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FOREIGN INFORMATION

LAGOON PARK | 2008 CHAUMONT GARDEN FESTIVAL

FEATURES

INFORMATION SOCIETY & LANDSCAPE CULTURE

COMPETITION

DISTRICT OF GWANGMYEONG STATION

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FOREIGN INFORMATION

Lagoon Park

라군파크 Lagoon Park는 초창기부터 제한된 예산을 가지고 예술성과 기능성, 지속성을 갖춘 다기능적 공원으로 조성하려는 것이 목적이었다.

동식물의 서식지, 학생들을 위한 공간, 여가시설을 갖춘 시스템이 구비된 공원으로 본 프로젝트를 성공적으로 완성시키기 위해서

독특하면서도 Van Atta가 가진 잠재력을 최대한 발휘하는 것이었다고 한다.

글·번역 _ 김규형 · 본지 객원기자 | 에디터 _ 백정희 | 자료제공 _ Van Atta Associates | 디자인 _ 이은미



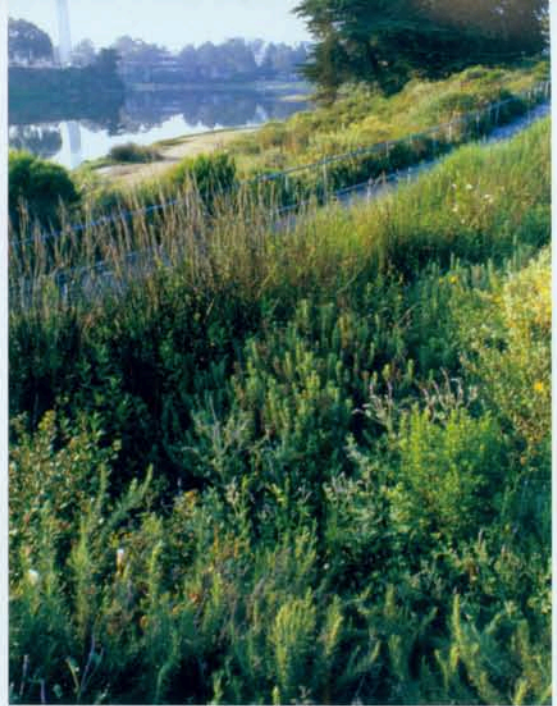




캘리포니아 주립대학교 기숙사 사무실에서 Van Atta 측에 긴급 메시지를 보냈는데, 그 내용은 거주자들을 위한 주변환경 조성 프로젝트를 수행해 줄 수 있겠느냐는 것이었다. 캘리포니아 연안위원회에서 대학교 측에서 계획한 학생회관에 관한 조성안을 거부한 시점이었기에 당황스럽고 긴급했던 상황이었다. 그 이유는 넓은 규모의 주차공간을 학생회관 공간으로 만들기 위해 공사를 시행하게 되면, 주변의 습지대와 자연환경 훼손이 불가피 할 수 밖에 없다는 위원회의 주장이 있어서였다. 전반적으로 상황이 어렵게 되기 전, 대학교 측에서는 자연지역 보호를 위한 펜스를 설치하고 6에이커 규모의 해안절벽을 활용하는 대체방안을 고려하게 된 것이다. 대체방안이 승인된 이후, 예산 또한 많이 절감이 되었기에 대학교 측에선 가능한 적은 예산으로 주변환경에 대한 설계안을 요구할 수 밖에 없는 상황이 되었고 Van Atta에선 전체적으로 독특한 방식의 설계가 필요하다고 판단하였다.



우선 절벽을 포함한 이 6에이커 규모의 부지에 자연이 주는 편안함에 빠져들면서도 봄이라는 계절에 볼 수 있는 다양한 아름다움에 감사함을 느낄 수 있도록 하면서 태평양 연안의 황무지를 느낄 수 있도록 컨셉을 잡아나갔다. 자연적인 습지대를 보호하기 위해서 펜스가 아닌 적합한 수목들을 배식하고, 해안가에 쉽게 출입하기 위한 목조계단을 설치하였으며, 자전거 보관대, 야외샤워시설, 학습장 등을 설치하여 설계안에 기초해 학생들이 즐길 수 있는 공원으로 만들어가기 시작하였다. 예술적인 감각을 살리기 위해 사용된 자재는 자연적인 것과 인위적인 것들이 쓰여졌으며, 주로 산타바바라에 있는 사암(sandstone)이 보도 및 도로기조공사, 암벽설치 등 다양한 용도로 사용되었고, 이는 자재를 실어 나르기 위한 운송수단을 줄이는 효과를 가지게 되었다. 또한 '갈망의 길'이라는 이름이 붙여진 길은 기존의 학생회관으로부터 해안가 절벽을 따라 최고의 전망을 자랑하며 비가 올 경우 빗물이 쉽게 투과할 수 있도록 포장을 해 지면으로 흐를 수 있도록 하였다.



라군파크는 6에이커 규모의 자연적 초원으로 연못, 목초지, 습지대 그리고 연안지역에 서식하는 야생식물들이 잘 어우러진 곳이다. 프로젝트 전반적인 부분에 있어서 일직선 방향으로 대략 1천3백피트 길이로 습지대가 형성되어 있으며, 8만본 이상의 초목들이 서식하고 있다. 이들 종들은 대학의 온실과 종묘장에서 자란 것들을 분포시킨 것이며, 최소 3년 이상의 시간이 걸렸다고 한다. 이 공간은 이제 곤충들과 새, 포유동물 및 다양한 종의 식물들이 충분히 자라날 수 있는 환경이 되었으며, 학생들에게는 습지에서 서식하는 야생식물들을 즐기며 해안으로 직접 다가설 수 있는 교두보 역할과 함께 다양한 즐거움과 볼거리를 선사함으로써 교외활동에서 즐길 수 있는 문화적 재미를 느끼게 해 줄 것이다.

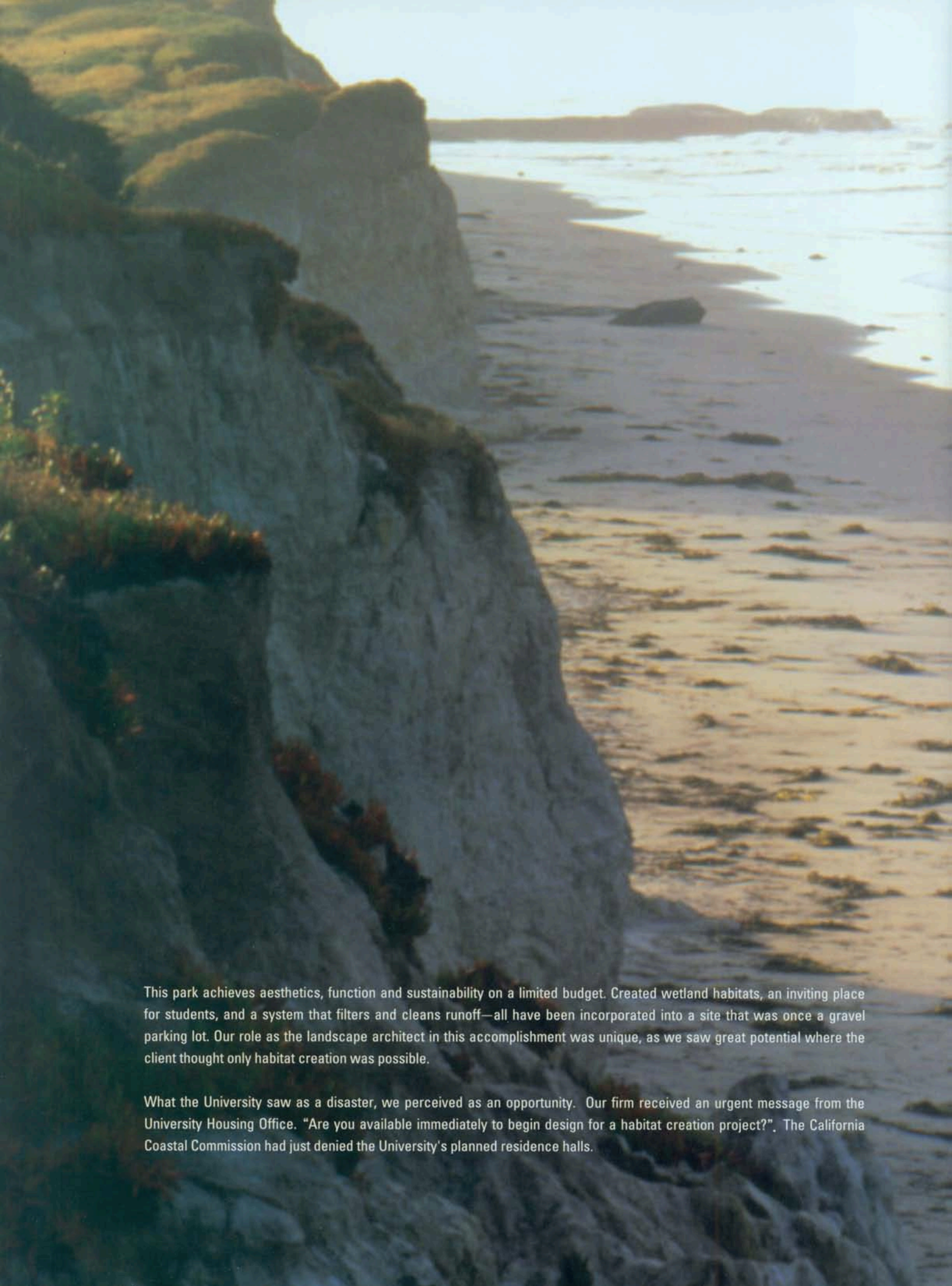
라군파크를 조성하게 될 수 있었던 것은 대학교와 위원회간의 협조가 있었기에 가능했다.

비록 이 부지가 여러 가지 이점을 가지고 있었다고는 해도, 초창기에 갈등이 많았던 만큼 문제의 여지가

복잡하게 될 수도 있었지만 서로간의 이해와 협력관계가 Van Atta의 원활한 업무진행이 가능하도록 한 것이다.

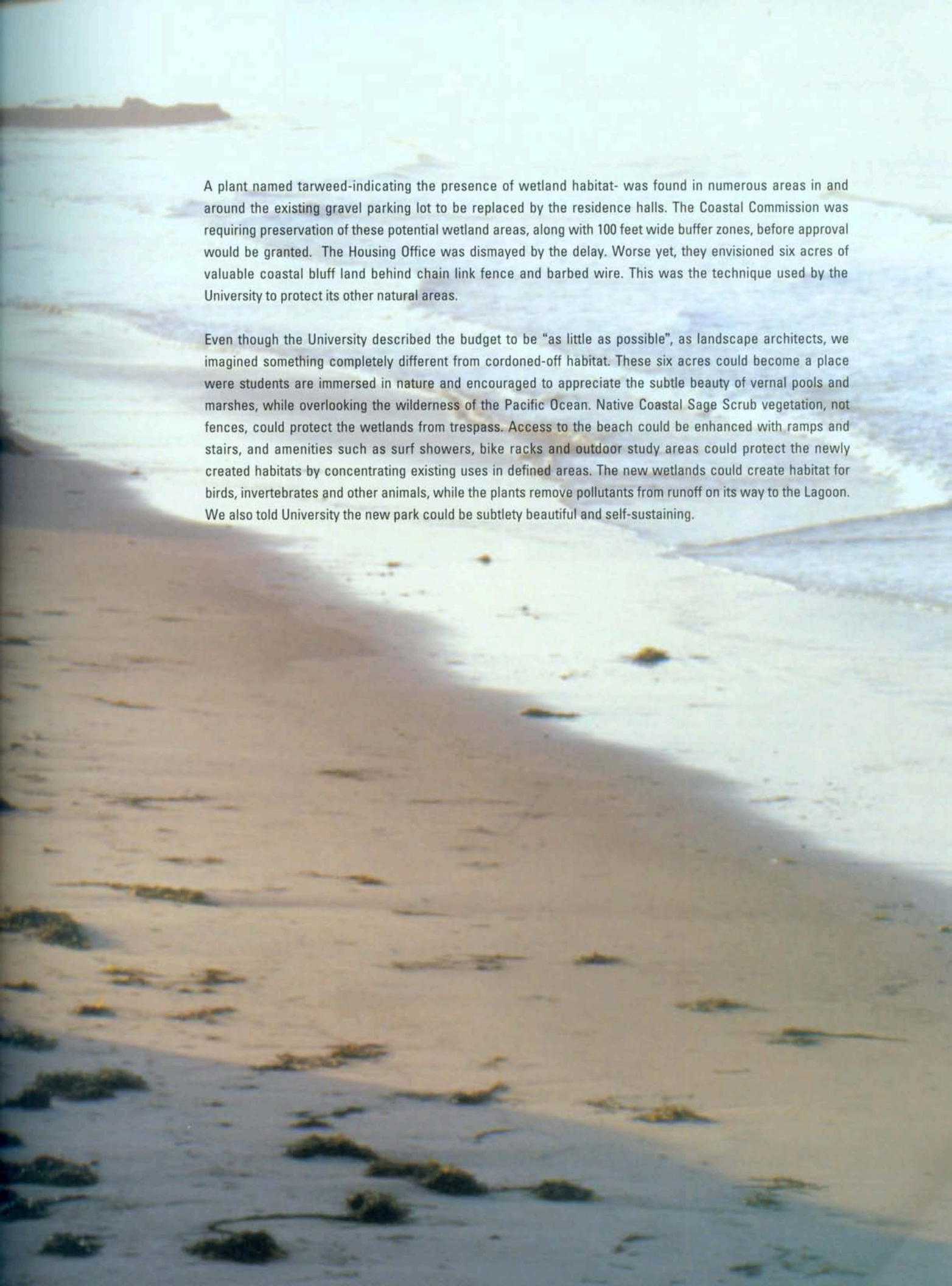
재탄생한 라군파크는 다양한 동식물의 서식지와 연못, 습지 등이 보전된 중요한 분기점으로 자리매김 하고 있다.





This park achieves aesthetics, function and sustainability on a limited budget. Created wetland habitats, an inviting place for students, and a system that filters and cleans runoff—all have been incorporated into a site that was once a gravel parking lot. Our role as the landscape architect in this accomplishment was unique, as we saw great potential where the client thought only habitat creation was possible.

What the University saw as a disaster, we perceived as an opportunity. Our firm received an urgent message from the University Housing Office. "Are you available immediately to begin design for a habitat creation project?". The California Coastal Commission had just denied the University's planned residence halls.



A plant named tarweed-indicating the presence of wetland habitat- was found in numerous areas in and around the existing gravel parking lot to be replaced by the residence halls. The Coastal Commission was requiring preservation of these potential wetland areas, along with 100 feet wide buffer zones, before approval would be granted. The Housing Office was dismayed by the delay. Worse yet, they envisioned six acres of valuable coastal bluff land behind chain link fence and barbed wire. This was the technique used by the University to protect its other natural areas.

Even though the University described the budget to be "as little as possible", as landscape architects, we imagined something completely different from cordoned-off habitat. These six acres could become a place where students are immersed in nature and encouraged to appreciate the subtle beauty of vernal pools and marshes, while overlooking the wilderness of the Pacific Ocean. Native Coastal Sage Scrub vegetation, not fences, could protect the wetlands from trespass. Access to the beach could be enhanced with ramps and stairs, and amenities such as surf showers, bike racks and outdoor study areas could protect the newly created habitats by concentrating existing uses in defined areas. The new wetlands could create habitat for birds, invertebrates and other animals, while the plants remove pollutants from runoff on its way to the Lagoon. We also told University the new park could be subtly beautiful and self-sustaining.

Design Solution

As described above, our solution was to create an environment that is as good for people as it was meant to be for plants and animals. We also sought to:

Use local building materials(both natural and manufactured) for their aesthetic appropriateness. This also minimizes the energy embodied in the materials and their transport. This includes native Santa Barbara sandstone, decomposed sandstone for pathways, road base spoils as finish paving, and onsite soils for rammed earth seating and walls.

Design pathways along the established 'desire lines' from the existing residence halls to the best view spots along the coastal bluff, eliminating the need for cutting across habitats. Paths and fire access lanes are of permeable paving, allowing rainwater to infiltrate the ground where it lands.

Create an authentic habitat re-creation by working with established University departments and groups with restoration implementation expertise. Although an obvious advantage, it was these same groups that got the project stopped in the first place. We convinced Housing and Residential Services that this collaboration was the only path to a good result- and the only means they could afford. As a result of the University Department involvement, diverse and authentic vernal pools habitats were 'inoculated' with native populations of plants and invertebrates. This was accomplished by spreading a thin layer of soil mined from vernal pools created by the University 10 years earlier at the a nearby vernal pool preserve. All of the plants in Lagoon Park, including marsh, coastal bluff and grassland species, were propagated from within the watershed for genetic accuracy.





Lagoon Park is now six acres of restored native California grassland, and vernal pools, meadows and marshes- all threatened habitat types- as well as diverse stands of Coastal Sage Scrub and Coastal Bluff vegetation. 1,300 linear feet of bio-swales were created as part of the overall project. More than 80,000 native plants were propagated and grown from local genotypes at the University's greenhouses and nursery, and planted over a period of three years. These new wetlands and uplands provide diverse plant, insect, bird, mammal and invertebrate species habitat, including nesting habitat for red-winged blackbirds, common yellowthroats, mallards, and other birds.





Instead of flushing the seagull guano from the roofs directly to the ocean, the concentrated mix of nutrients and water is detained and filters through wetlands and bio-swales, nourishing native wetland plants on its way to the lagoon. This 'plants not pipes' solution drains and treats 75 percent of the residence halls site (now called Manzanita Village). The system demonstrates how excess water and nutrients considered to be a waste product of urbanization can be turned into a resource used to enhance the environment. More than 27 species of local native wetland plants are growing in the bio-swales and two shallow marshes strung together along the universal access ramp to the beach.

Lagoon Park brings the ocean and wetland wilderness to the front doors of the students, and is laced together and protected with trails accessible to all. The many recreational amenities support student activities amongst the species that have re-inhabited this former gravel parking lot. A boardwalk brings visitors to a deck at the center of the largest vernal pool, where close observation leads to a better understanding of this subtle and rare habitat.

Van Atta Associates Inc. relies upon their broad base of resources, including staff with diverse academic backgrounds and a variety of professional experiences. Our team includes Susan Van Atta, Guillermo González, Karen McConaghy, Jessica Harlin, Haley Adams, Moiri Fleming, and Jill Frandsen.

Our values and experience lead to approach design and planning with an awareness of the relationship between landscape and the three integral parts of any project: the Built Environment, the Client's Program, and the Environmental Context.

Van Atta Associates Inc. is able to sensitively interpret, accentuate, and enhance the best aspects of a site and its surroundings. This approach leads to the creation of lasting beauty and a memorable sense of place. One of the firm's unique assets is an extensive knowledge of native California plants and habitats. This allows Van Atta Associates Inc. to show the utmost sensitivity to the existing natural environments in which they work.

Van Atta Associates Inc. is dedicated to comprehensive service and optimum results through efficiency and open communication. The firm's production and presentation capacities, and their ability to respond quickly and flexibly, are augmented through innovative use of computer graphics.

Van Atta Associates emphasizes design in their work and has been recognized for these efforts with many design awards.

In addition, the firm's projects have appeared in publications such as *Progressive Architecture*, *Global Architecture*, *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Décor*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Sunset Magazines and Publications*, *Chronicle Books*, *Central Coast Magazine*, and *Santa Barbara Magazine*.



Location _ Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A.

Official Entrant _ Van Atta Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architect of Record _ Susan Van Atta, ASLA

Client/Owner _ University of California, Santa Barbara

Housing and Residential Services

Office of Planning and Design

Photography credit _ Saxon Holt, Susan Van Atta, California Coastal Project(aerial photo), UCSB

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