

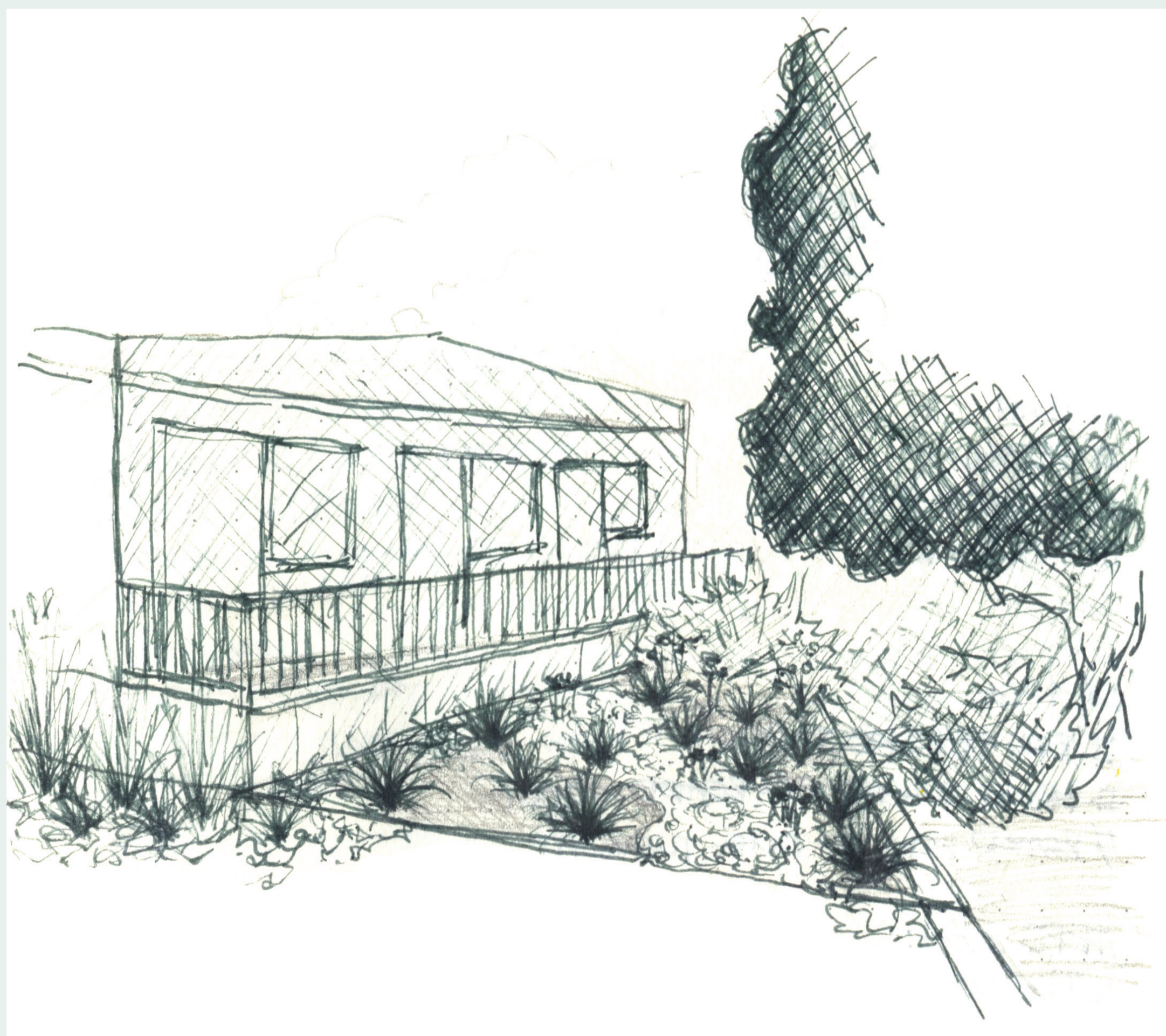


LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ON CAMPUS

Rain Garden Project Beauty with a Purpose

In Fall of 2019, students in **landscape architecture** and **plant science** worked together to **design and install** a rain garden on campus, advised by Professor Joe Ragsdale and Associate Professor Ellen Burke in the landscape architecture department.

This project was developed as **part of the Student Leadership in Green Infrastructure (SLGI) network**. Established at UC Davis, it gives students the opportunity to engage in hands-on design experience specializing in green infrastructure, **especially in urban environments**.



FROM PAPER TO REALITY

Students who have the opportunity to **move their ideas from paper to reality** have stronger ties to Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" and "Ready Day One" learning philosophies. They gain tremendous confidence in seeing a small project through, from **initial site analysis to final installation**, and whether it functions as anticipated.



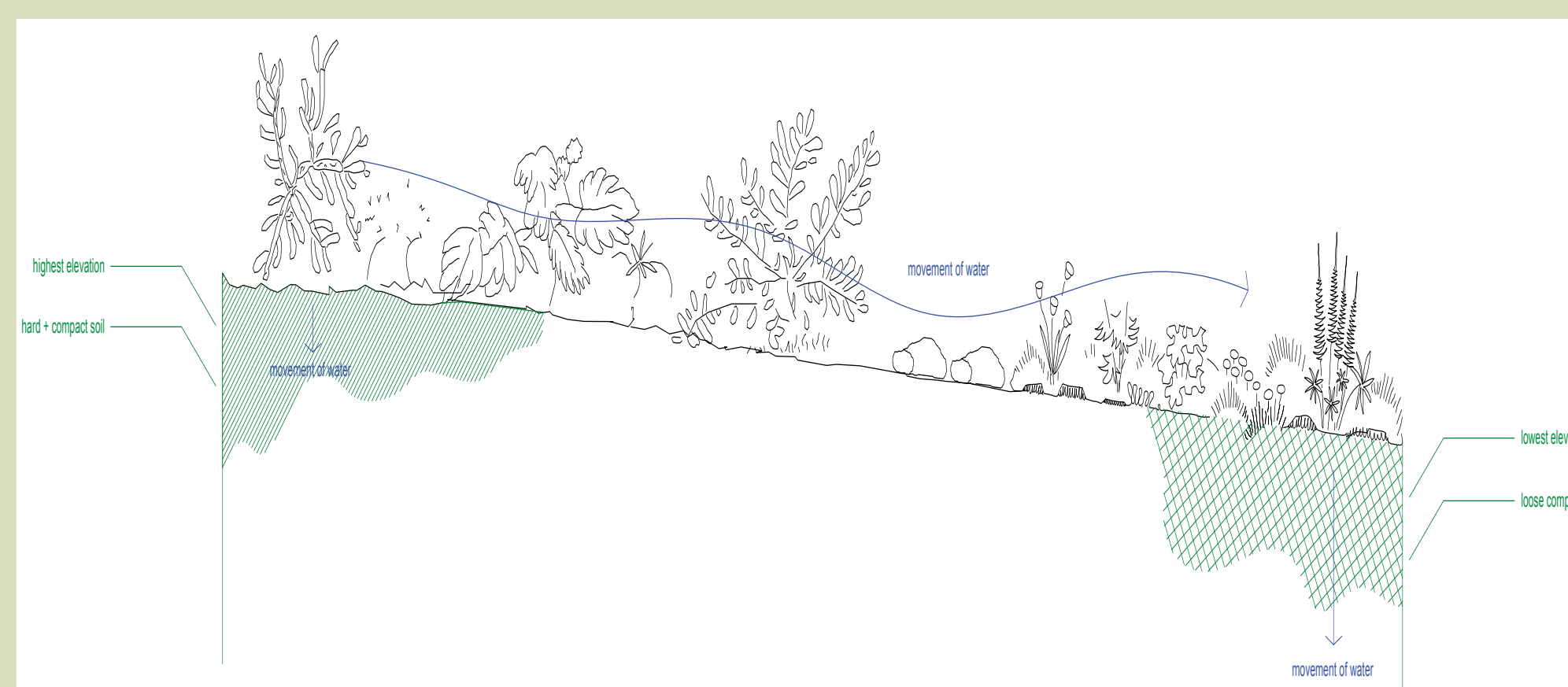
PERFORMANCE MONITORING

After installation, Assoc. Professor Burke saw an opportunity to give students further hands-on experience through performance monitoring. By **monitoring the rain garden**, students could see how **unexpected factors** can affect the planned design, highlighting the importance to **understand and adapt to ecological and social outcomes** of a site. With additional support from Lecturer Bret Betnar, students monitored performance of the rain garden in Spring of 2021. Activities included a **rainwater analysis**, **evaluating soil, temperature, moisture, and salinity**; and a **pollinator count**, comparing with a control site on campus.



"It's about checking our assumptions about how things will work in context and creating more informed responses."

- Associate Professor Ellen Burke



Insect Count By Bloom Color

