

TITLE: ALUM ROCK GARDEN

ARTIST: Jim Hirschfield & Sonya Ishii

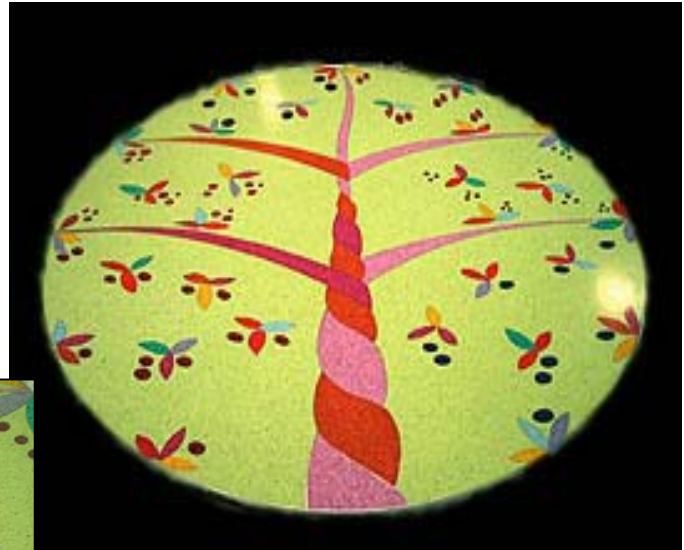
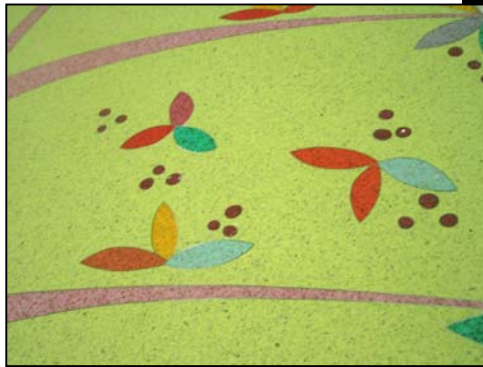
COMPLETED: June 2005

SITE: Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Branch Library

ADDRESS: 3090 Alum Rock Avenue
San José, CA 95127

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5: Nora Campos, Councilperson

SNI: 680/East Valley



Above: One of Four 8' Terrazzo Mandalas
Left: Detail

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The artwork consists of four terrazzo *mandalas* (ritualistic geometric designs symbolic of the universe), each with an 8' diameter, inset in the floor within Alum Rock library. The pieces commemorate and metaphorically articulate the community's agricultural history and strong multicultural roots as well as the region's distinctive geological features and their influence on the area's history and development. These themes are also echoed within the skylights installed above the terrazzo installations.

The artwork is placed at four significant gateways or junctures within the library:

- South Entrance Mandala: Commemorates the historic twenty-two springs of Alum Rock Park
- Children's Mandala: Inspired by the great palm tree at the building's south entrance, this mandala also includes small handprints of various colors and is located at the entry to the Children's area.
- Marketplace Mandala: Created in the form of a stylized fruit tree, this mandala is placed at the entry to the adult/family area.
- Internet Café Mandala: Located at the entry way to the café, this mandala was inspired by James Lick, after whom the area's high school was named and whose bequest to build an observatory on Mount Hamilton has expanded our knowledge of the universe

The artwork was completed with funding provided by a \$212 million dollar bond measure approved by voters in November 2000.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The artist team of Jim Hirshfield & Sonya Ishii, from Chapel Hill, NC, have been creating public artwork for over 20 years. Jim is a professor of art at the University of North Carolina. Sonya received her graduate degree from the School of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Washington.

PROJECT TEAM

Architects: Franco Associates Architects AIA

Public Art Project Manager: JenJoy Roybal

DR. ROBERTO CRUZ ALUM ROCK BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART TASK FORCE

Mary Ann Andrade, Joyce Baker, Marvin Bamberg, Alan Craig, Anita Fabela, Kerri Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, Pat Haeger, Ted & Helen Johnson, Anthony Munoz, Darlene Perotti, John Ramos, Judy Thompson, Larry Tilbury, Luke & Leisl Violante,

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program builds community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement with artists, public art projects strive to reflect the City's ethnic diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is a division of San José's Office of Cultural Affairs. The San José Arts Commission oversees the Public Art Program, established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides 2% for art in City capital improvement projects, and 1% for art in eligible private development.

**For further information and photos, please contact JenJoy Roybal: 408.277.5144 x17, or jenjoy.roybal@sanjoseca.gov

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