

## Monument and Wayfinding Design

Physical entrances to parks, gardens, and visitor centers play a pivotal role in capturing the spirit and history of a site and celebrating its richness.

They have the capacity to connect people with places – even sacred places. As interpretive planners Michael Gross and Ron Zimmerman suggest, “Even the most humble center provides shelter, comfort, and an escape from the mundane. The best centers expand our vision and offer insights into our deep connections with the earth and each other.”

The Acorn Group has designed monuments and gateways for many sites, each created to reflect a particular spirit of place.



Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



Five distinct Woodlands of the World are showcased at the new Pittsburgh Botanical Garden: Asian, Eastern European, English, Appalachian Plateau, and Appalachian Cove. In our master plan, we suggest that visitors enter each woodland through a culturally distinct gateway that sets the geographic and cultural context, such as a torii at the Asian Woodland.

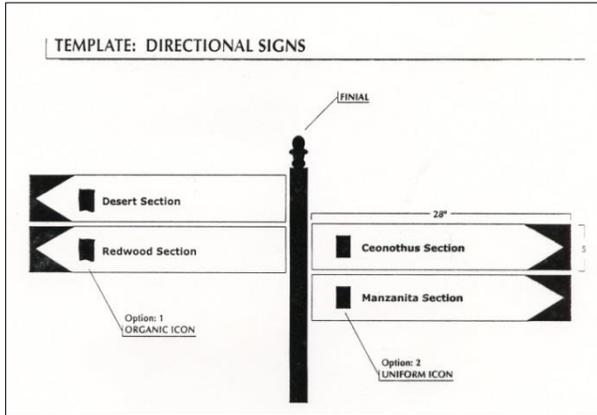


Our sign master plan for the California Living Museum in Bakersfield includes use of banners to mark passage into various ecological communities.

Bold Cor-Ten steel monument signs stand tall and are clearly seen from busy Laguna Canyon Road. They guide people to various sites within the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.



Given the high number of international visitors at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, we proposed a series of wayfinding icons to help guide the way of non-English speaking visitors. Each pictograph corresponds to a garden section dominated by a particular plant type, such as native oaks or coast redwoods.



Laguna Coast Wilderness Park is adjacent to Laguna Beach where a century-old, vibrant artist community forms the basis for a thriving tourism economy. We wanted to celebrate the role of the arts in deepening appreciation for the region's beauty. The map and welcome panel we created for a 1 1/2-mile loop trail resembles an artist's pochade.



Its design complements the site's trailhead signs that each rest on a painter's easel.

When integrated into the entire sign system, a regulatory sign becomes a meaningful part of the visitor's experience. The regulatory signs The Acorn Group creates concisely state rules and regulations and explain the reasons for them in a positive tone.

