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Stormwater Pumpstation No. 6  
Mission Bay, San Francisco  
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Infrastructure at Mission Bay / The L.A. River / AIACC Disaster Preparedness / Off-Grid Competition /



# Off the Grid 2.0

“Healing the Damaged Edge”

Horseshoe Cove at Fort Baker Ideas Competition for Restorative Design

The California Architectural Foundation, through the William Turnbull, Jr., Environmental Education program, furthers the general public’s understanding about the synergistic relationship between the built and natural environments in California. The Off-Grid Ideas competition involves finding sustainable solutions for urban infill projects with a zero carbon footprint. These solutions do not necessarily require a built solution; concepts may include innovative community development strategies, development of sustainable public policies, infill development concepts, natural resource conservation, multicultural issues, and creation of new materials or systems.

## Competition Brief

In 1972, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area was created, encompassing much of the military land in and around the Golden Gate, including Fort Baker and the Marin Headlands. The site has been transformed from military use to public recreation under the guidance of the National Park Service. Today, Fort Baker is home to the Bay Discovery Museum and the Cavallo Point Resort and Conference Center. The site also continues as a thriving wildlife habitat and spawning ground for many species of bird, butterfly, and marine life. Numerous infrastructure improvements have been completed to better accommodate visitors.

In the midst of these improvements, a significant plot at the water’s edge along Horseshoe Cove remains vacant, damaged, and undefined. The water’s edge is marked by a deteriorating sea wall that blocks access to the water. The site has stunning views of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay, and San Francisco. This cove on the San Francisco Bay has seen many different uses come and go. Some of the past uses and users include:

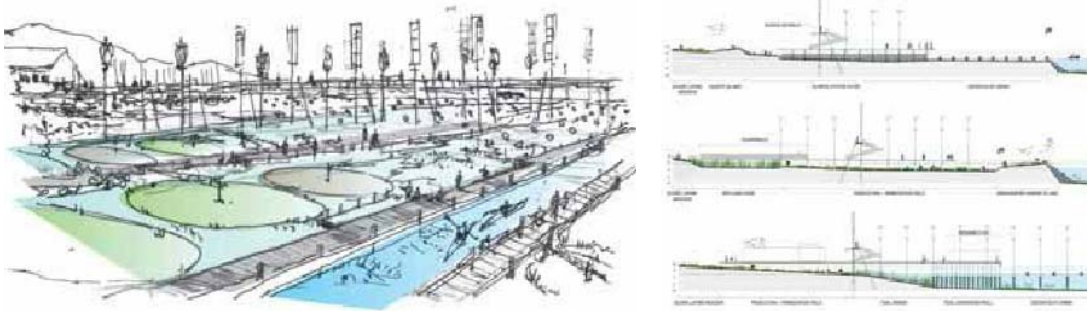
Indigenous—Miwok native hunting & fishing ground, pre-1775  
Explorers—Spanish conquistador encampments, 1775-1840s  
Historic—US Army fort & battery, 1850s-2002  
Industrial—construction yard for the Golden Gate Bridge, 1930s  
Recreational—yacht club, kayaking, fishing pier, present day

This waterfront site offers a design opportunity to enhance the visitor’s experience of the San Francisco Bay. From casual bikers and hikers, to attendees at the Cavallo Conference Center, to the school children and families visiting the Bay Area Discovery Museum, a wide cross-section of the public is drawn to this location. A sensitive infill project that provides improved access to the water will only increase the appeal of Horseshoe Cove. At 6.3 acres, this is a small site bounded on all sides by established functions. The competition sought ideas for public use structure(s) and spaces that achieve a balance between natural ecology and urbanity within very finite constraints.

## Competition Jury

Hsin-Ming Fung, AIA—Hodgetts & Fung Design and Architecture  
Mary E. Griffin, FAIA—Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects  
Peter M. Saucerman, AIA—Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects  
Mark W. Steele, FAIA, AICP—M.W. Steele Group, Inc.

*More information available at [www.caf-e.org](http://www.caf-e.org).*



## Special Jury Commendation

Interstice Architects:  
 Andrew Dunbar, AIA, Zoe Astrachan,  
 Arjun Bhat, Jon Ganey, James Munden,  
 Darren Perry, and Amy Wolff  
 "Agri-Structure-Eco-Structure"



Inspired by the dynamic ecological potential of Horseshoe Cove, we propose a highly visible public infrastructure that sustains stewardship. By re-distributing the sea wall boundary, the site is transformed into a blurred tidal edge. Water/land ecologies evolve as we re-appropriate vernacular agricultural systems to create self-generating ecological structures. In shifting the context of these processes, we will also engender a transition from a culture of consumption to a culture of stewardship. To this end, we propose a series of simple performance typologies to create a sustaining landscape.

The site is organized and "grown" through the implementation of both Eco-structures and Agri-structures, which create a highly concentrated wetland ecotone. These structures include redistributed landform, low-impact access catwalks, and distribution networks, which together generate a site-wide "Plot" nursery for desperately needed habitats and endangered native species. The Plots are the biomass products of emergent wetland ecologies. The surplus production of the Plots is

exported to other sites as they become available due to rising sea levels.

The simple flexible armatures, in turn, create program opportunities within the Plot nursery. The initial infrastructure recedes over time as proactive ecologies succeed. The Agri-structures remain and are slowly reclaimed by the rising sea, eventually establishing a thriving marine estuary to become a destination for scientists, eco-tourists, and local residents alike.

Jury Comments: "This was a very ambitious entry that explored teaching opportunities to a high degree. The project's relation to the Discovery Museum is admirable; it is a nice complement to the museum. The jury was somewhat concerned by the array of tall wind turbines dominating the site and view of the bay. This solution is highly engaged in activities that support environmental learning." ●