

# Balboa Park Botanical Building

## Interior Planting Improvements Update

December 8, 2022



Proposed Building Improvements



Alfred D. Robinson

### Interior Planting Design Intent

The design intent for the Botanical Building interior is to achieve updated gardens that feel "otherworldly" and that honor Alfred D. Robinson's vision for the Botanical Building:

*"...now I had entered the garden of Eden. Palms and ferns and flowering plants and vines on all sides, sending out their delicate scents upon the night air to mingle with the odor of moist earth and recent rain, a draft as intoxicating as champagne..."*

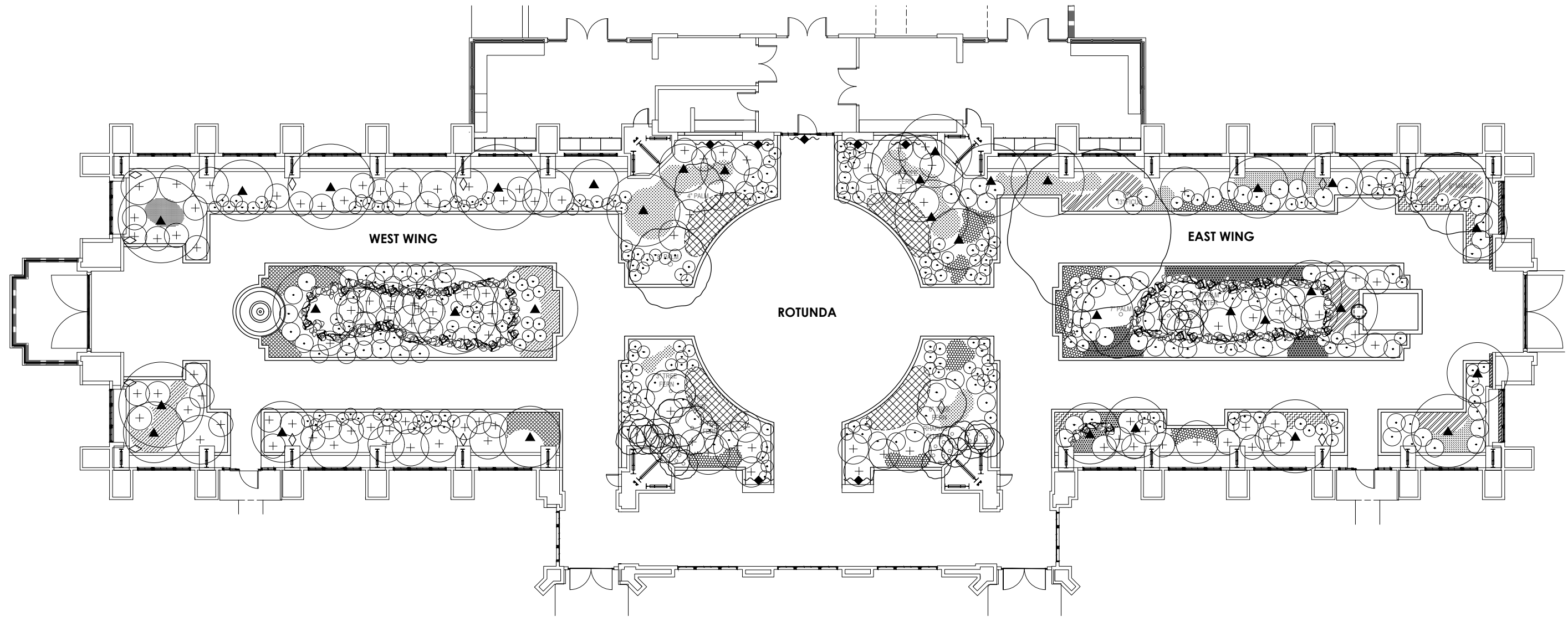
Overall, the design will:

- Create three distinct experiences in the space - east, west and center as dictated by light availability.
- Include plant materials that are not often typically seen in home gardens.
- Use as many of the salvaged plant materials as possible.
- Use plants with fragrance.
- Use the walls and arches as growing surfaces.
- Vary the layout of larger plants and repeat smaller plants in each area to create a visually exciting display and avoid visual chaos.



### Project Design/Build Team:

EC Constructors - Design/Build Contractor  
Platt/Whitelaw Architects - Prime Consultant  
Estrada Land Planning - Landscape Architect  
Nan Stermán/Waterwise Gardener - Horticultural Consultant/Designer



**West Wing - Sunnier, Drier:**

- Use an updated plant palette with heavy emphasis on flowering plants, oversized grass-like textures.
- Concentrate less thirsty plants in this wing.
- Plant fast climbing vines to create a fast sense of canopy.
- Plant giant Dutchman's pipe on west wall to make use of vertical space, create a fast green background that will create a sense of presence, offer fascinating flowers and fragrance, and balance the green wall on the east side.
- Use lots of color in both flowers and foliage.
- Use plants with fragrant flowers to perfume the air year-round.
- Add drier growing epiphytic orchids, succulents, air plants, and other epiphytes to dress up bare trunks and branches as larger trees and shrubs develop.

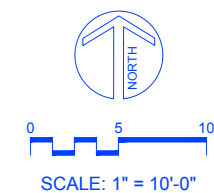
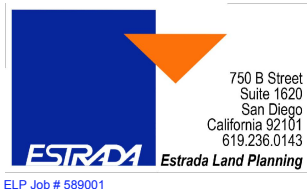
**Central Rotunda - Transition Zone:**

- Transition zone between shady and sunnier, thirsty and more drought tolerant plants.
- Develop a beautiful and welcoming space for visitors.
- Create interesting backgrounds to support changing plant displays.
- Complement existing palms and tree ferns.
- Add mounted staghorn ferns above arches to make use of vertical space and to serve as a transition between the greenwall (east end) and Dutchman's pipe (west end).
- Focus on texture and repetition of edging plants surrounding areas set aside for rotating and seasonal displays.

**East Wing - Shadier, Wetter:**

- Incorporate as many salvaged plants as possible to complement the plants preserved in place and offer visitors an experience similar to the most recent iteration of the gardens.
- Concentrate the "thirstiest" plants in this wing.
- Emphasize green, serene; punctuate with pops of color.
- Incorporate a green wall on the east wall to serve as an "instant garden" and a focal point while the public waits for smaller plants grow in. As plants grow in, the green wall will continue to be a novel and fascinating background to the in-ground plantings.
- Add moist growing epiphytic orchids, succulents, air plants, and other epiphytes to dress up tall, bare trunks of mature tree ferns, trees, and cycads.

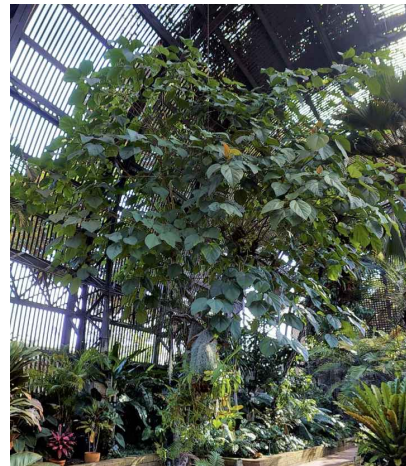
Note: Planting plans are preliminary only and subject to change. Not all proposed plants shown. Some protected in place and salvaged plant images were gathered online and do not represent the form and/or quality of the protected or salvaged plant. Many plant images depict mature plants and are not necessarily representative of the size of plant installed.



**Balboa Park  
Botanical Building  
Planting Plan**

December 8, 2022

**Trees, Palms and Cycads**



*Ficus auriculata*  
Roxburgh fig  
(Protected in Place)



*Caryota mitis*  
clustered fishtail palm  
(Salvaged)



*Cyathea* spp.  
Australian tree fern  
(Salvaged)



*Cycas thouarsii*  
Madagascar sago  
(Salvaged)



*Encephalartos altensteinii*  
NCN  
(Salvaged)



*Licuala peltata*  
NCN



*Pritchardia hillebrandii*  
loulu lelo  
(Protected in Place)

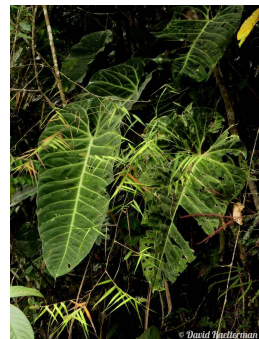
**Shrubs and Perennials**



*Alocasia portodora*  
elephant's ear



*Anthurium metallicum*  
NCN



*Anthurium queremalense*  
NCN



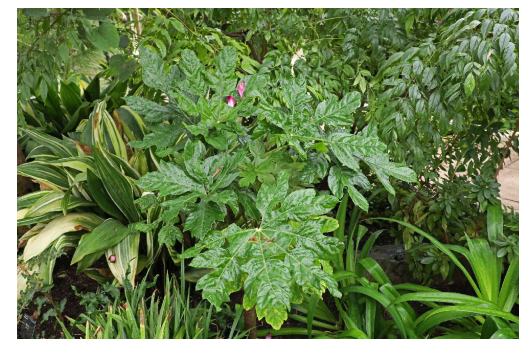
*Asplenium nidus*  
bird's nest fern  
(Salvaged)



*Ceratozamia hildae*  
bamboo cycad  
(Salvaged)



*Piper auritum*  
Mexican pepperleaf

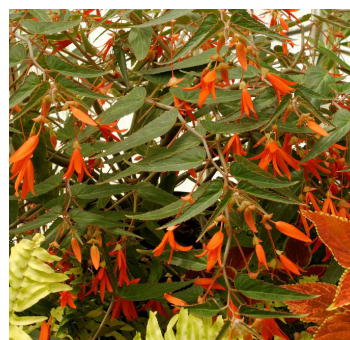


*Trevesia palmata*  
snowflake aralia

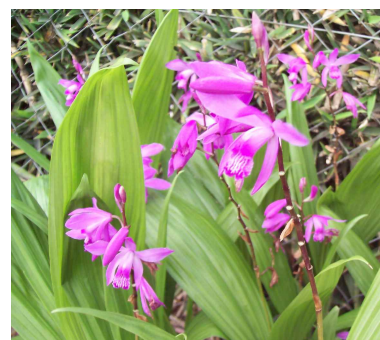
**Ground Covers, Ferns, Accents, Vines and Epiphytes**



*Adiantum raddianum*  
maidenhair fern



*Begonia* spp.  
begonia



*Bletilla striata*  
Chinese ground orchid



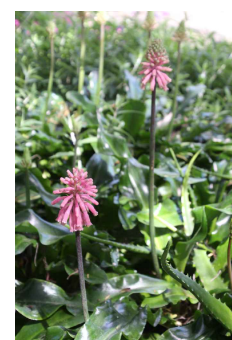
*Ledebouria socialis*  
silver squill



*Oxalis triangularis*  
false shamrock



*Spathiphyllum 'Mauna Loa'*  
Mauna Loa peace lily  
(Salvaged)



*Velltheimia bracteata*  
forest lily



*Tillandsia* Epiphytes on Trees



Green Wall Example

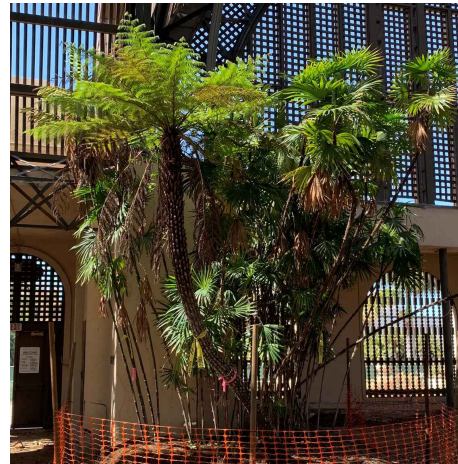
**Trees, Palms and Cycads**



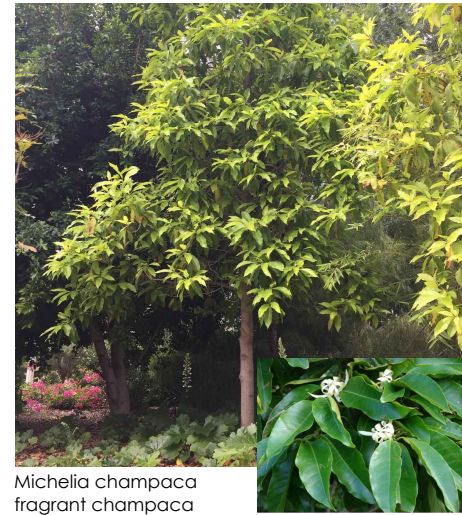
Beccariophoenix alfredii  
high plateau coconut palm



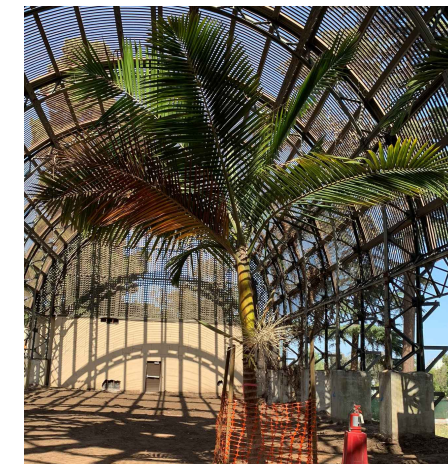
Cycas pectinata  
NCN  
(Salvaged)



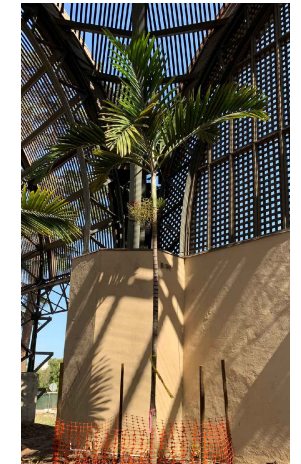
Existing Palms and Tree Ferns  
(Protected in Place)



Michelia champaca  
fragrant champaca



Prestoea acuminata  
Sierra palm  
(Protected in Place)



Ptychosperma elegans  
elegant palm  
(Protected in Place)

**Shrubs and Perennials**



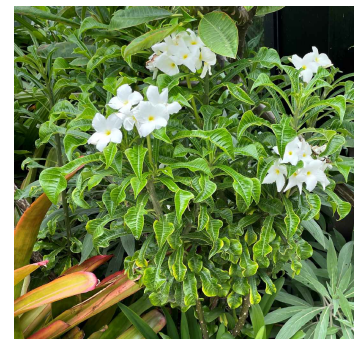
Abutilon 'Nabob'  
flowering maple



Alcantarea imperialis  
bromeliad



Coffea arabica  
coffee



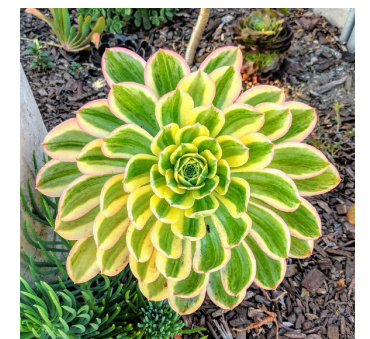
Plumeria stenopetala  
plumeria



Adiantum capillus-veneris 'Banksianum'  
Banks' maidenhair fern



Adiantum raddianum  
'Croweanum'  
Crowe maidenhair fern



Aeonium 'Sunburst'  
sunburst aeonium

**Ground Covers, Ferns, Accents, Vines and Epiphytes**

**Ground Covers, Ferns, Accents, Vines and Epiphytes (cont.)**



Begonia 'Paul Hernandez'  
Paul Hernandez begonia



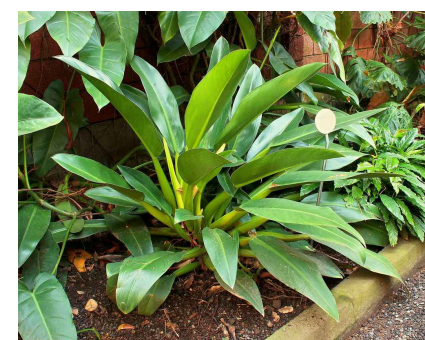
Farfugium japonicum var. giganteum  
giant leopard plant  
(Salvaged)



Iresene herbstii  
bloodleaf



Piper auritum  
Mexican pepperleaf



Philodendron martianum  
pacova



Epiphytic orchid



Epiphytic Rhipsalis baccifera  
mistletoe cactus

**Trees, Palms and Cycads**



*Chionanthus retusus*  
Chinese fringe tree



*Cussonia spicata*  
cabbage tree



*Dracaena arborea*  
slender dragon tree



*Otatea acuminata* aztecorum  
Mexican weeping bamboo

**Shrubs and Perennials**



*Cordyline australis* 'Red Star'  
red star dracaena

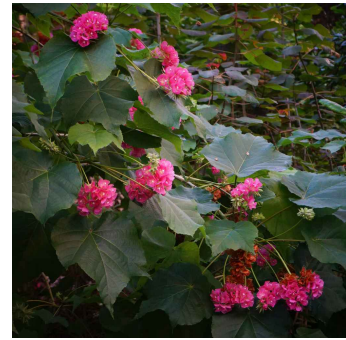


*Cordyline banksii* 'Electric Pink'  
electric pink grass tree

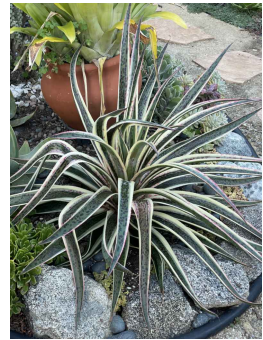
**Shrubs and Perennials (cont.)**



*Deppea splendens*  
golden fuchsia



*Dombeya* 'Seminole'  
tropical rose hydrangea



*Mangave* 'Snow Leopard'  
NCN



*Montanoa grandiflora*  
tree daisy



*Aechmea* 'Wally Berg'  
NCN



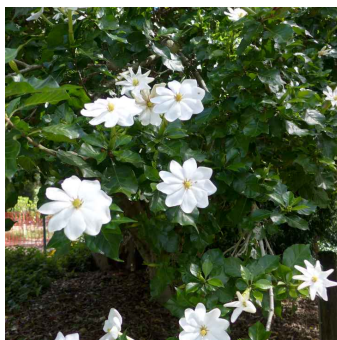
*Aristolochia gigantea*  
Dutchman's pipe vine



Bromeliads and Rock in Beds

**Ground Covers, Ferns, Accents, Vines and Epiphytes**

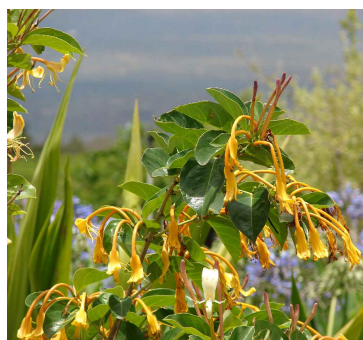
**Ground Covers, Ferns, Accents, Vines and Epiphytes (cont.)**



*Gardenia thunbergia*  
forest gardenia



*Lomandra hystrix* 'Tropic Belle'  
tropic belle mat rush



*Loniceria hildebrandiana*  
giant Burmese honeysuckle vine



*Neoregelia* 'Fireball'  
fireball bromeliad



*Sansevieria trifasciata* 'Moonshine'  
silver snake plant



Tillandias on Tree Trunk



*Tradescantia pallida* 'Purple Heart'  
purple spiderwort



*Vriesea fosteriana* 'Red Chestnut'  
red chestnut bromeliad