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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN
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FUNKY FRESHKILLS

Trusting the process with
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Technosols grab the gold

BLOWS TO BRUCEMORE

Historic storm meets historic design

LAVA ON THE MOVE

Terraforming with volcanoes in Iceland

ON-SITE

Sneak peek at a work in progress

Restoring Nature

Ma'ayan Lifshitz, ASLA, offers a look at her latest project, which restores the natural ecosystem to the land and seamlessly blends functionality with ecological sustainability.

► BY MA'AYAN LIFSHITZ, ASLA

We were hired by the owners of a property in Driftwood, Texas, to resolve an issue of soil erosion on their land. The initial planning phase had not involved a landscape architect or designer, leading to a lack of consideration for the impact caused from the gutters to the surrounding terrain.

Hearing the owners' hope of restoring the natural landscape and increasing biodiversity on their lot inspired us to suggest creating a unique drainage system. This system ties most of the gutters to one underground pipe that has a concealed exit between rocks. During rain events, the flow appears to come from a natural spring. The water gushes into a small creek and disappears along the property line, then reappears in the front, flowing into a retention basin.

Supporting this system is an array of plants that were categorized in three circles rippling outward from the house—adaptive plants, combinations of native and adaptive, and native

Texas plants. Based on the ROA requirements for grass, we seeded a combination of four native grasses, which not only helps with soil retention but also carries out an important task in the local ecosystem. All the topsoil in this project was peeled and set aside to be returned at the end of the process.

Though the project is not entirely complete, the owners have already noticed a significant increase in biodiversity. They have spotted amphibians, lizards, butterflies, bees, and birds. ♦

The residential drainage solution project (above and right) emphasizes drought-resistant plants and sophisticated water management systems, while addressing topography, water runoff, and soil erosion.

What's in the Works?

Send us the scoop on your latest work in progress.



PROJECT Driftwood Residential Drainage Solution

LOCATION Driftwood, Texas

FIRM Burlage Circle



Dror Baldinger, FAIA