

# TEST

# PLOT

USC Arch 546

2 UNITS FALL 2024

TUESDAYS 10AM-11:50AM

UPC COURSE w/ FIELD WORK

INSTRUCTOR ALEX ROBINSON

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This year the Test Plot elective will engage with the eight existing native plant plots and their stewards scattered around LA County, from the oldest plot in Elysian park planted in 2019 to the newest addition on Catalina Island, established last fall. This is an opportunity for students to get their hands in the soil, and spend a semester learning about the practices of landcare. Students will participate in ecological gardening sessions alongside the local stewards who have been tending these plots for years. The lands, ecologies, and communities of Southern California will come alive by your interactions with multiple, diverse, and engaged perspectives and sites. Together we will explore the individual and cumulative impact of Test Plot and its role in supporting community activism, supporting food webs and combating biodiversity loss, science and monitoring, as well as the movement towards slow design. These site investigations will result in creative and analytical LOG entries for the plots, to be shared among the community and published online and in print. Finally, the class will culminate in a community planting day. Open to all majors.



LAST YEAR THE CLASS PLANTED A TEST PLOT ON CATALINA ISLAND, 2023



STUDENTS PLANTING THE USC CAMPUS TEST PLOT, SPRING 2022

**USC** School  
of Architecture

OPEN TO UPPERCLASS UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES  
STUDENTS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERTISE WELCOME

PRIOR SKILL IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE NOT REQUIRED



STUDENTS DESIGNED AND PLANTED ELEPHANT HILL TEST PLOT WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS LAST YEAR

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Bring Back Beauty And Biodiversity
- Low-tech, Low-budget
- Hands In The Soil, The Land Needs Laborers
- Honor And Work With The Seasons
- Plant For Climate Resiliency
- Local Plant Material, Closing The Loop
- Experimentation Is Good, Permission To Fail
- Research And Learn, Shared Knowledge
- Expansion And Scalability In Mind
- There Is No One Size Fits All, Stewardship Is Local
- Diverse Land Ethics



TEST PLOT "RAINBOW RIVER" IN ELYSIAN PARK



STUDENTS MAINTAINING THE BALDWIN HILLS TEST PLOT, FALL 2021

**Pando**

May be selected to participate in Pando 2024!  
<https://pandopopulus.com>

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*Wrigley Institute for Environment  
and Sustainability*

**TEST**

**PLOT**