



Project Data Sheet

Sunnyvale, California



Title The Great Ellipse at Moffett Towers

Location Moffett Towers, Sunnyvale, California

Description As an urban form, The Great Ellipse is the centerpiece of Moffett Towers Park. It's structure as an earthwork account for the intersection of public and private life, by mediating the private campus of Moffett Park and the public path to a light rail station. The abstract qualities of the form are our perception of horizon, sky, and earth. Fourteen mature sycamore trees thirty feet in diameter, line the top of the six-foot high berm Ellipse, creating a wall of trees that imparts a greater volume and height. A secondary berm on the inside of the Ellipse hides the tree's connection to the ground, giving the impression of a floating canopy. The open green in the center is planted with finely mowed ryegrass in contrast to the long festuca rubra species on the large berm. The two distinct textures and colors of grasses are separated by a four-foot wide granite elliptical ring of paving at grade. Four ten-foot long benches with carved ends are arranged along the ring to provide seating. The walls of the earthen berm are lined with granite to lie back and create entrances to the earthwork. This is both an active and passive space.

Date 2009

Medium Granite, Earth, Festuca rubra, Rye grass, Platanus acerifolia

Dimensions 242' L x 165' W

Commissioned by City of Sunnyvale and Jay Paul Company, San Francisco

Architect DES Architects, Redwood City, CA

Landscape Contractor Jensen Corp. Landscape Construction

Engineer Patrell Engineering Group, Inc., Glendora, CA

Subcontractors Rudolph Sletten, Masonry
Granicor, Granite Fabrication