Mobile ECO LAB

JENNIFER SIEGAL
Woodbury University
1998-99 ACSA Collaborative Practice Award

The mobile ECO LAB was built in collaboration with the Hollywood Beautification Team, a grassroots group founded with the mission to restore beauty and integrity to the Hollywood community. Verbal and visual exchanges took place using computer animated drawings, traditional architectural drafting, and large scale modeling techniques. Full-scale work was performed with adefined material palette (specifically that of a donated cargo trailer and cast-offs from film sets). The 8 ft. x 35 ft. trailer now travels throughout Los Angeles County to inform K-12 school-aged children about the importance of saving and protecting our planet.

As a working mobile classroom. the ECO LAB provides a base for a range of exhibitions all of which focus on ecology. A multimedia program explaining the "life of a tree" creates a path for discovery that weaves in and out of the expandable ECO LAB. A working art studio, local artists collaborate with the children to create facade-sized murals replacing graffiti at inner-city schools. School teachers use stage-like platforms to discuss each child's role in the importance of planting trees and maintaining a sustainable environment.

Like an circus tent, this mobile icon arrives at the schoolyard where elevated walkways fold down and slide out of the trailers' body. It is immediately recognizable as a place for interaction, discovery and fun.

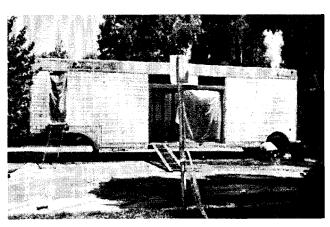


Fig. I. Existing trailer, after stripping skin.

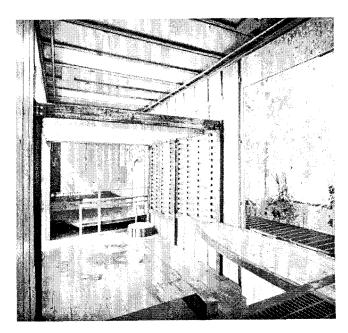


Fig. 2. Interior view towards media area.

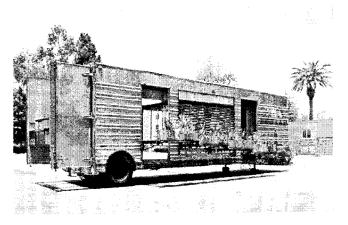


Fig. 3. View of trellis elevation with catwalk.



Fig. 4. Exterior view at night.

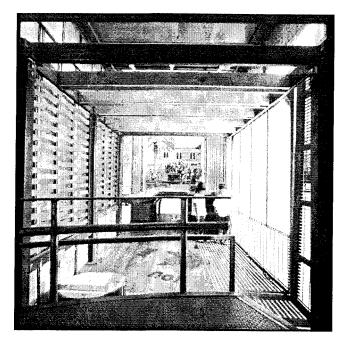


Fig. 5. Interior view towards "you are ecology" floor.

PROJECT CREDIT LIST

Owner: Hollywood Beautification Team, Sharyn Romano, Director

Professor: Jennifer Siegal of Office of Mobile Design

Project Team: Ausencio Ariza, Larry Cheung, Thomas Cohen, Tinifuloa Grey, Chayanon Jomvinya, Jody Segraves

Assistants: Alex Arias, Guillermo Delgadillo, Han Hoang. Maurice Ghattas, Thao Nguyen, Jose Olmos, James Popp, Phung Thong, Juan Uehara

HBT Artists: Patrick Bowers, Philip Gary

Engineer: Koje Shoraka

Photographer: Benny Chan

Donors: Carlson Industries, IKEA, Burbank, CA, Industrial Metal

Supply Re-Sets