DUST KINGDOM Landscape Architecture in the Sonoran Desert

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The field of landscape architecture promotes methods to incorporate experiential and aesthetic qualities into already-existing dust mitigation and awareness strategies.







DESIGN INTERVENTION

- A. encourage dust deposition
- B. stabilize the ground

encourage deposition: CHANGE TOPOGRAPHY



ACCUMULATION of FINE PARTICLES in LEE of OBSTACLE WHERE VELOCITY is REDUCED

encourage deposition: BUILD AN OBSTACLE



encourage deposition: CHANGE THE "ROUGHNESS"



ROUGHNESS EFFICIENCY IN TRAPPING DUST

stabilize ground: PERENNIAL PSAMMOPHILES germinated in response to rainfall > 10mm

reach greater soil depths than other plants

ASTRAGALUS MAGDALENAE VAR. PEIRSONII Peirson's milkvetch

- + dicot, perennial herb
- + native to Arizona, California, Baja Mexico
- + bloom: December April (purple)
- + grows at 40 250 m elevations

HELIANTHUS NIVEUS SSP. TEPHRODES Algodones dune sunflower

- + dicot, perennial herb
- + native to Arizona, California, Sonora Mexico
- + bloom: September May (yellow)
- + grows at 50 300 m elevations

PALAFOXIA ARIDA VAR. GIGANTAE giant Spanish needle

- + dicot, annual / perennial herb
- + native to Arizona, California
- + bloom: February May (purple, white)
- + grows at 40 140 m elevations







"Seedling Emergence on Sonoran Desert dunes" Janice E. Bowers Journal of Arid Environments Vol 33; Issue 1 (May 1996) 63-72

seasonal / yearly rotations

June – August : peak dust storm September – May : Algodones dune sunflower bloom December – April: Peirson's milkvetch bloom February – May : Giant Spanish needle bloom

MAY

** Dust source : Cleared lands + croplands seasonal & yearly rotations









SEEDED FIELD ACCUMULATES DEPOSITION





STABILIZED DUNE SYSTEMS:

A. create a new topographic identity for the region and thus, slows the wind and decreases the strength of the storm (MITIGATION)

B. register the phenomenon of dust storms in the Sonoran Desert and thus, a new experience moving through the region (AESTHETIC)

C. become a didactic tool, bringing awareness to the dust storm and the movement of material through the region