

Douglas Campbell, RLA, ASLA

Regula Campbell, RA, AIA

Principals, Campbell & Campbell



Douglas and Regula Campbell have since the 1970's been engaged in works of landscape and environmental architecture and public art, widely recognized for commitment to a collaborative process of discovery and collective expression of community, culture and encounter and re-conciliation with nature.

Their work has been placed by art critic Christopher Knight at the intersection of "poetry and civic purpose". This work has ranged from public projects noted for design processes involving large numbers of participants, through collaborations with individual sculptors, painters and poets, and constituencies of cultural, academic and research institutions, faith communities and environmental organizations, recognized as works of environmental healing and landscape art.

In 1968, The Campbells began a creative partnership that has continued to the present. In 1970 they were invited by the Experiments in Art and Technology organization to enter into a collaboration with sculptors Alan Kaprow and Newton Harrison, furthering a continuing interest in the landscape as perpetually the artifact and generator of process and performance. Douglas Campbell's graduate studies in environmental design and landscape architecture at UC Berkeley were significantly influenced by sustainability pioneer, futurist and systems theorist Richard L. Meier.

Meier's prescient approaches to planning and design in the developing world led the Campbells to Beirut in 1970, working throughout the Near East, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and North Africa as consultants to UN sponsored economic and social development projects and related efforts involving resource conserving urban agriculture. The Campbells returned to California

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

2024, La Huerta Garden Project, Mission Santa Barbara

2022, Invited Commission, Pomona Wash landscape Renewal, Pomona College

2018, Peoples Choice Award, Hollywood Central Park

2014, Invited Commission, Central Library Plaza, City of Santa Barbara, California

2013, Invited Commission, County Courthouse Site Renovation, County of Santa Barbara, California

2012, Invited Commission, Hollywood Central Park, Hollywood, California

2007, Invited Commission, Plaza de la Guerra, City of Santa Barbara, California

2003, Platinum Award: Highest Honors, Audubon Center Los Angeles, United States Green Building Council

2003, Inaugural Award: Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Audubon Center Los Angeles, State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board

2000, Invited Commission, Creative Planet Project, National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI), London

1999, Winner: Veterans Memorial Competition, Collaboration with Poet Robert Pinsky, City of West Hollywood

1997, Invited Commission, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

1996, Lockwood de Forest Award for Excellence in Landscape Architecture, City and County of Santa Barbara

1989, National Record Award, "In the Public Interest", Imperial Beach Seacoast Plaza, Architectural Record

in 1974, where Regula entered graduate studies in architecture at UCLA, studying and working with mentor Architect Charles W. Moore.

Doug and Regula established Campbell & Campbell in 1981.

The Campbells early work included landscape architecture commissions following competitions for projects such as St. Matthew's Parish Church and the Beverly Hills Civic Center with architect Charles W. Moore. These projects set precedents for an approach grounded in participatory design, and the incorporation and expression of cultural and environmental context that are continuing attributes of his firm's work. The public participation foundation for these projects, among many others in which the Campbells were involved during this period, was directly facilitated or guided by the work of Jim Burns, founder of the "Take-Part" approach to participatory planning and design, and Peter Brand of the Coastal Conservancy. At this time Campbell & Campbell began their involvement in a series of efforts sponsored by the California State Coastal Conservancy, initiated with the Santa Monica Pier and other beach and waterfront projects, notably including the master planning and design for the beachfront **Imperial Beach Pier Plaza** (1986-88).

Campbell & Campbell worked with the Coastal Conservancy team led by Burns and Brand to develop a consensus plan in which over six hundred citizens took part. The Campbells were subsequently commissioned to design the Plaza, evolving the design from a desire to evoke the city's most significant natural features: the beach and Pacific Ocean; the Tijuana River Estuary, which provides hundreds of acres of vital habitat; and the Coronado Islands, which dot the horizon offshore. Campbell & Campbell also designed the Plaza as a setting for intensive everyday use and special events including the community's annual Imperial Beach Sandcastle Competition. The project, recognized with numerous honors, including national awards from the ASLA,

This grass roots process transformed the way we, as an agency, designed coastal projects and lead to a long-lasting trust and respect from the communities who became stewards of these new landscapes.

As a result, the Campbells showed public agencies how landscape architects could lead a public process on controversial projects to a successful conclusion. the Campbell's self confidence as designers enabled them to listen first to these large clienteles and translate their hopes into brilliant designs. The trust and respect they earned and the example they set permanently changed the public's image of the profession of landscape architecture in California.

Peter S. Brand
Senior Planner
California Coastal

1989, Winner: Pasadena Police Building Public Art Project, National Invitational Public Art Competition, with Robert Irwin, painter

1989, National Record Award, "In the Public Interest", Imperial Beach Seacoast Plaza, Architectural Record

1988, National Merit Award: Imperial Beach Seacoast Plaza, American Society of Landscape Architects

1988, Winner: "Poetry in the Park," Rincon Park Project, National Collaborative Design Competition with Michael MacMillan, sculptor, Santa Barbara County Arts Council

1988, Honor Award: Santa Monica Pier Carousel Park, California Council, The American Institute of Architects

1987, Honor Award: Imperial Beach Seacoast Plaza, The Waterfront Center National Excellence on the Waterfront Awards

1987, Honor Award: Award for Excellence in Barrier-free Design, Santa Monica Pier Carousel Park, State of California Department of Rehabilitation

the Waterfront Center, and *Architectural Record* has been appreciated both for its process and impact on its community and for its formal qualities. ASLA award jury members conferring on it the status of "a piece of art" and commenting on its subtlety - "It brings you to the edge, to the vastness of the ocean without drawing attention to itself."

This project provided a community struggling to revitalize itself with a memorable and powerful central place, using a minimum of elements, celebrating without dominating its spectacular setting, expressive of the collective imagination of its citizens and encouraging of their aspirations for the future.

During this time the Campbells began a professional association with early mentor Lawrence Halprin, serving as associate landscape architect for projects in Los Angeles including Grand-Hope Park and the **Los Angeles Central Library Maguire Gardens** (1990-93).

The outcome of a decades-long struggle to save Bertram Goodhue's Los Angeles Central Library and return its long vanished West Lawn ("Maguire Gardens"), this project, recognized as a place significant to the civic and cultural life of Los Angeles, is the product of an intense artistic collaboration between landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and associate landscape architects Campbell & Campbell, who also served as landscape architects of record for the other components of the project. Since its completion in 1993, as in Goodhue's original 1926 design, today's Maguire Gardens exemplifies the conception of the Central Library as building AND garden – a vibrant gathering place and symbol to the people of Los Angeles of the value of commitment to the public realm.

Campbell & Campbell's projects throughout the 1990's further explored artistic collaborations in the context of landscape architecture as "Public Art". These notably included the commission following a competition winning collaboration for the City of Pasadena's "Sentinel Plaza" (1989- 1991) with painter Robert Irwin.

This project evolved from the winning entry in a national invitational competition organized in 1989 by the City of Pasadena Arts

"It is exceptional in the restraint with which it is designed—merely a tree, a fountain and a wall. But these elements evoke the natural setting of woodland, mesa and arroyo, without seeming forced. I use it as an example to my students of how you make a powerful design statement with a minimum of design gestures."

Michael O'Brien,
ASLA
City of Los Angeles

1987, Honor Award: St. Matthew's Parish Church, California Council of Landscape Architects, First Biennial Professional Awards Program

1987, Honor Award: Imperial Beach Seacoast Plaza, The Waterfront Center National Excellence on the Waterfront Awards

1987, Honor Award: Award for Excellence in Barrier-free Design, Santa Monica Pier Carousel Park, State of California Department of Rehabilitation

1984, Merit Award: St. Matthew's Parish Church, Southern California Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects

Commission for a public arts project involving the design of a courtyard for the new police headquarters in the city's historic civic center. Its outcome eloquently embodies the Campbells central concern with the creation of public expressions of place and values through the medium of landscape architecture.

The work, with collaborator painter Robert Irwin, is a minimalist "Zen like" composition of the components explicitly required by the City's program- a tree, a fountain and a gated wall - which animated by the play of light and space, color and of the passage of time, speak of community and nature in this particular place.

This project has led to Campbell & Campbell's continuing and current explorations in service to expressions of community and place, including the **West Hollywood Veteran's Memorial** project with United States Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky (beginning in 1999).

Beginning in the late '90s, these continuing, long-term explorations have also included the landscapes of the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels** (1997-), and both landscape and architectural design for the **Audubon Center in Los Angeles** (2000-) and Plaza De La Guerra (2007-) and Library Plaza (2011-) for the City of Santa Barbara.

Campbell & Campbell was selected by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 1997 to be a part of the realization of the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels** (1997-). The Campbells served to help manifest the vision of the Cathedral becoming a place "to be nourished and challenged" as a place of worship for the Roman Catholic community and also a place of gathering, celebration and contemplation for the entire city.

Pastor Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik has noted that, "on receiving this commission, understanding that the landscape can communicate deep connections to the created world, Campbell & Campbell embraced the garden heritage the Franciscans brought to the early Church in California and extending this heritage into the future – using landscape forms — plaza and cloister, water, trees and plants that speak of Church traditions, scripture, the changing of the seasons, and the diverse traditions of the Roman Catholic communities from around the world represented in the Archdiocese. His sense of history, beauty and landscape design and collaborative teamwork made Douglas Campbell a treasure in the design and construction of the Cathedral landscape."

Serving the children and families of its culturally diverse inner-city neighborhood, the **Audubon Center at Debs Park** (2000-) in Los Angeles is a prototype for the Audubon Society's national urban nature center initiative. Campbell & Campbell is responsible for the site and interpretative planning and design, all

"Campbell & Campbell's efforts led this groundbreaking project: to construct a nature center in an urban setting and connect people with nature where they lived, creating an artistic interpretation, through design, that took Audubon's view of nature as a place where formative experiences can be made the sustain a lifetime of ecological values. Nowhere is this more evident than within the "Children's Woodland" an outdoor play area where urban children can experience real southern California wild nature, up close and personal."

Jeffery Chapman,
Director Audubon
Center

phases of the landscape architecture, and the architectural concept design, beginning involvement with an intensive community participation program in 2000, continuing into the present. The design aims to create common ground for encounters with wild nature within a park in an urban setting.

All of the Audubon Center's features incorporate elements that tangibly communicate the interconnectedness of ecosystems and humanity's new determining role in their fate. The several interwoven components of the design work together to connect people with the natural and cultural history, present and future of the surrounding Arroyo.

Ed Reyes, the Los Angeles City Councilmember in whose district the Center is located, has hailed the project's creative approach to sustainable design as bringing about *"a shift in culture"* in the City bureaucracy, and as *"the seed that led"* to Los Angeles far reaching Green Building Ordinance. Reyes considers however, that *"the most successful aspect of the Audubon Center is the availability and accessibility of nature that residents can see, touch and feel."* and that the Center *"makes the relationships between people and nature very tangible, and that, to me is an amazing success story."*

This work seeks to position "sustainable design" in the broadest possible context, and defined not only by technology and consumption metrics, but as authentically coming out of a place and a community - part traditional wisdom - part scientific insight and technology - and part poetry, rooted in ethical and spiritual traditions and inspiring stewardship into the future.

This work is based on the Campbells belief that *"design in the landscape must be a many voiced conversation between the generations and with Nature, fully engaging memory and the imagination, and in service to re-visioning of connections to community and the natural world - inspiring in new generations a deeply understood sense of new and unprecedented responsibility for the fate of the earth."*

Campbell & Campbell's current work at Pomona College and the Santa Barbara Mission engage their cultural landscapes in the context of awareness of climate induced ecosystem bio-mobilities - and the imperative toward finding newly emergent common ground among traditionally contending communities.

Through this work, and through their teaching, research and writing, Campbell & Campbell aspire to explicitly place architecture in the landscape at the foundation of environmental design, and in the company of the healing arts.