

When
Two
or
Three
are
Gathered

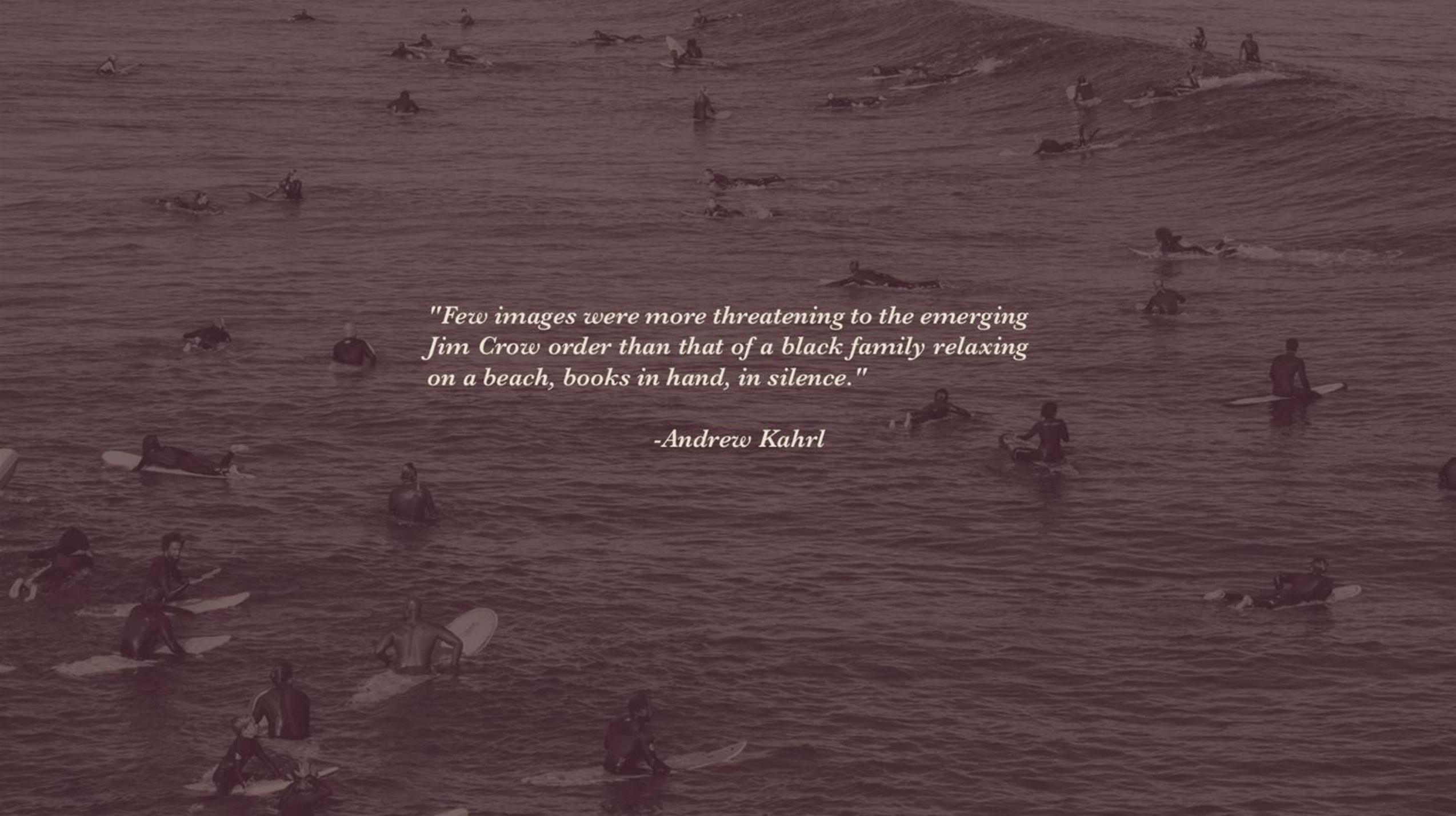
A public art proposal for
Bruce's Beach
Los Angeles, California
by

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DURRETT**

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A wide-angle, high-angle photograph of a crowded surf spot. The ocean is filled with dozens of surfers, many of whom are sitting on their boards or lying down, waiting for waves. The water is a deep, dark brown color, and the overall scene is somewhat desaturated. In the center of the image, there is a quote in a white, serif font.

"Few images were more threatening to the emerging Jim Crow order than that of a black family relaxing on a beach, books in hand, in silence."

-Andrew Kahrl

SANKOFA



SANKOFA





CHARLES & WILLA BRUCE

*There is nothing more powerful than
a people, than a nation, steeped in its
history. And there are few things as
noble as honoring our ancestors by
remembering.*

LONNIE G. BUNCH III

BLACK SANDS
**PEACE
PADDLE**
2020

Held in honor of George Floyd and in response to the racism Black surfers face at Manhattan Beach, the Black Sands Paddle Out gathered surfers and community members in solidarity. The ocean became both site of mourning and affirmation—a collective act of remembrance, resistance, and belonging.



MY FAMILY'S BEACH HOME AT
LONGVIEW
BEACH
MARYLAND

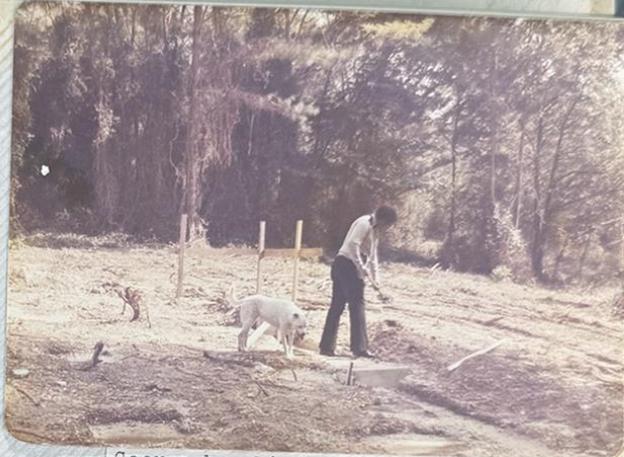


GROUND BREAKING

at LONGVIEW



Picture of lot at Longview Beach before it was cleared for the construction of house



George breaking ground for house at Longview (1973) Notice our dog "Lady" at his side.



Bernice breaking ground for house at Longview (1973)



Longview Beach (1973) Construction for house underway. George is in foreground reading blue print.



Georgetta and Nekisha at Longview as we prepared to return to D. C. (1980)

FOUNDATIONS



George on roof at Longview installing the gutters. (1979)



Renovation of porch to house at Longview. All work done by George himself. Not bad - huh? (1980)

ERASURE

Because early surfing on Africa's west coast took place before the invention of photography, no images exist—only written accounts left by astonished European travelers.

Surfing developed independently from Senegal to Angola. Africa possesses thousands of miles of warm surf-filled waters, and populations of strong swimmers and seagoing fishermen and merchants who knew surf patterns and crewed surf-canoes capable of catching and riding waves up to ten feet high.



Surfers with padua planks in Ghana in 1943. Credit: Robert S Rattray/ Oxford Clarendon Press



1640

A German goldsmith-merchant-adventurer Michael Hemmersam was working for the Dutch West India Company. Believing he was watching West Africa's Gold Coast children - probably Fante in the Cape Coast, Ghana area - learn to swim, he inadvertently, created the first written account of African surfing with these words:

Mothers tie their children to boards and throw them into the water.

The truth is that most Africans learned to swim when they were less than two years old.



1778

Popular history tells us that the first account of surfing was written Hawaii by Lieutenant James King who devoted two full pages to a description of surfboard riding, as practiced by the locals at Kealahou Bay on the Kona coast of the Big Island.

But a diversion the most common is upon the Water, where there is a very great Sea, and surf breaking on the Shore. The Men sometimes 20 or 30 go without the Swell of the Surf, & lay themselves flat upon an oval piece of plan about their Size and breadth ...



1840

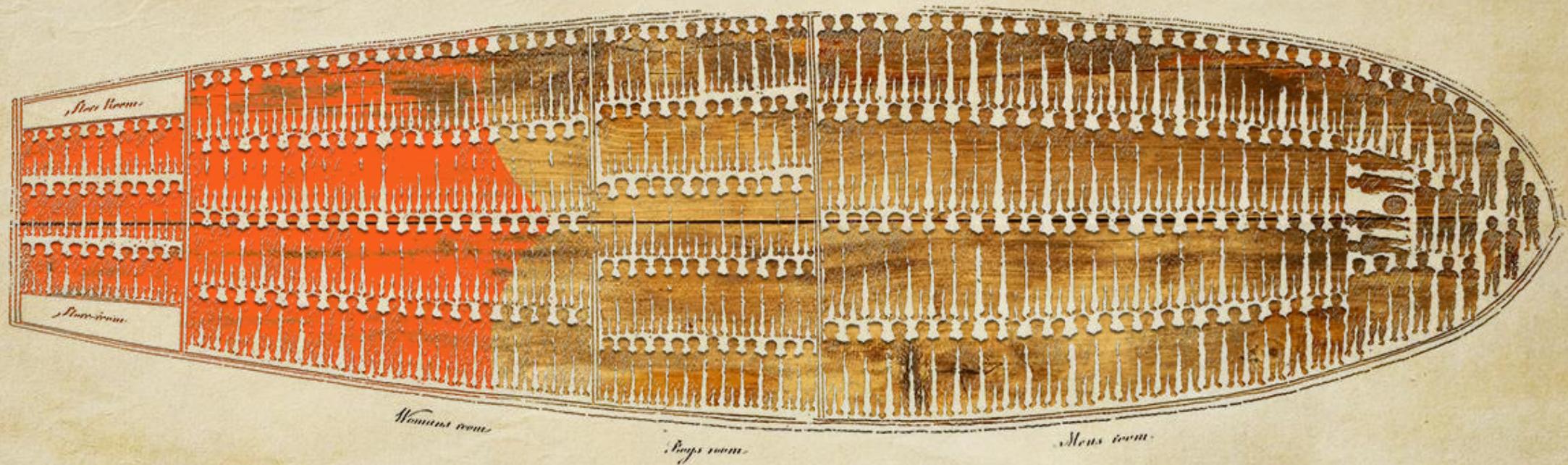
James Alexander wrote the following while in Accra, Ghana:

From the beach, meanwhile, might be seen boys swimming into the sea, with light boards under their stomachs. They waited for a surf and came rolling like a cloud on top of it.

SURFBOARD DESIGN



Plan of an African Ship's lower Deck with Negroes, in the proportion of only 12 to 1 Ton.



BURIED TREASURES

ENCOUNTERED DURING MY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AT
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE



Clay Marbles
Natchitoches, LA, ca. 1860



Oyster Shells
Edisto Island, SC



Rebar from NMAAHC Construction
and drafting compass of Architect
Julian Abele Cook, Sr.



Fanner Basket, South Carolina



A Gullah-Geechee huckster carries produce in sweetgrass basket, ca. 1900



A modern day sweetgrass basket artisan in Charleston, SC making a basket of sweetgrass and palmetto fronds.



PRELIMINARY
DESIGN
CONCEPT



Front View

MATERIALS DETAILS



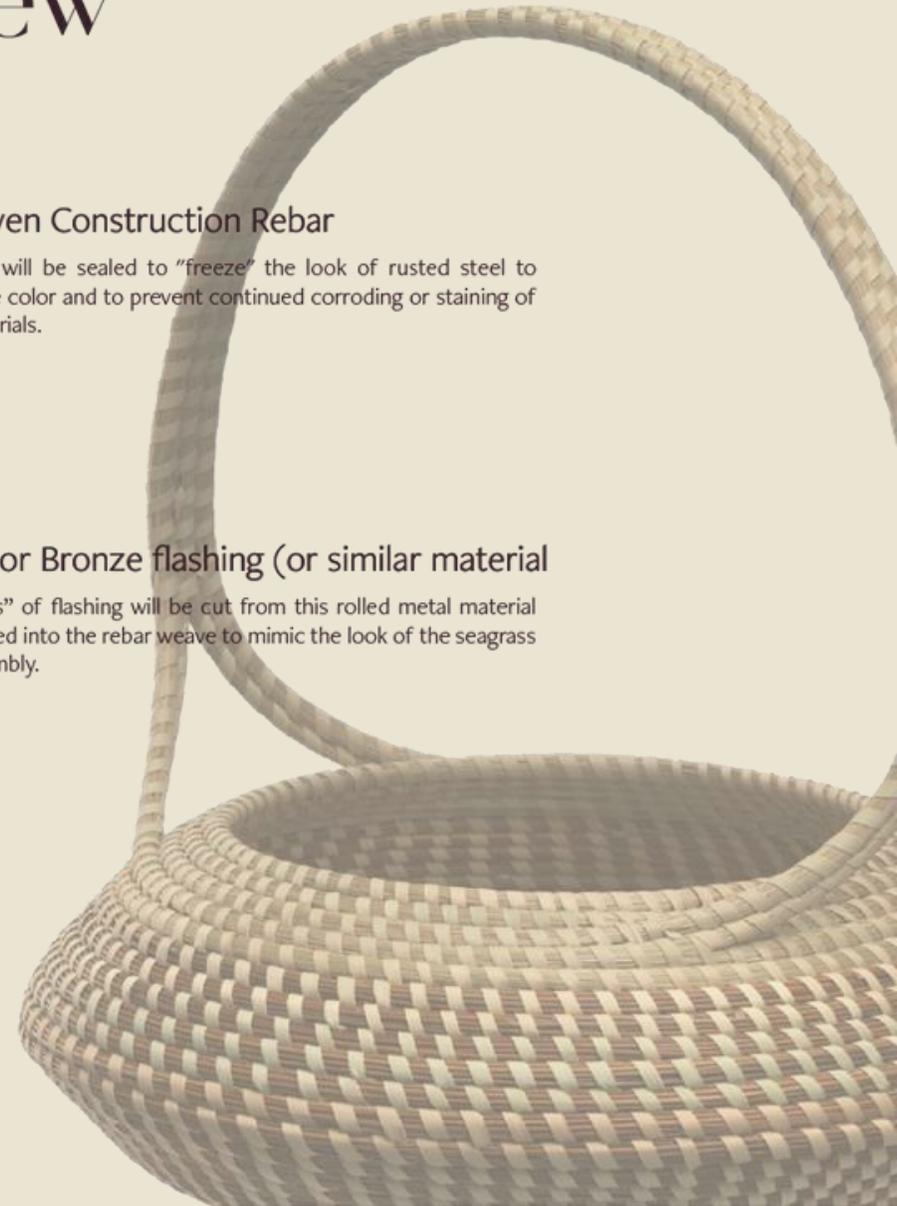
1/2" Woven Construction Rebar

Rust patina will be sealed to "freeze" the look of rusted steel to preserve the color and to prevent continued corroding or staining of nearby materials.



Copper or Bronze flashing (or similar material)

1/2" "ribbons" of flashing will be cut from this rolled metal material and integrated into the rebar weave to mimic the look of the seagrass basket assembly.





Rear View

MATERIALS DETAILS



Black Oyster Vetrostone

High-quality engineered quartz surface that blends the beauty of natural seashells and repurposed glass with the strength and durability of quartz. The surface is maintenance-free, stain-resistant, and heat-resistant, ensuring long-lasting beauty and functionality. Made along the South Carolina coast in Yemassee, a small town near Edisto Beach.



Black Beach Pebbles

The boards rest in a bed of black beach pebble. Metal edging separated the grass from the pebbles and insures that the circular bed maintains its shape.





Night View & Dimensions

Lighting Plan

TBD by client. Rendering is representative of available light.

NOTE:

Exact board placement can be determined after further study of the site with considerations made for security and ADA compliance.

