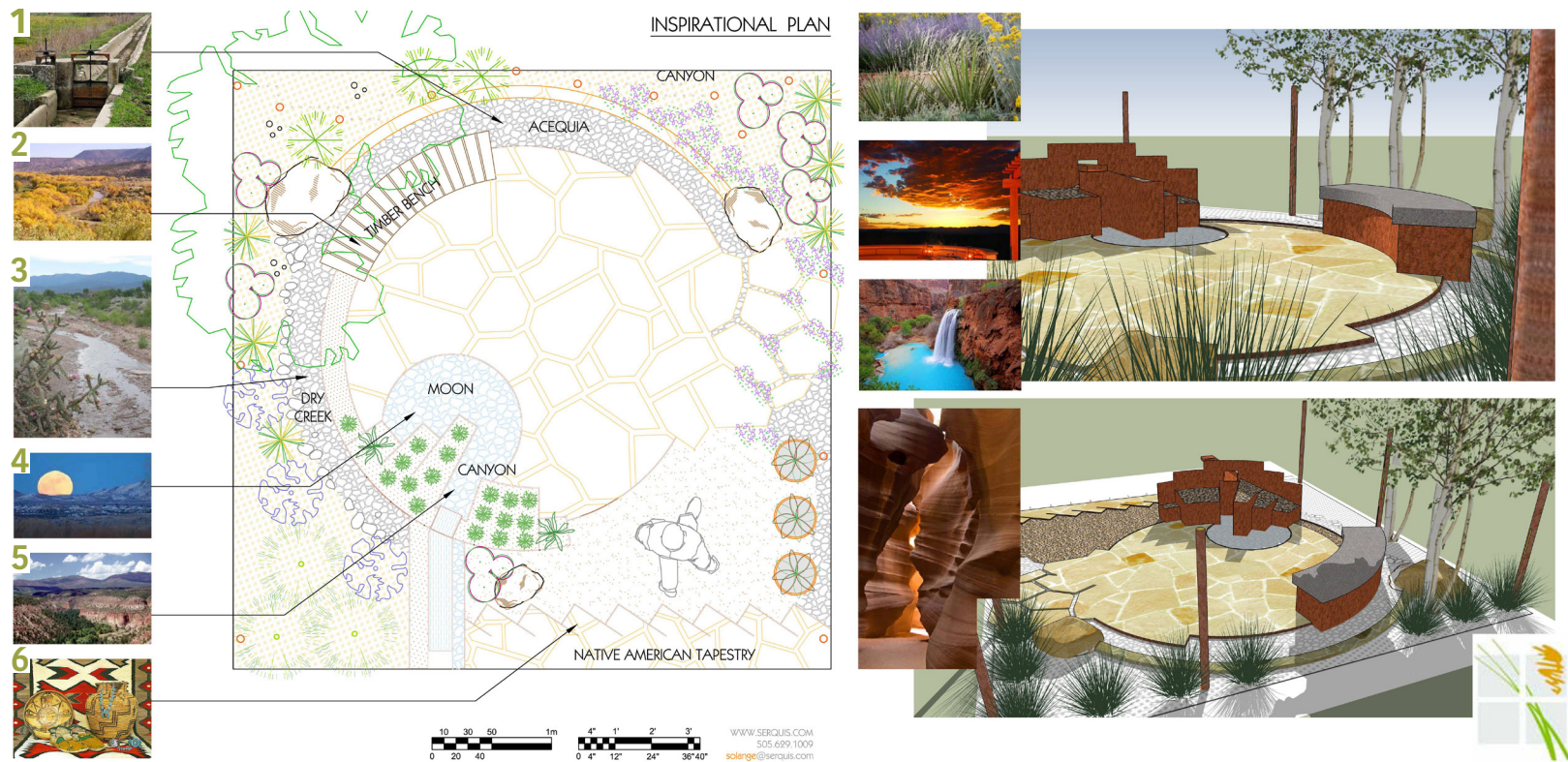


# AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE, SHARING THE DESERT WITH THE WORLD

We brought a piece of our semi-arid desert landscape to share.

We were invited in early 2015 by IFLA to submit a design, a plan, plants and a material list for the Japanese show “The Gardening world cup”. This year, they introduced a new category with a trade show atmosphere entitled ‘International Residential Garden’.

This new section aimed to showcase more than 40 gardens in cooperation with designers from more than 30 countries under the theme of ‘My Country, My Culture’.



- 1** Traditional ‘Acequia’ or Aquaduct
- 2** ‘Mesas’ or Plateau
- 3** ‘Arroyo’ or Seasonal Creek
- 4** Moonlighting & Cool Nights
- 5** Canyon & Ancient Cliff Dwellings
- 6** Native American Art & Culture

The Design Guidelines were very specific and well detailed:

The theme was clear. The Area size: 25m<sup>2</sup> (square meters), and the final goal for the designers to achieve.

“Currently Japan, is experiencing high demand for high quality, diverse yet practical designs for residential gardens. Clients in Japan and in other Asian markets are looking to make the most of their limited landscape and outdoor areas with unique designs to enrich their own lifestyles.

To cater to such needs, they decided to display a variety of international garden styles to give Japanese garden enthusiasts a glimpse of the various styles and latest trends with an attractive line up of residential landscape designs...”





As we all know the workmanship by Japanese contractors has consistently received accolades from designers for their relentless work ethic, high standards and attention to detail.

The big event intended to become an example of sharing talented work put to the service of their population and participants.

With a team of dedicated translators and interpreters, they provided a unique opportunity for international designers to test their landscape design abilities on the world stage.

To make the story short, we decided to take the challenge as a study case to honor a very dear close friend, to have a creative opportunity to challenge us and to have a project “to play and exercise” in our office, because of that we created a piece named: “Desert Sense with Urban Style” that incorporated many elements inspired by the Southwest’s high desert and cultures including acequias, mesas, arroyos, night skies, canyons, cliff dwellings and Native American art & culture.

Many thanks to our interpreter and great collaborator: Ayaka Tsuruoka  
And to the contractor for realizing our vision: Yamamoto



In mid July we got this:  
Official Announcement: Result of Design Selection

Dear all applicants,

Thank you for all of your endeavor to create such beautiful and unique designs for Japan Garden and Flower Show 2015. With a strict selection process, we are now pleased to inform that the designers in the following list are officially selected for the show:

<http://www.gardenia-design.com/download/gwc/JGFS2015%20Selection%20Result.pdf>

Please notice they were ordered by country (USA is number 33)

## Construction site







Very detailed construction documents, clear guidelines and exact technical information became a must needed piece to reveal, how to make it as exact as we imaged it as possible with their resources.

Designers had a budget allocated by the organizer to an Implementing Partner, and for each garden the full cost included: actual costs incurred with the building, maintenance and dismantling of the exhibit.



But also designers were allowed by the event to use and add their own funds to supplement the garden budget, advantage that we decided to ignore to design-build “within budget” as it is usually our biggest and more accomplished expertise. Get it real! Even at the international show with our style.

Design was required to be for a residential garden built with materials and plants available domestically in Japan, some research helped us to detail an specific pallet of materials, decided to design custom lights fixtures, and requested plant materials of specific sizes to match our desire to PROVOKE the Desert Sense.

We illustrated all the principles and had the challenge to show details as easy and as economically and efficient as possible, we even made a light fixture prototype at our office on PVC pipes to show them how to make such a focal element. For water feature and bench and all other metal pieces we had a long back and fort deciding the compromise on the metal gage, finishing and sizes.

We made it on time and on budget. In addition we had the treat





to travel, getting in place our desired look and details, working the last 2 days on the construction site with the crew and enjoying and learning from their excellent workmanship, give-and-take and network with great international colleagues while experiencing another language, and another culture to bring back to our desert.

## Final Project

