



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ON CAMPUS

Dexter Courtyard Design Inspires Design

Cal Poly's Dexter Courtyard is **home to two student projects** from our landscape architecture department. The site has provided students the opportunity to practice Cal Poly's **"Learn By Doing"** philosophy and apply what they learned in class.

The first opportunity came to students through a **design competition sponsored by Maglin Furniture Company** in 2017. Students were asked to create a furniture layout to promote a **welcoming space for students and faculty**. The second opportunity was a project focusing on the **planting design** in the courtyard in 2024, bringing **new life** to the site.

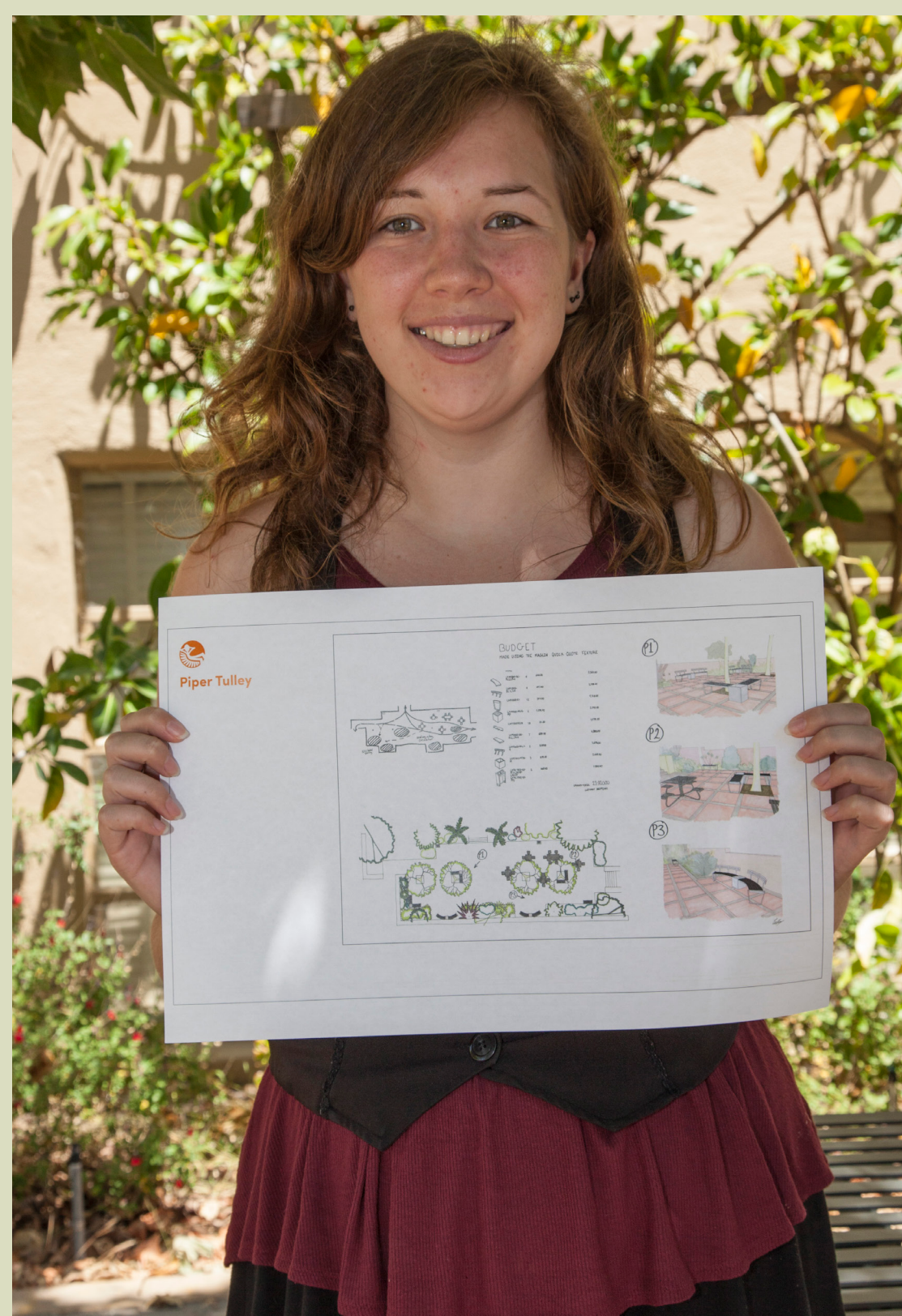


COURTYARD COMPETITION OF 2017

The Dexter Courtyard Design Competition was a **department-wide contest** that pushed students to consider the layout of the courtyard and use the provided **Maglin furniture to optimize the space**.

Students practiced **real-world applications** of their site design and drafted a plan and perspective drawings in order to support their proposals. Their entries highlighted how the space can **promote socialization** and **foster a welcoming environment**.

First-year student, **Piper Tulley won the competition** and saw her design come to fruition outside of Dexter. Piper's furniture arrangement brought attention to the once overlooked courtyard and inspired more design ideas for the space. This competition was **just the beginning of bringing new life to the courtyard**.



ALL HANDS ON DECK IN 2024

The design competition motivated students and faculty to **elevate the courtyard design, again**. A new planting design was led by Professor Christy Edstrom O'Hara and fifth-year student, Oliver Zych.

Oliver developed a planting plan for the courtyard, selecting **plants that revitalized the space** while staying within budget.

The plan was turned over to students in Christy Edstrom O'Hara's and Daniel Kletzing's LA 439 classes to **install Oliver's design**. **Cal Poly Facilities Department supported this "Learn By Doing" activity** with Chris Wassenberg and Jordan Stover – Manager of Landscape Services and Lead Groundskeeper – guiding the planting work.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE A HAND IN ON-CAMPUS PROJECTS?

"This hands-on process supports learning in a different way, an application of designing with plants."

- Professor Christy Edstrom O'Hara

