

E. Street Furniture

"In the urban spaces between buildings is the **paraphernalia** of urban **living--the** furniture which makes these spaces inhabitable. They are the small scaled elements which we constantly use and see; they set the dominant quality of streets and **plazas**, and by their ubiquity, they become the **street.**"*

Street furniture in most U.S. cities, **including** San Diego suffers from an absence of design and a **failure** to coordinate the location of the different items. All **items** of street furniture must be carefully studied and selected or designed to maintain the general character of Old Town. This section will attempt to provide design criteria and establish standards for street furniture in Old Town, however, further design study is encouraged and **desired.**

Some of the items of street furniture to be **considered** for Old Town are:

- a. Benches
- b. Kiosks
- c. Phone Booths
- d. Trash Cans
- e. Drinking Fountains
- f. Fountains & Sculpture
- g. Hitching **Rails**
- h. Watering Troughs
- i. Fire hydrants and fire alarm boxes
- j. Fence & **walls**
- k. Bollards
- l. Pots & planters

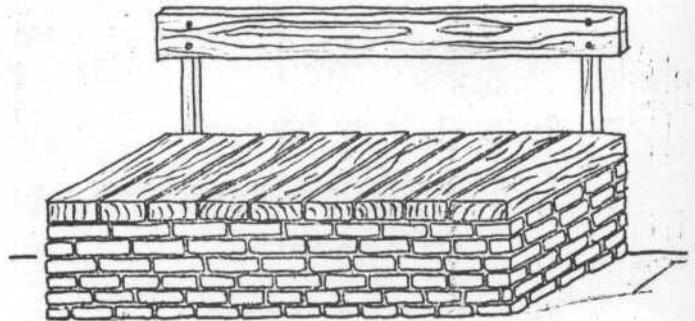
*CITIES, Lawrence Halprin, Reinhold Publishing Corp., 1963.

a. Benches

Benches are for people watching. Benches in an area are a focus of activity. They can be many things to many people, for the elderly it can be a place to pass the time of day sitting in the sun, for students a place to study, for lovers to embrace, for mothers to watch their children at play, for shoppers to rest their feet. The design and availability of benches may be an indication of a city's concern for its citizens comfort.

A bench should support the body properly by distributing body weight evenly over the surface of the seating area. An optimum seat-to-foot distance must be present so that the feet can rest easily on the ground and the back of the sitter is supported comfortably.

The location of benches and their relationship to one another is of prime importance. Normal park seating parallel to walks are a barrier to social contact. Benches should be arranged in groups to promote contact and form interesting spaces from which to watch the world go by.



Double Bench, Florence

(Photo-Donald Ray Carter in CITIES, Lawrence Halprin)

Adobe Bench - Early California Missions

Wrought Iron Bench, Mexico

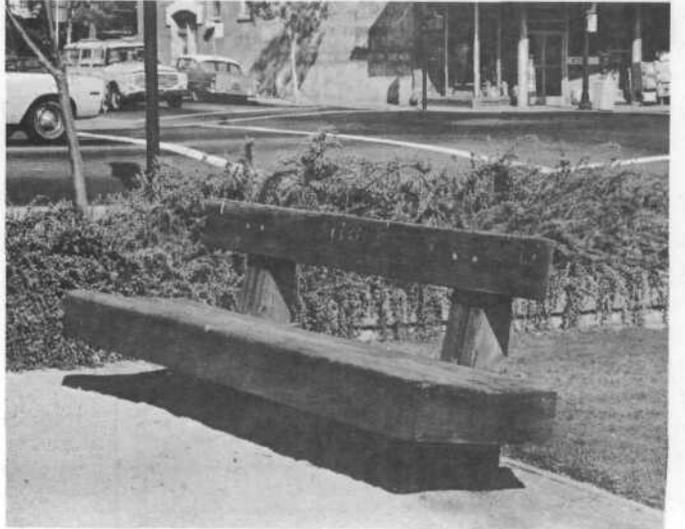
(Photo - John Evans in CITIES, Lawrence Halprin)



Los Gatos, California

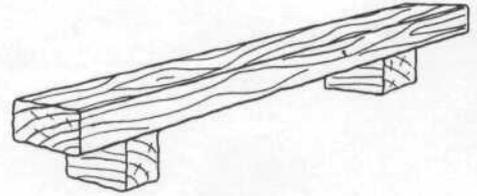


Los Gatos, California



Rancho California





Bench - type 1



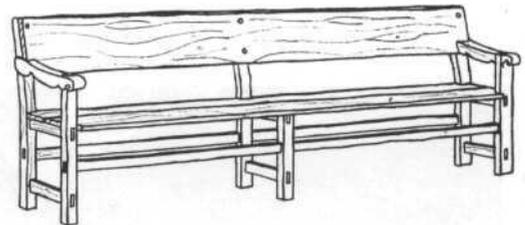
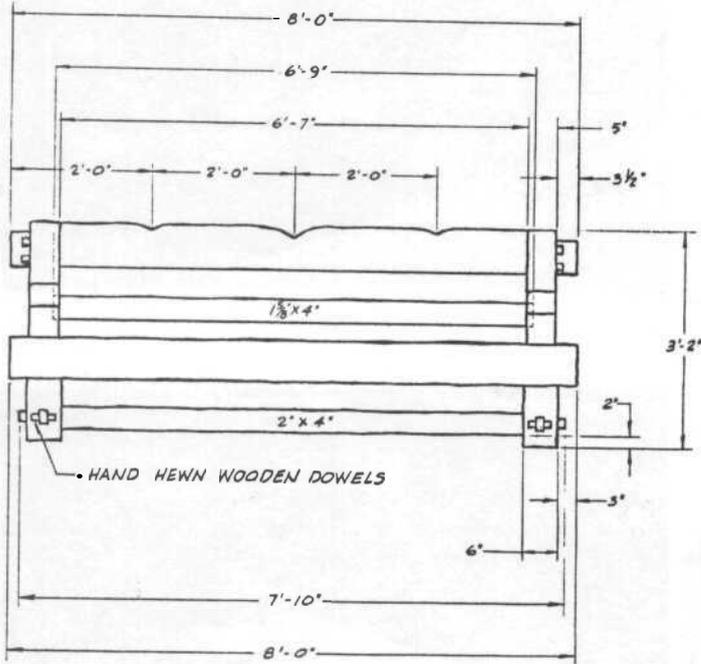
Bench - type 2



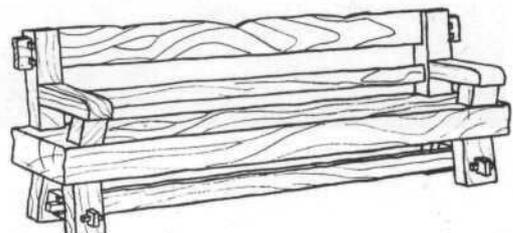
Bench - type 3



Bench - type 4



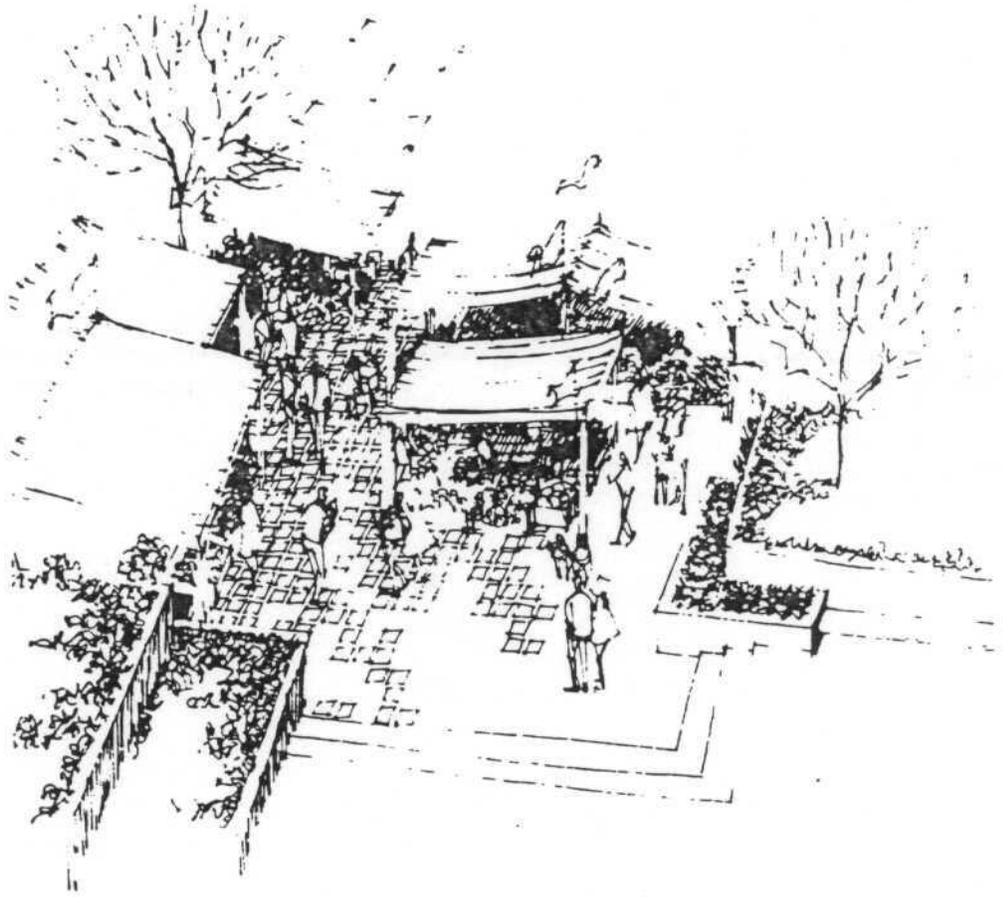
Bench - type 5



Bench - type 6

Bench designs prepared for Old San Diego State Historic Park by State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

b. Kiosks

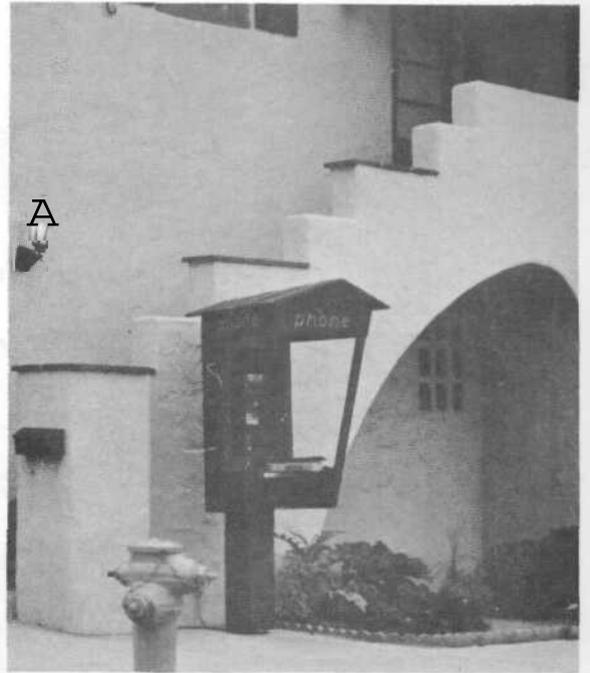


Kiosk comes from the old Turkish word "Kiusck" which means pavilion. In addition to the structures used for advertising and public notices commonly associated with Paris there are other kiosks a city should **have** to allow it to function and produce an interesting environment. Telephone booths, news-stands, candy vending areas, flower **stands**, bus shelters, ticket and information booths, etc. Each performs a special function on the urban scene. These small structures can add interest to or clutter and create visual chaos on our streets. Kiosks **can** also reduce to pedestrian scale a street that has been closed to automobile traffic.

c. Phone Booths

Telephone units can and should be integrated with the other street furniture and with the architectural character of Old Town. Study should be given to placing the majority of telephones in public places off the sidewalk.

Phone Booth. Old Town State Park,
San Diego



Mail Box - Rancho California



Newstand. Santa Barbara,
California



d. Trash Cans

Public trash receptacles must be seen to be used. Design should be based on performance **criteria** and be modest and **utilitarian**. They must fit with the **architectural** criteria for Old Town. The performance standards should be derived from public refuse needs and the City procedures for trash collection and disposal.

Containers must conform to national standards. The acceptable methods of removing trash from a receptacle are by; **disposable** interlining, the self dumping unit with hinged bottom or side, and the inner **liner** which is removed, dumped and replaced. The size of the container should be determined by the frequency and means of **litter removal**, installation technique, degree of weather protection and odor containment **desired** and choice of material and industrial process.

Enough trash containers should be provided to be immediately available. Receptacles should be available near major path **intersections** and placed near benches and areas of rest and recreation.



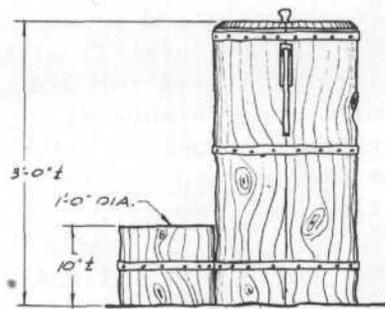
Trash Barrel
Old San Diego, State Historic Park

e. Drinking Fountains

In ancient cities, the well was a center of social life and gossip; today the drinking fountain is not only a generous civic gesture but can be an esthetic experience as well.

Drinking Fountain

designed by State of California,
Dept. of Parks and Recreation



Drinking Fountain - Washington
Square, Old Town San Diego

f. Fountains and Sculpture

"Sculpture has always peopled our cities' squares with universal images of man's heroic idealized qualities. Sculpture should be seen outside; there it becomes an architectonic element more than decoration. It can symbolize all of man's aspirations; in fact, it can become so identified with a city that its image is the city."*

For centuries, men have brought water into their cities for aesthetic displays as well as for drinking and bathing. The earliest water courses in the cities of the East were channels for irrigation, running down from the mountains along the curb lines of the streets into cool, green gardens enclosed by walls. On their way, they watered the palms and citrus groves, and cooled the air by their sound as much as their evaporative sprays. Each culture since then has had a strongly expressed attitude about water and the way it has been used.*

Fountain - The Mercado at
Rancho Bernardo
San Diego, California



Fountain Cuernavaca, Morelos,
Mexico



(Photo - THE MEXICAN HOUSE OLD AND
NEW, Shipway, 1960)

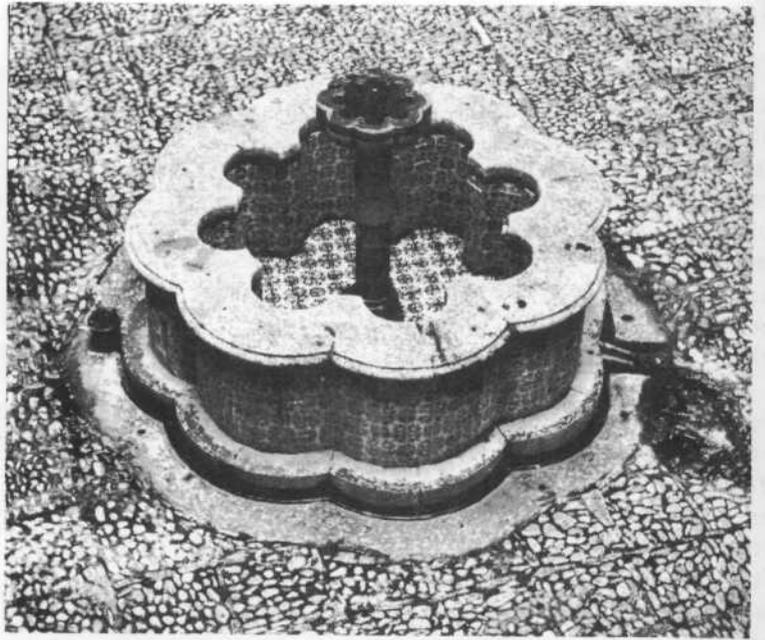
Fountain - Plaza de los Cuatro
Banderas
4 Flags Shopping Center
Solana Beach, California

*CITIES, Lawrence Halprin, Reinhold,
1963

Fountain, San Miguel de Allende,
Guanajuato, Mexico

Patio fountain of an old colonial
town house. Glazed tiles were
frequently used for both exterior
surfacing and interior linings.

(Photo - THE MEXICAN HOUSE OLD AND
NEW, Shipway, 1960)



Balboa Park
San Diego, California



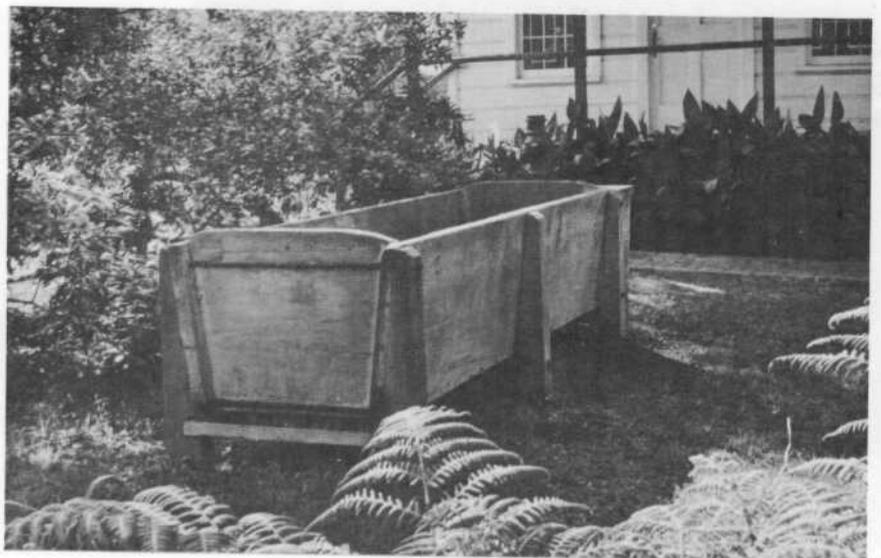
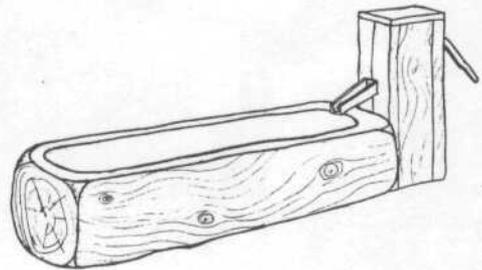
g. Hitching Rails



Hitching Rail - Estudillo House
Old Town San Diego

h. Watering Troughs

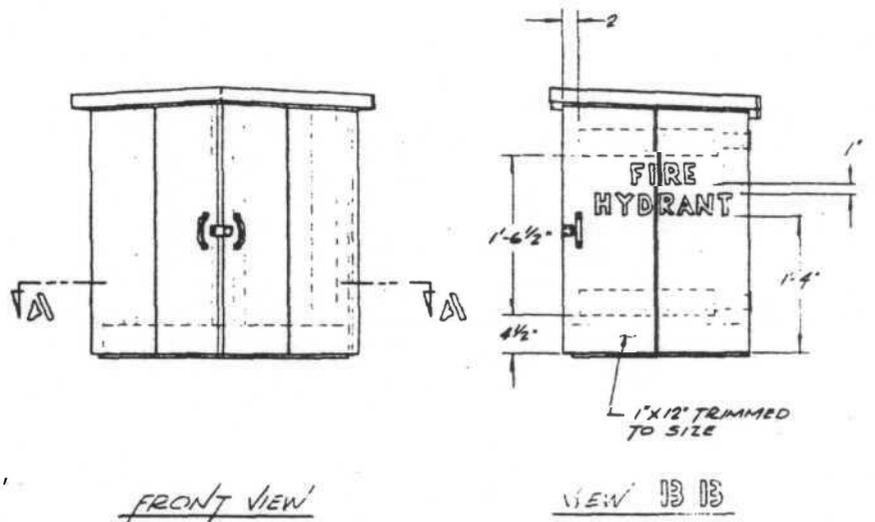
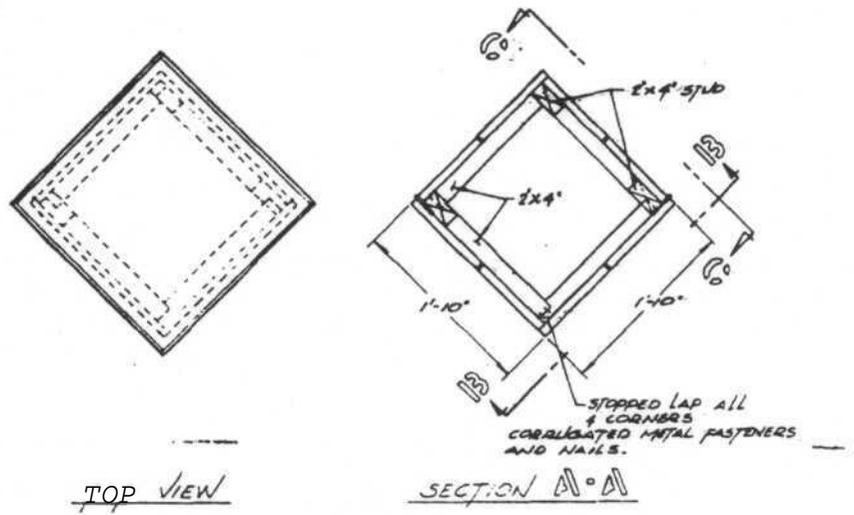
Water Trough and Hand Pump
designed by State of California,
Dept. of Parks and Recreation



Whaley House
Old San Diego

i. Fire Hydrants

These are to be given special consideration and disguised insofar as compatible with Fire Department requirements.



Wood Fire Hydrant House
 designed by State of California,
 Dept. of Parks and Recreation

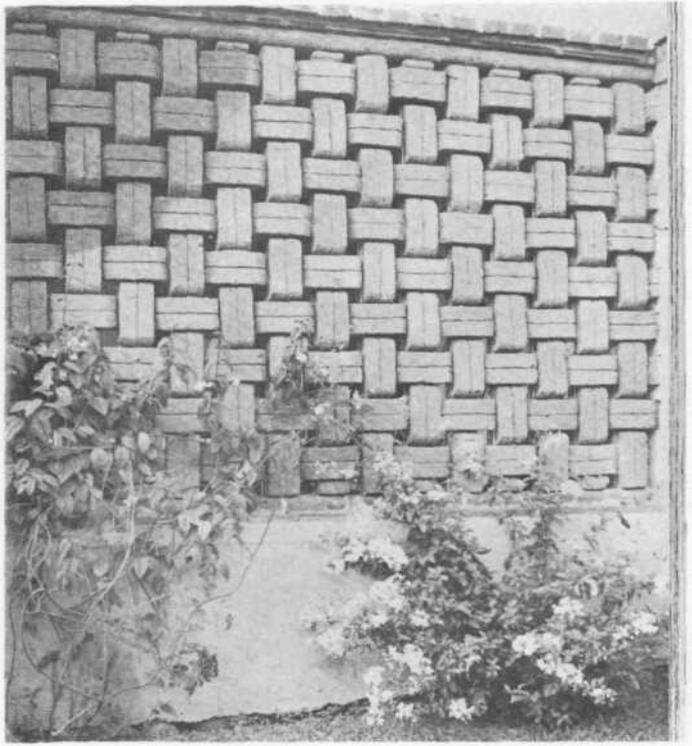
j. Fences and Walls

Transparent fences allow the passerby to look through and enjoy the view without permitting intrusion.

Walls - barriers must sometimes be more **solid** than fences. A wall screens off areas from noise and view and separates it from more **public** spaces, heavily trafficked by **pedestrians**.

1. remove chain **link** and other type fences
2. use fences only where **contribu**-ting to general character

Home of Hans-Joachim von Block
Cuernavaca Morales Mexico
(Photo - MEXICAN HOMES OF TODAY, The Shipways)

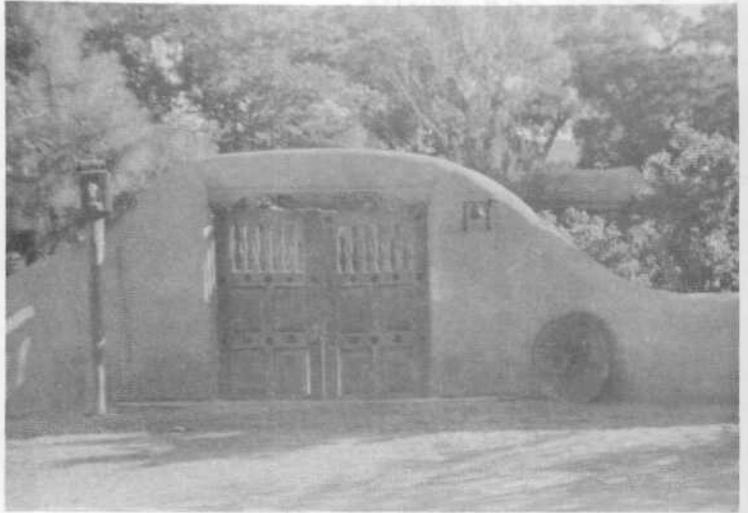


Rancho Santa Fe



Old Town State Park, San Diego

Santa Fe, New Mexico

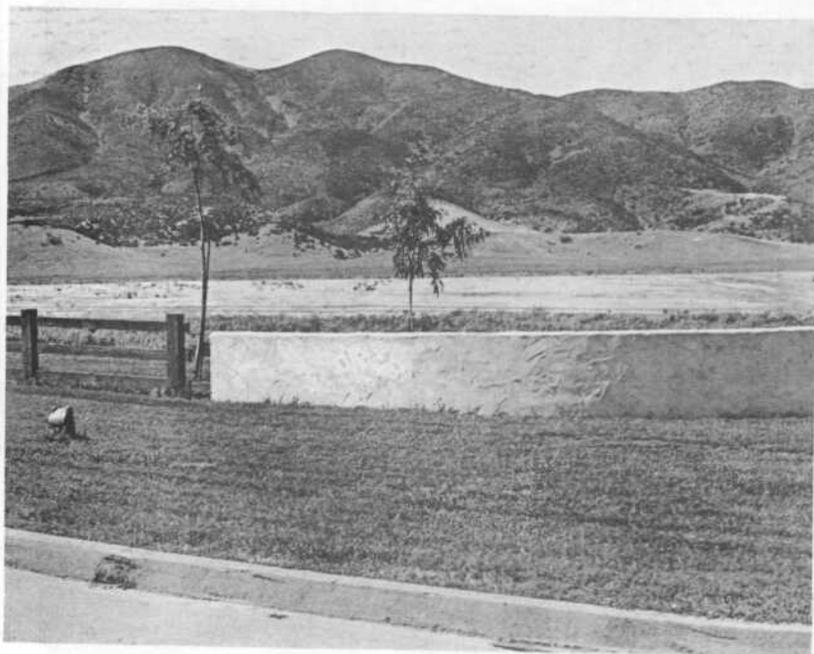
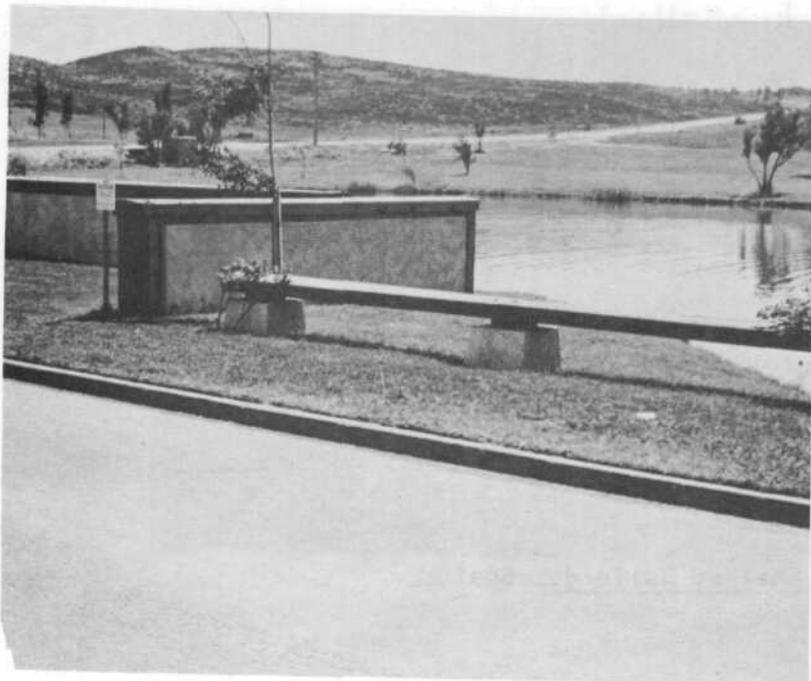


Casa de Estudillo
Old San Diego



El Campo Santo
(Old Spanish Cemetery)
Old San Diego





Rancho California

k. Bollards

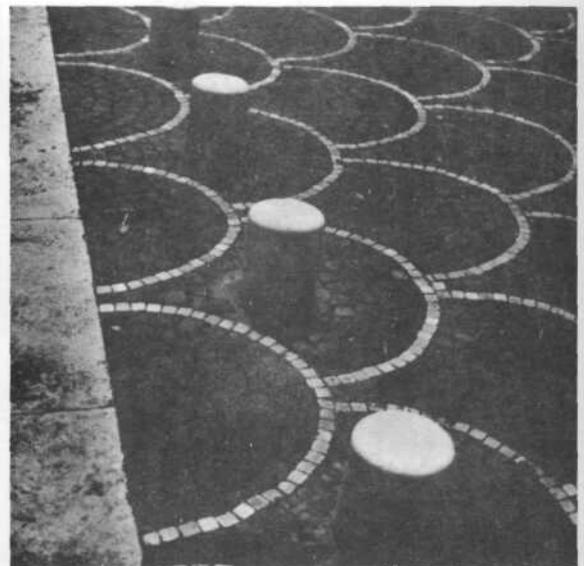
Small scaled sculptures called bollasters or, more commonly, bollares are used to channel movement on ramps and streets and to exclude wheeled vehicles in a polite way. They do not say "stay out"; they say, "come in on your feet."*

Bollards may be in some cases used interchangeably with plantings, both may be used as "punctuation marks" as well as barriers depending on their location and number.

Chained Bollards, Spain



Bollards, Pisa



Bollards, E.U.R., Rome

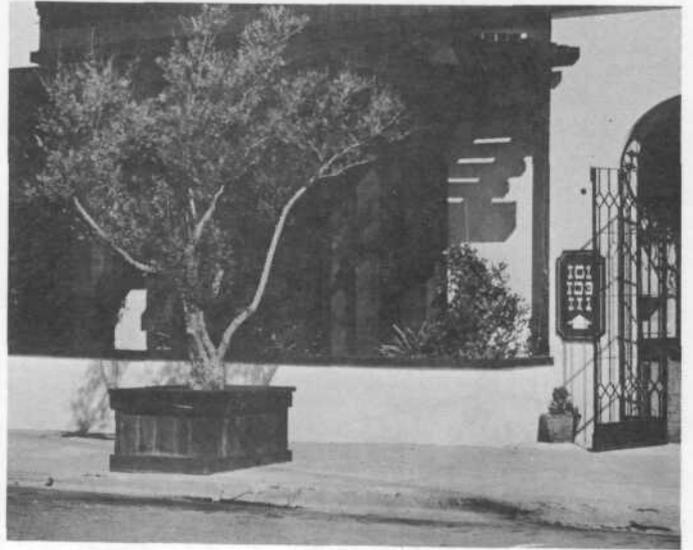
*(Photos - CITIES, Lawrence Halprin, Reinhold Publishers, 1963)

1. Pots and Planters

Flowers and shrubs planted in pots and **containers** can do much to add liveliness and color to the urban scene.

There are many materials that can be used for planters including: cast stone, glazed or unglazed **clay**, wood, metal cement asbestos mixtures and **fiberglass**.

The size of the pot or container should be geared to the plants to be placed in them. In most cases containers are **inappropriate** for trees unless they are large enough to support them adequately. It is usually best to plant them directly into the ground.



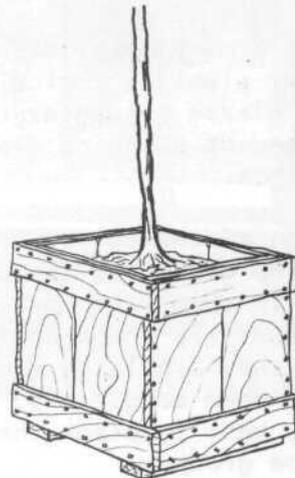
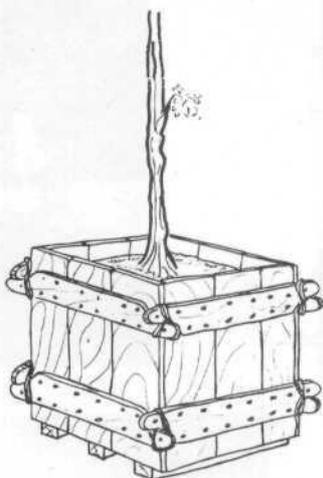
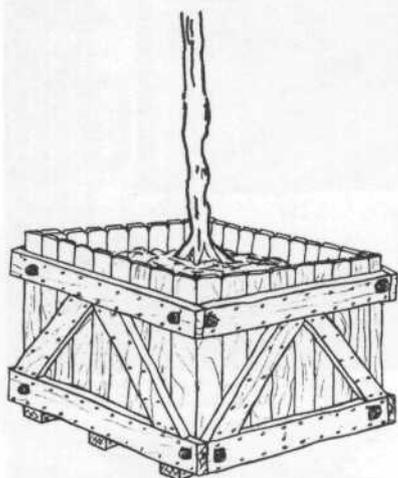
Los Gatos, California



Tree Planters
Santa Cruz, California



Hanging Pots



Tree Planter Boxes for Old Town San Diego State Historic Park by State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

