ACADEMICS + CHILDCARE

ENVIRONMENTS FOR EXPLORATION

CARDUCCI ASSOCIATES

Homestead High School, Cupertino, CA

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PROFILE

Founded in 1976, Carducci Associates is a professional landscape architecture and planning firm based in San Francisco and serving a wide range of public and private sector clients throughout California. Emphasizing personal and responsive client service, we work closely with each client during design and construction to devise unique, creative and effective solutions.

VIEWPOINT

We believe no two projects are alike, a conviction we convey through unique site-specific designs. We focus on clients' needs, creating opportunities for interaction between people and nature that result in memorable experiences.

PROFICIENCIES

We conceptualize landscapes that express an artistry and sensitivity to the interaction of social and natural systems. We develop concepts that are purposeful, buildable and sustainable.

We combine creative and technical ability in landscape architecture, planning and urban design with expertise in stormwater management and irrigation, Bay-friendly landscape principles and maintenance practices to conserve water, nurture soils, reduce use of chemicals and comply with stormwater regulations. Our approach creates habitats for birds, bees and other pollinators and beautiful and functional landscapes for people.

We collaborate with clients, other design professionals, multidisciplinary teams and contractors to conceptualize, detail and build complex projects.
We facilitate transparent community engagement processes responsive to the unique requirements of community-driven design that build community support toward a common purpose.

We deliver LEED® certified projects by employing sustainable measures and materials. Our projects provide open space, conserve energy and water, ameliorate the urban-heat island effect, control stormwater runoff, insulate buildings and create outdoor amenities for people.

VALUES

We are committed to the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility and ethical conduct. We provide safe working conditions, treat people with dignity and respect, act fairly and ethically, and use environmentally responsible practices. Our company policies address anti-corruption, anti-human trafficking and anti-slavery.

DRAWING FROM OUR PAST

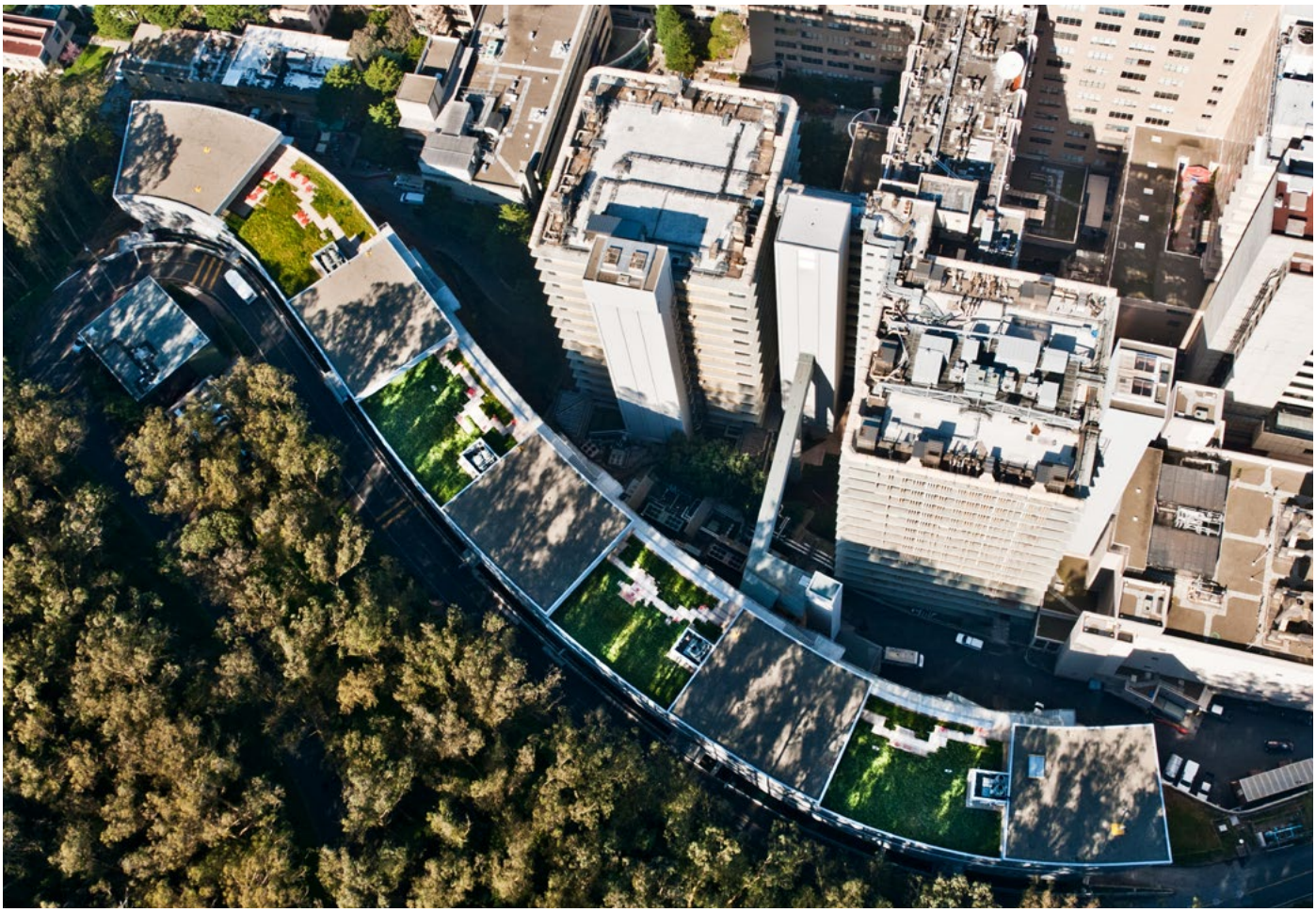
We draw by hand throughout the design process, using hand drawn sketches and renderings to visualize ideas, develop solutions and collaborate with clients and other design professionals. As a complement to high-tech digital tools, this artistic "soft touch" enables viewers to use their imagination to complete the vision of the sketch. From sketches, we translate our designs into polished digital renderings. By using both analog and digital means, we take the best of the past and modern technology to more effectively design and communicate today.

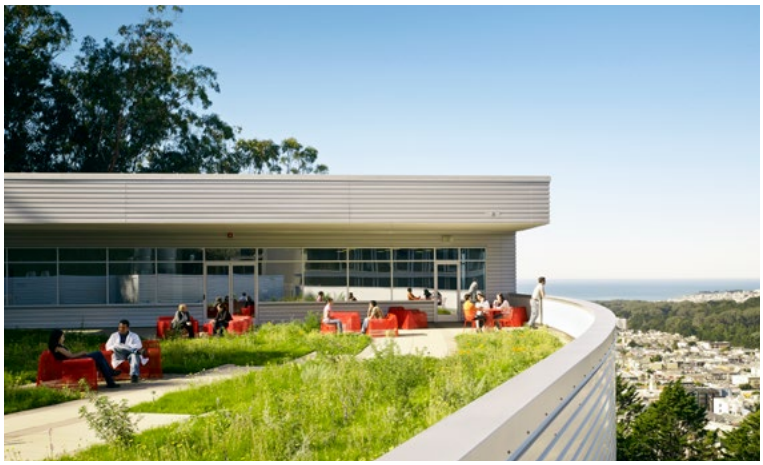
Ray & Dagmar Dolby Research Center

RAY & DAGMAR DOLBY REGENERATION MEDICINE BUILDING

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Designed by Rafael Viñoly, the UCSF Ray and Dagmar Dolby Regeneration Medicine Building floats above a steep hillside on a series of trusses that support a split-level structure with green roof terraces and solar orientation. Carducci Associates provided site and landscape design to address challenging conditions and access, while also creating a half-acre of gardens, pathways, and outdoor gathering areas. Each of four roof terraces is directly adjacent to RMB faculty offices and conference rooms, thereby enhancing the potential for social and collaborative interaction among members of the UCSF research community.





Historic Alameda High School

HISTORIC ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL

ALAMEDA, CA

Restoration and modernization of this stunning 1924 neoclassical high school included seismic upgrades, technology and accessibility improvements, exterior restoration, and the infusion of 21st century learning environments. A multiple award-winning campus that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, new planting accentuates the building's revitalized grandeur with a mix of historic exotics and climate-appropriate plantings. Working closely with the architect and team, new outdoor learning environments and exterior improvements included hardscape that blends with the overall architectural vocabulary. New lighting, furnishings, and access renovations provide equal access for all students, staff, and visitors, with ramps and walkways seamlessly connecting between street access and building entrances.

Cupertino High School

CUPERTINO HIGH SCHOOL

CUPERTINO, CA

The renovated quad at Cupertino High School is designed to facilitate everyday use and special events in a flexible space that incorporates art, an amphitheater, and outdoor seating and dining that blend seamlessly with the school's multi-use Student Union. Native trees and plants, including California Redwoods, create drama in the main quad and complement a redwood grove in the upper quad. Within the amphitheater, seating walls scattered in a nautilus-inspired shape maintain access and flexibility. At the front of the school, landscaping and curving planters create a natural flow toward the entrance and under the "bridge" formed by a portion of the school library.

"You and your Firm have provided, and continue to provide, excellent design services for both BCA and the District - we really appreciate your creativity on San Mateo High School. Thanks."

Project Architect, San Mateo High School

SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL

SAN MATEO, CA

In 2001, San Mateo High School's historic building was determined to be structurally unsafe—prompting a modernization of the entire campus. Carducci Associates was selected to design a campus entrance pathway, amphitheater and other landscape elements that would improve campus safety, accessibility, and aesthetics while preserving its hallmark historic qualities. The new amphitheater acts as a campus focal point and a staging area for school events. The "History Walk" creates an entrance pathway lined with year markers from the school's opening in 1926 to the present, with room for future classes to place their own markers.

Homestead High School

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

CUPERTINO, CA

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Homestead High School is the alma mater of many who have shaped the high-tech industry, including former Apple CEO, Steve Jobs. In 2008, the Fremont District elected to revamp the Homestead campus core, engaging Carducci Associates to design a new and more accessible quad with ample seating for student gatherings and events. Inspired by the angular paths found in computers, the open, flexible design makes it easy for students to move through and connect at the quad, while also providing distinct zones programmed for dining, rallies, performances, and socializing on the "Senior Slope" mound.

Mills High School Theater

MILLS HIGH SCHOOL THEATER

MILLBRAE, CA

Renovation of an outdated theater and gymnasium at Mills High School necessitated redesign of the school's three courtyard spaces, including the main campus courtyard and outdoor areas adjacent to the cafeteria and art facilities. Carducci Associates designed three complementary outdoor spaces that together facilitate varied school activities including open-air dining, study, and instruction, as well as social gatherings and events. A landscaped amphitheater provides ample space for student theater, dance and musical performances, speaker presentations, movie screenings and award ceremonies.

Lynbrook High School

LYNBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

SAN JOSE, CA

In Phase 2 of Lynbrook High School's Campus Master Plan, an expanded gymnasium, cafeteria, and central quad anchors the school's vision, values and programs into a modernized space for 21st century learning. Inspired by the new architecture and the school's viking mascot, curves and waves construct an expanded seating and outdoor performance area, a synthetic turf lawn sized for volleyball and dodgeball, and vegetated terracing and overlooks for gatherings from small to large. A strong symmetry established through landform and paving patterns unifies a site with uneven topography and multiple scales of uses.

Encinal Junior & Senior High School

ENCINAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

ALAMEDA, CA

Carducci Associates transformed the outdoor environs for Encinal Junior & Senior High School's modernization efforts. A flexible outdoor landscape offers unique opportunities for outdoor education, socialization, memorialization and active experiences. Care was taken to protect historic plane trees lining the ceremonial entry, while quads were renovated to help accentuate the campus approach. A new maple grove and plaza appeals to students, providing areas to gather or relax on cobble-like boulders. The Junior Jets Quad offers clusters of seating and facilitates collaborative workspaces for groups and classes. Thoughtfully designed biofiltration as well as native and habitat planting areas support the learning of natural systems and science. The outdoor Maker Space offers students a place to work outdoors and to display or demonstrate projects to the surrounding community.

Brownell Middle School

BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GILROY, CA

Our design of Brownell Middle School balances outdoor space for play, gathering, and teaching. Outdoor learning occurs in a variety of settings such as outdoor rooms surrounded by semi-circular seat walls for more traditional, teacher guided instruction, to wide patios inside classroom building courtyards. These patios allow students to spill out of adjacent maker spaces to tinker and collaborate. We are pleased that these spaces will play a crucial role in keeping students and staff safe, while enriching student learning opportunities. A diverse palette of native, drought tolerant, and pollinator-friendly shrubs and grasses strengthens our biophilic concept and almost 200 shade trees were planted to passively cool the site. Brownell also benefits from entirely new natural turf playing fields with more efficient, modern irrigation.

Bacich Elementary School

BACICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KENTFIELD, CA

The design of Bacich Elementary School was envisioned with support from staff and site committee members to be an outdoor learning and creative play area as an extension of its adjacent classrooms. It was an immediate success, becoming a popular space for creative collaboration and play. Carducci Associates' site design features a sloped berm forest, a living-willow outdoor classroom, a stage area with movable log seats, Adirondack chairs, picnic seating and bench storage for science crafts.

Cove Elementary School

COVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CORTE MADERA, CA

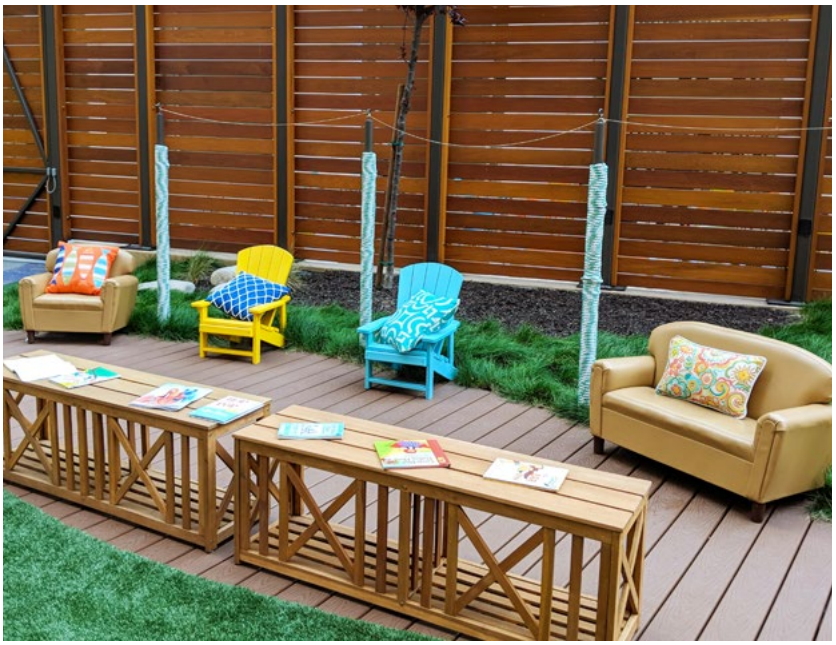
A California Gold Ribbon School, this five-building elementary school makes use of flexible, indoor/outdoor learning suites, rather than traditional stand-alone classrooms. The entrances for all suites face a shared central courtyard, anchored by a student services and café gathering space that accommodates administration and counseling offices, dining, performances, exercise use and school-wide assemblies. Cove Elementary School boasts abundant natural light, large outdoor alcoves for art and science, designated outdoor learning spaces, as well as rain gardens to help mitigate stormwater.

Salesforce Childcare Play Areas

SALESFORCE CHILDCARE PLAY AREAS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Designed to create an engaging environment for learning and play, two secure outdoor areas at the Salesforce childcare center serve up to 125 children in 8,900 square feet of space. For infants and children up to 2 years of age, the "Lanai" provides play space directly accessed from the center's 1st floor. The "Ohana" provides 7,500 square feet of flexible play areas and green space for children 3-5 years old. As a whole, this project affords a safe outdoor setting for a variety of activities that support the educational and development goals of the childcare center: creativity, communication, and collaboration.



Mountain View Childcare

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHILDCARE

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

Located within Rengstorff Park, the City of Mountain View Childcare Center was developed on a complex infill site to provide the Mountain View community with a suite of childcare services and activities. Carducci Associates designed the site to include plantings and fully outfitted playgrounds equipped with rubber surfacing and decking—and which provide music play, nature play, and water play elements. One of the playgrounds is open to the public after hours.

Pixar Childcare

PIXAR CHILDCARE

BERKELEY, CA

The Pixar Childcare Center provides care to children 6 weeks to 5 years of age. To create an optimal play area for the children, Carducci Associates designed approximately 7,500 square feet of playground and landscape improvements, working closely with the City, Public Works, and the contractors. During design review, the City of Berkeley stipulated an art fence be designed for the project. Carducci Associates designed, secured approvals, and fabricated the "California Fence Scapes," which depict California's varied landscapes, including mountains, coastline, city, and countryside.

Loma Chica

"From innovative design ideas to practical solutions, Carducci delivered creativity and expertise that exceeded our expectations. We wholeheartedly recommend them to anyone looking for landscape architects who combine passion, professionalism, and a long-term vision for sustainability."

Rebecca Westover , CBO of Mountain View Whisman School District

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