

# Cliff Garten Inserts Sculptural “Ribbons” Into San Francisco’s 50 UN Plaza

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Los Angeles–based artist [Cliff Garten](#) has just completed his latest commission: *Ribbons*, a series of landscapes and sculptures in the courtyard of the Beaux-Arts 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco. The symmetrical design riffs on the existing structure’s classical uniformity by inserting a sculptural collage of paving, seating, fountains, and plantings into the building’s 20,000 square foot courtyard.

Curving concrete pavers are set into a



(Jeremy Green)

larger surface of decomposed granite, while cast concrete benches twist as if made of rubber, appearing to lift out of the ground pattern.

“Concrete is great. I think I have finally found my medium for infrastructure,” said Garten, who noted that he’s hoping to develop a line of street furniture with the manufacturer [Quick Crete](#).

The project was commissioned by the General Services Administration’s [Art in Architecture Program](#), which sets

aside a half percent of construction funds for federal projects for art. See more pictures below.

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