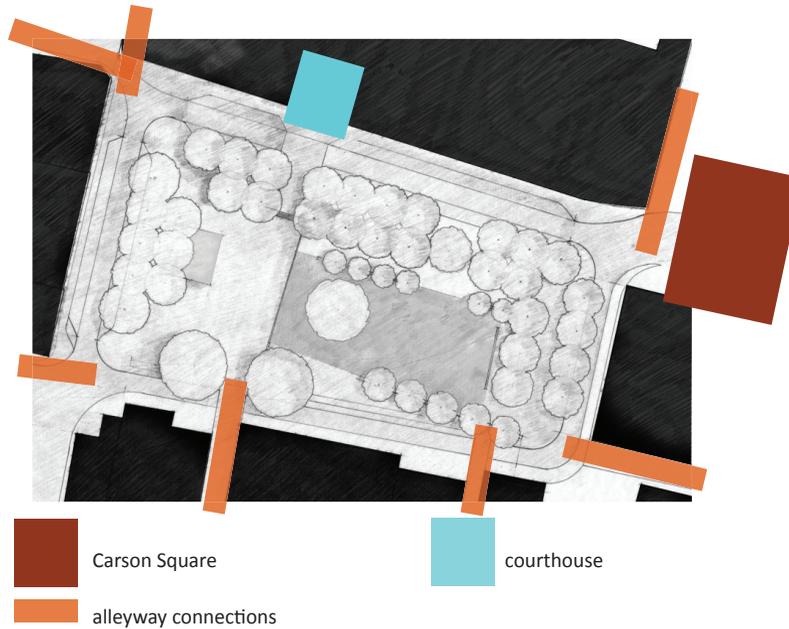




TAOS PLAZA

CONNECTIVITY OF SPACES

Outlying Circulation



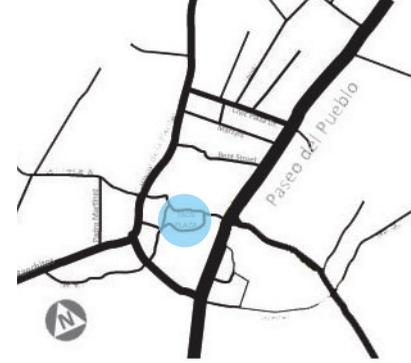
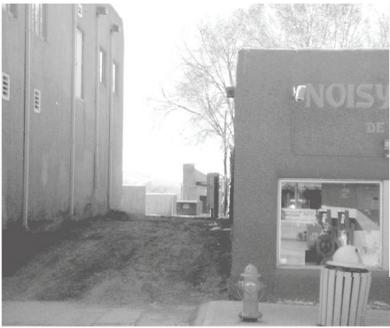
Circulation Extending Out from the Plaza

Outlying areas in the Arts and Cultural District connect to the Plaza through to the Plaza, creating a vivid community fabric. Connections are enhanced by greening existing spaces, creating a legible streetscape, adding pedestrian amenities, and mediating vehicular traffic in pedestrian dense areas. The historic courthouse, reinterpreted as a new Visitor's Center, connects pedestrians to the rest of Taos by providing them with information.

In the proposed Carson Square area, at the intersection of Paseo and Kit Carson, vehicular access to Plaza Drive is restricted to a right in/right out only condition. A speed table through the entire square elevates and prioritizes the pedestrian.



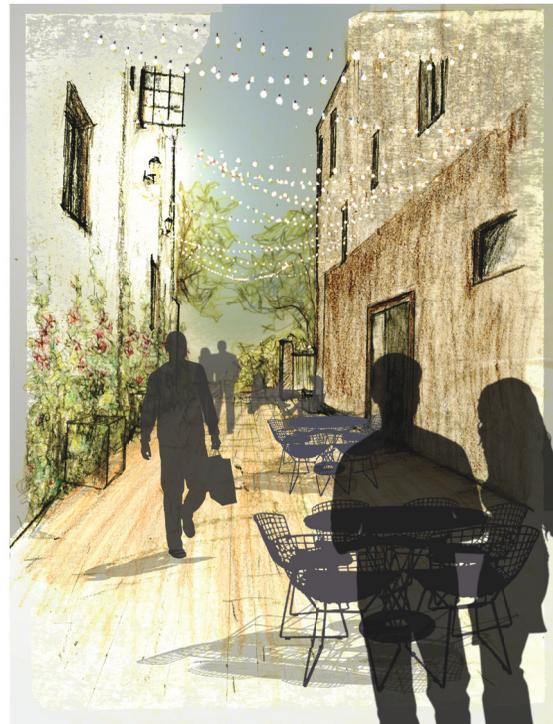
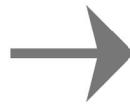
Kit Carson Square: looking north along Paseo



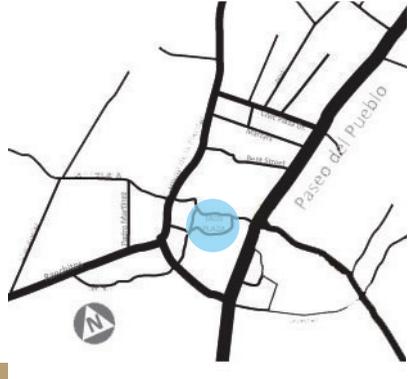
TAOS PLAZA

CONNECTIVITY
OF SPACES

Proposal 1: alley gallery



Proposal 2: alley cafe



Alleyway Solutions

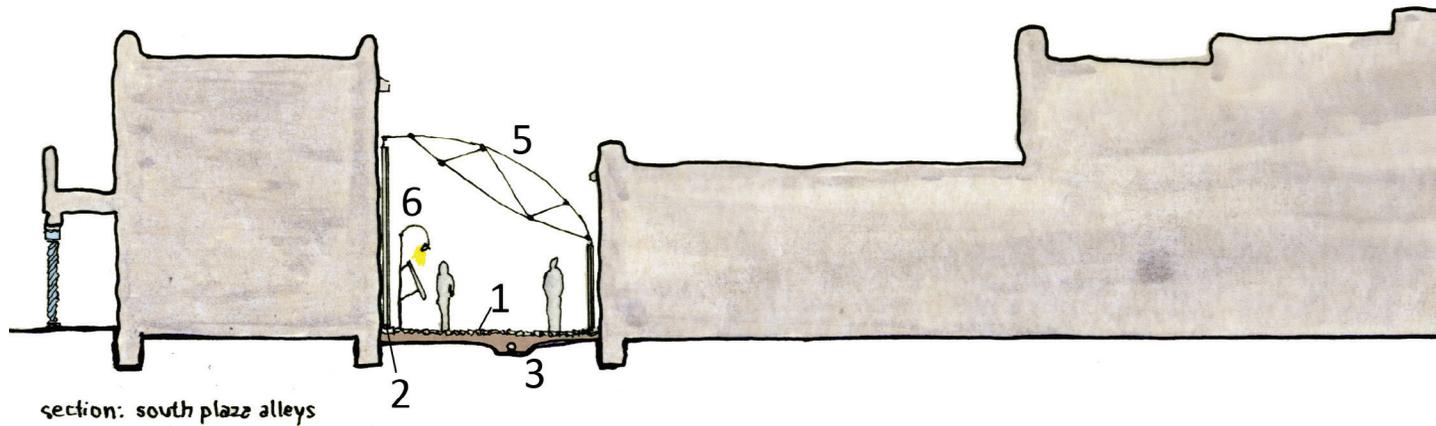
Greening the alleyways makes these passageways enjoyable spaces, creating a pleasant experience for the pedestrian as they move from destination to destination. Programming alleyways turns them into habitable corridors, a vibrant and active condition that exists between that of node and corridor.

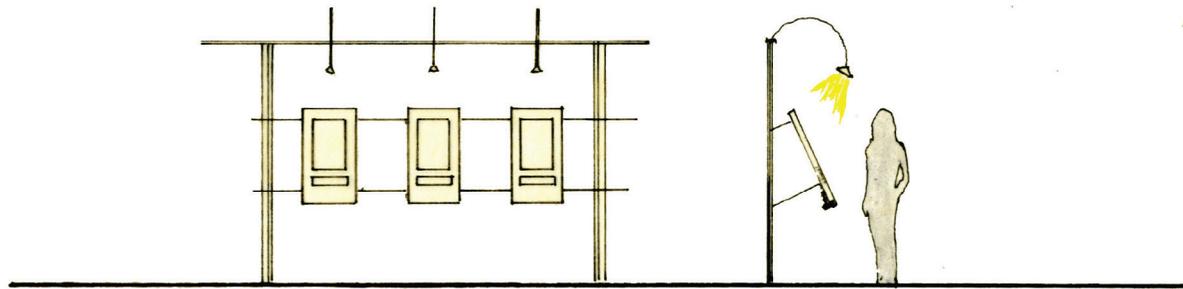
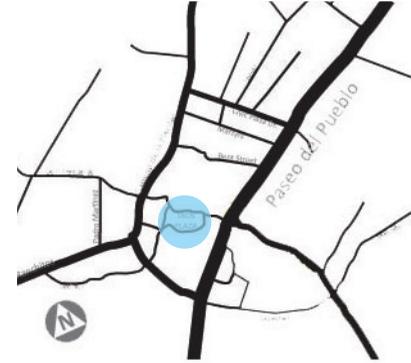
TAOS PLAZA

CONNECTIVITY
OF SPACES

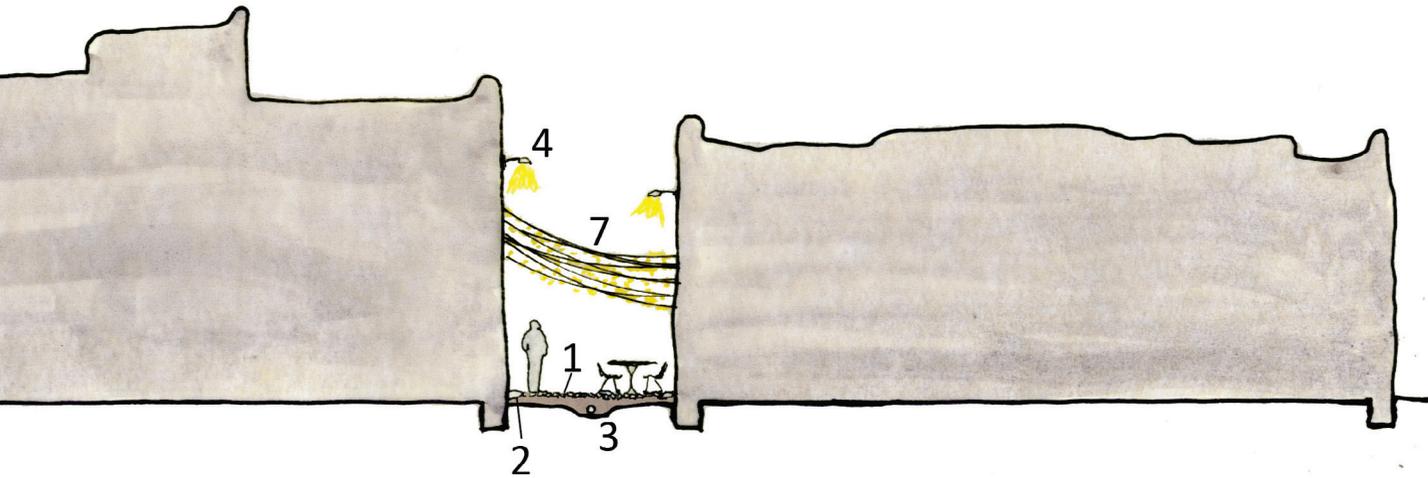
Legend

1. permeable pavement material
2. high albedo concrete paving with recycled aggregate and slag
3. pipe under drain
4. energy efficient and New Mexico Dark Sky compliant lighting fixtures
5. shade and weather canopy
6. lighted display stands
7. energy efficient string lighting



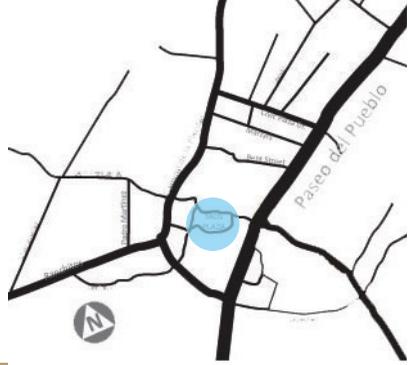


detail: display stands



TAOS PLAZA

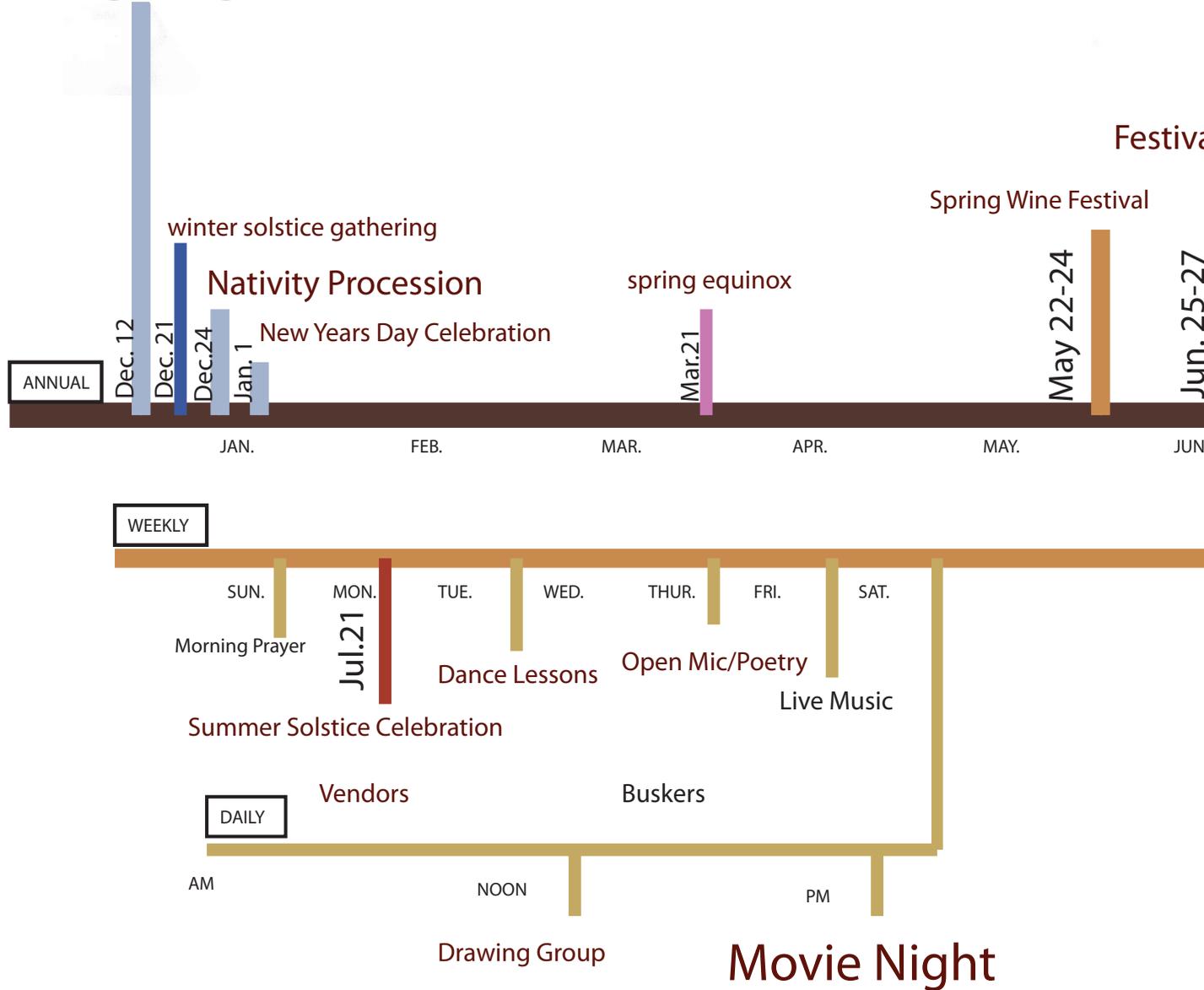
CONNECTIVITY
OF SPACES



TAOS PLAZA

TAOS PLAZA EVENT TIMELINE

Lighting of the Tree



Fiestas de Taos

al of Flowers

Parade

Jul.4

Jul. 24-26

autumn equinox

Sep. 21

Dia de los Muertos

Oct.31

Thanksgiving Dinner

JUL.

AUG.

SEP.

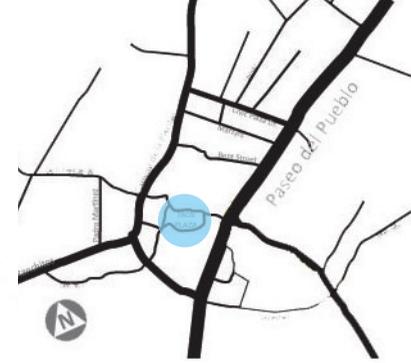
OCT.

NOV.

DEC.

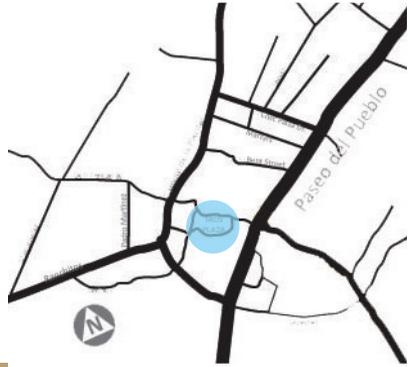
Autumn Tuesday

Proposed Events
Existing Events



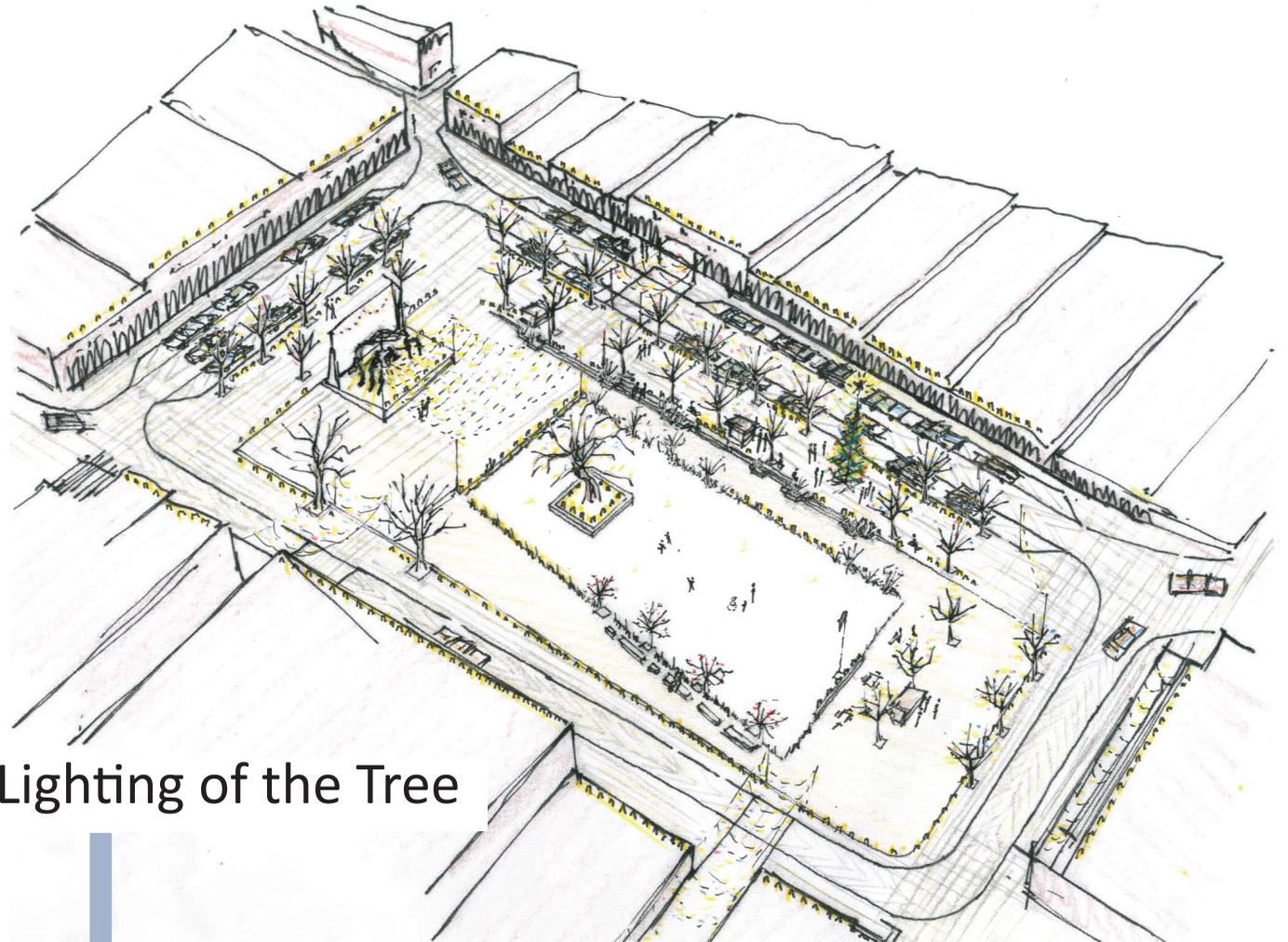
TAOS PLAZA

TAOS PLAZA EVENT
TIMELINE

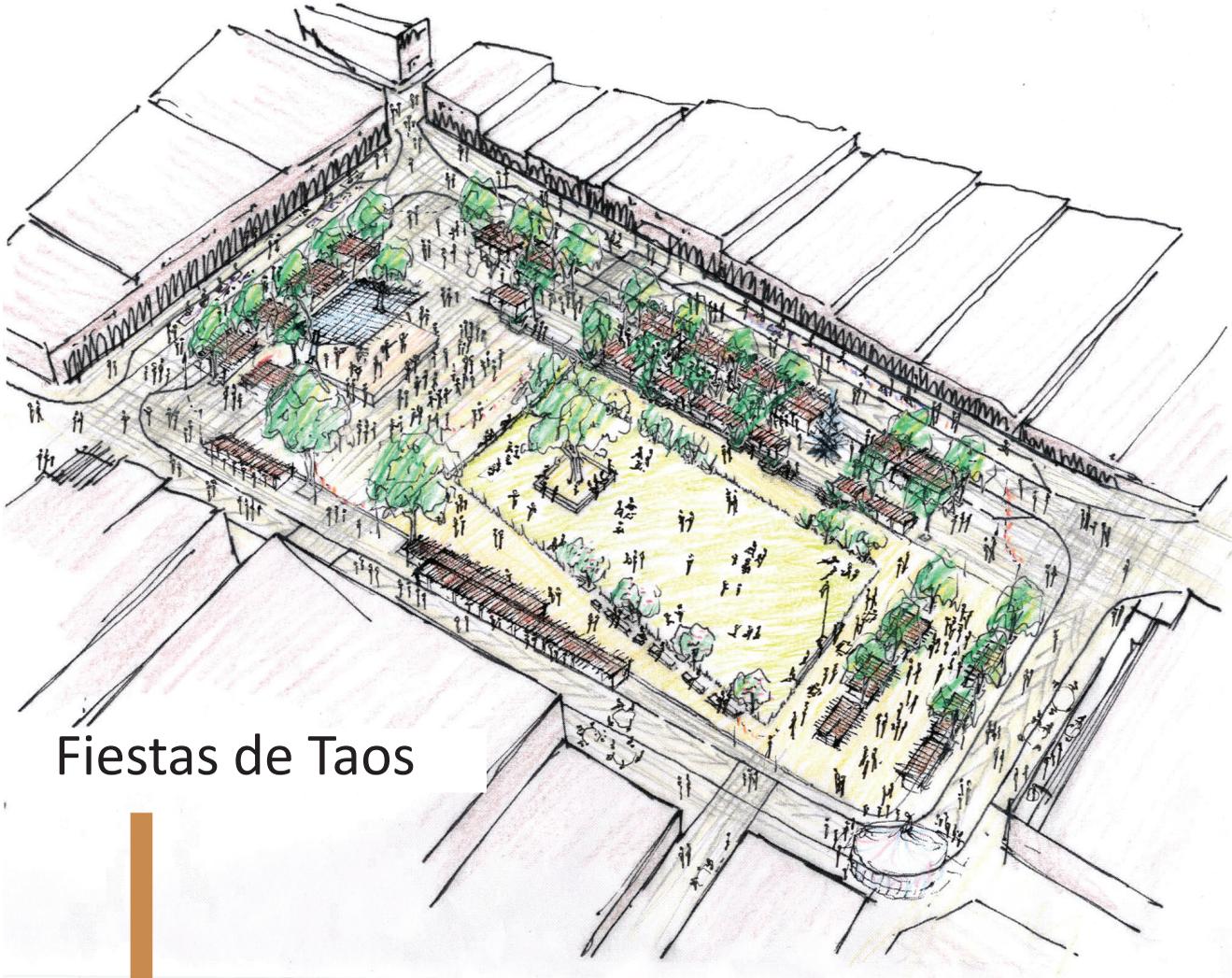
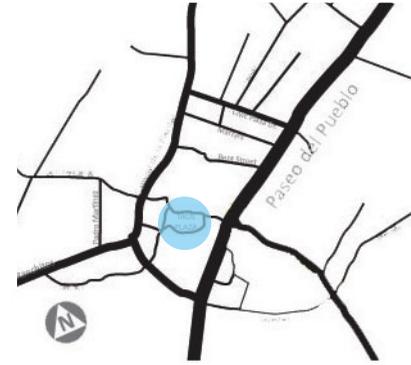


TAOS PLAZA

TAOS PLAZA
EVENTS



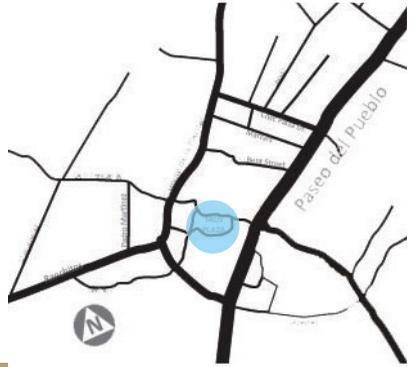
Lighting of the Tree



Fiestas de Taos

TAOS PLAZA

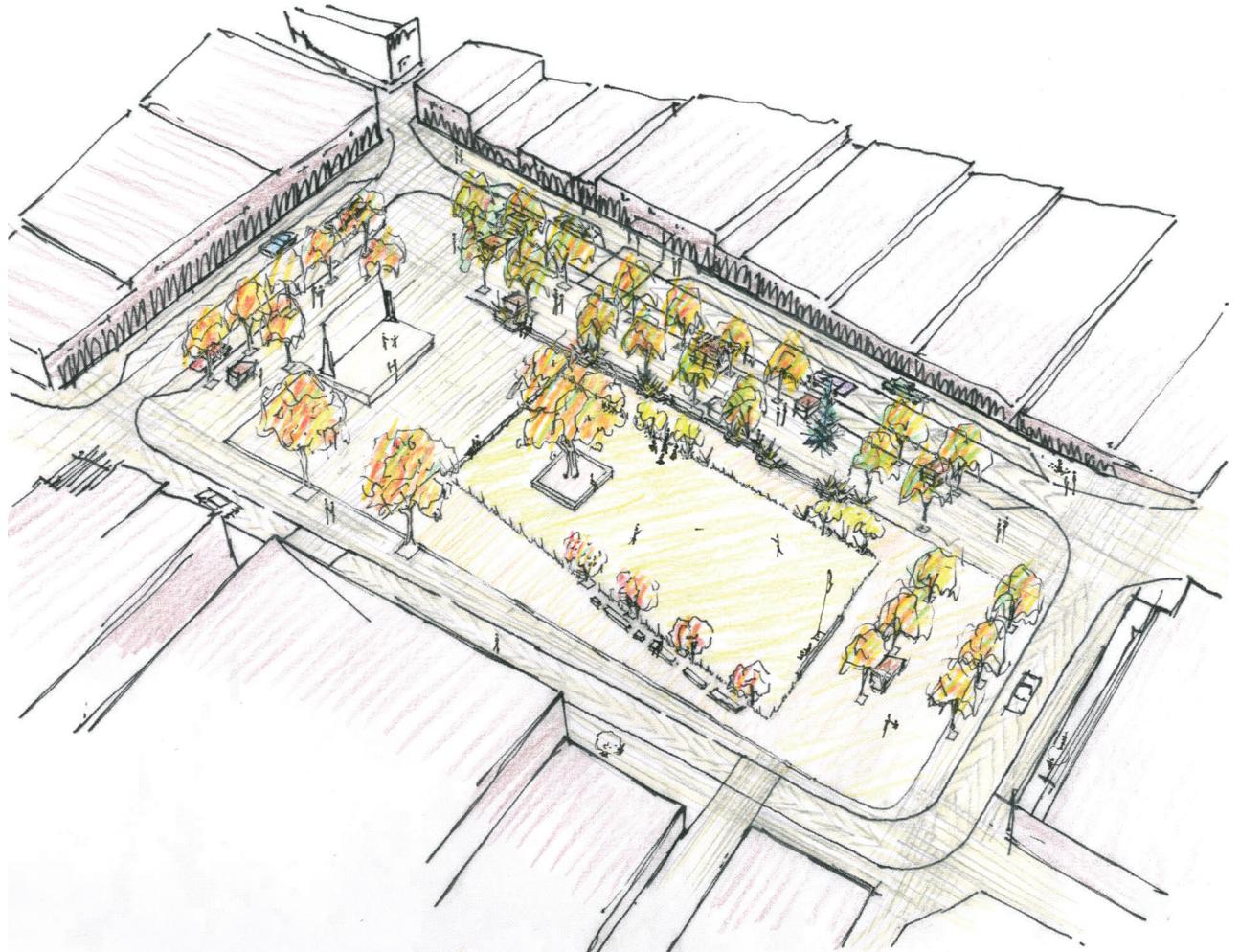
TAOS PLAZA
EVENTS



Autumn Tuesday

TAOS PLAZA

TAOS PLAZA EVENTS





Looking northeast through the plaza.

