

WHILAMUT PASSAGE BRIDGE

“CAMAS PETALS”

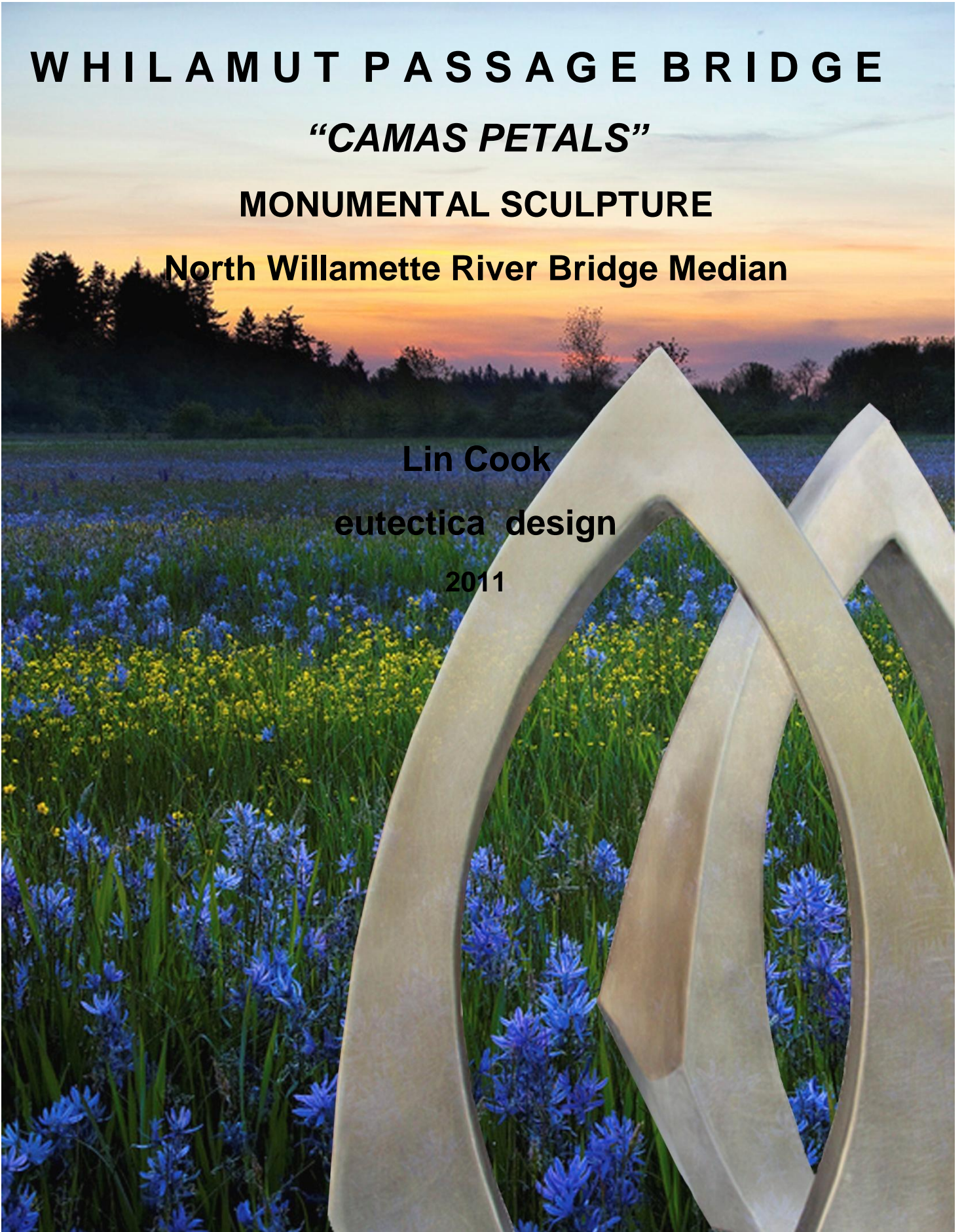
MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE

North Willamette River Bridge Median

Lin Cook

eutectica design

2011



THE WHILAMUT PASSAGE BRIDGE SCULPTURE:

“CAMAS PETALS”

Eutectica Design has developed a monumental sculpture “*Camas Petals*”, honoring the Kalapuya who once inhabited the banks of the Willamette River. Camas was a necessity of the Kalapuya culture: the bulbs provided nourishment, and was used as currency in trading for salmon and other important needs. Brilliant purple blue blooms appear in the spring; otherwise the bulbs remain dormant during the winter months. Incredibly beautiful, it is dynamic and powerful when covering a field in full bloom. Camas was important for the Kalapuya, and it grows here in the Willamette valley and along the Willamette River today: its natural beauty a reminder of the past. My abstraction of a camas petal is symbolic of the beautiful camas flower that for most of the year is unseen.

“*Camas Petals*” are large stainless steel sculptures in the shape of camas flower petals. Abstracted slightly in a curvilinear design, the sentinels tower above as you cross the Willamette River. With the sculpture sited on the North median of the bridge entrance, the camas in the natural area below the bridge is brought to travelers going over the Whilamut Passage Bridge. My objective is for the commuter on the Interstate to quickly see large, simple, graceful petal shapes in the 15 to 40 seconds as they pass by. Because it is a quick glance, abstraction allows us to create our own story.

A sense of passage is felt, and the essence of the mountains in the distance is reflected in the sculpture. The petal shapes symbolize the bow of a boat used for centuries on the river, evoking a sense of passage through the area and travel on the river below. Impressions change as the sculpture is seen again and again, and imagery develops with interpretation of this sculpture. The juxtaposition of the petals creates dynamic views for both the southbound and northbound travelers. The petal sculptures are shapes that do not require contemplation: their beauty, simplicity, and strength easily grasped as one is speeding by. The sculptures represent passage: seeing through them to what is beyond, which is the essence of travel and of passage. Their forms are spiritual. The sculpture honors the importance and beauty of the camas to those who lived here before us. Paying homage to the Kalapuya by representing what was environmentally important to the tribes also reflects our Eugene/Springfield community and their commitment to the beauty of our special place: evidenced by the vast and wonderful Whilamut Natural area adjacent to the freeway and the river.

Recently a Register Guard editorial discussed the daring new modernist architecture in Eugene, all near the WRB site: the new courthouse, the glass “cube” on campus, and the newly opened Matt Court. A standard has been set for innovative, artistic works, the editorial states. I hope to add to that standard of sophistication with this monumental abstract sculpture, honoring what is important to our history, and contributing to the exciting visual language of our future.

GUIDING VISION

The Kalapuya came to this area at least 10,000 years ago according to archeological evidence, and were the first inhabitants of the Willamette Valley. The Kalapuya respect and honor the natural world and believe all things are spiritually tied together: mountains are tied to the valleys, the valleys to the rivers and trees. Likewise, the story of the Kalapuya is intrinsically tied to the history of the Willamette River and this valley. Over centuries, most that have come to this live in this area have the same profound appreciation of the natural beauty and wonder of the river, the mountains and the valley. The guiding vision for the new Willamette River Bridge and the enhancement project is integration into the natural landscape and the theme: the Whilamut Passage. The deck-arch design complements the river and the surrounding environment, and new park pathways, the restoration of native plants to the park area and artful additions under the bridge represent important historical and natural features of the area. The Kalapuya appreciated and respected the beauty of the river and the valley, evidenced through their culture of spirituality and storytelling. But through tragic history, the Kalapuya have lost their voice. I hope, by honoring the Kalapuya with a monumental sculpture symbolizing their presence past, present and future, and by the renaming of the Willamette River Bridge the “Whilamut Passage Bridge”, the Kalapuya connection to this area will again be acknowledged and their strong, enduring and important voice be heard.

“CAMAS PETALS”

Design One and Two

“Camas Petals” design one is my originally proposed design. After meeting with the selection committee in January, I decided to develop another version of the sculpture from my preliminary sketches and paper models for the original RFP. Therefore I offer you an optional design, which is a slightly more curvilinear version of the original design. I am equally passionate about both designs and feel either one would be a dynamic addition for the site. Both sculptures celebrate the camas flower with design language that represents identical imagery with singular interpretation.

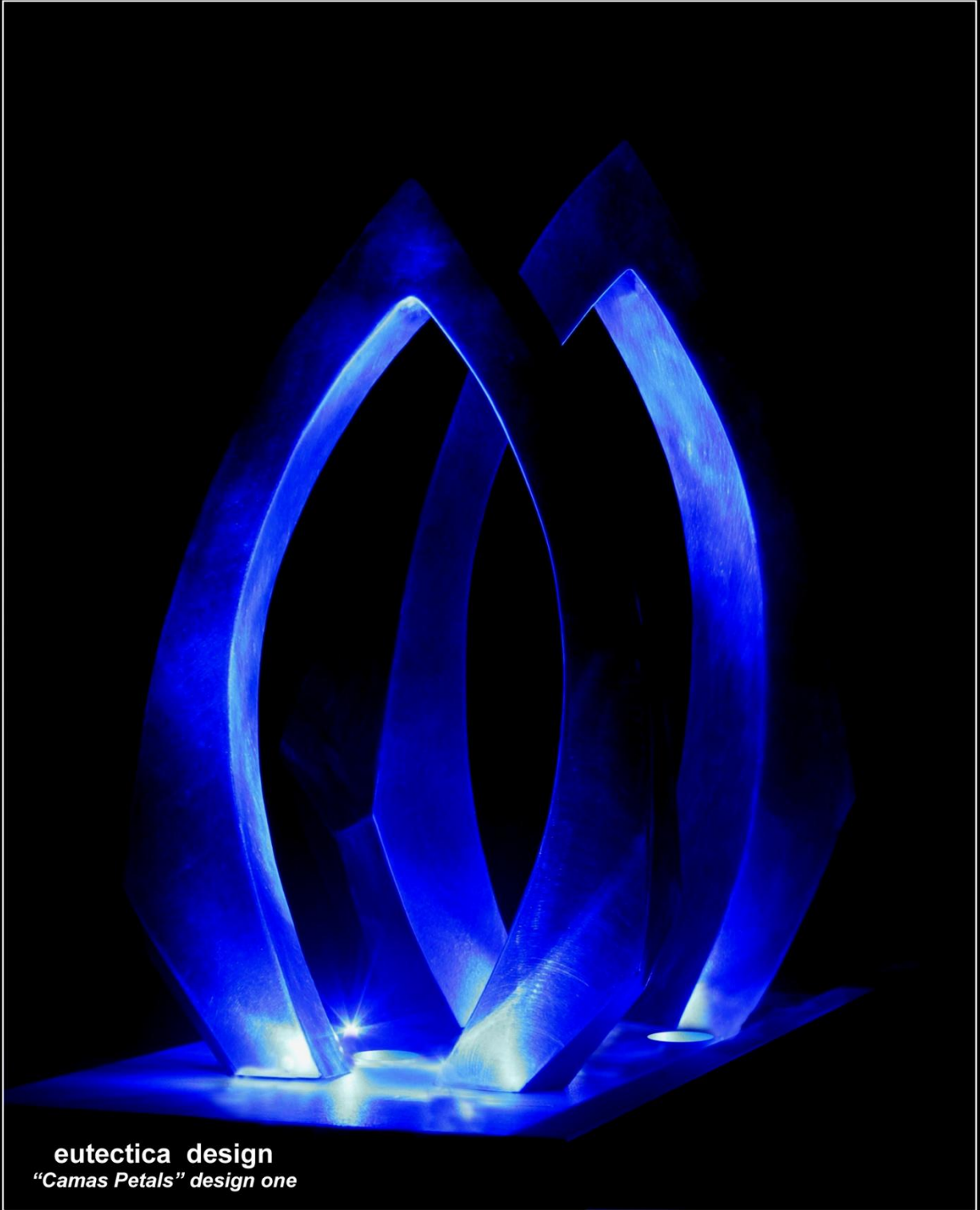
“Camas Petals” design one

“Camas Petals” design one are two fabricated stainless steel sculptures with an interior structural steel baffle system. The largest sculpture is almost 22 feet; the other sculpture is 18 feet tall. Respectively, they weigh approximately 3,500 #'s and 3,000 #'s.



“Camas Petals” design one

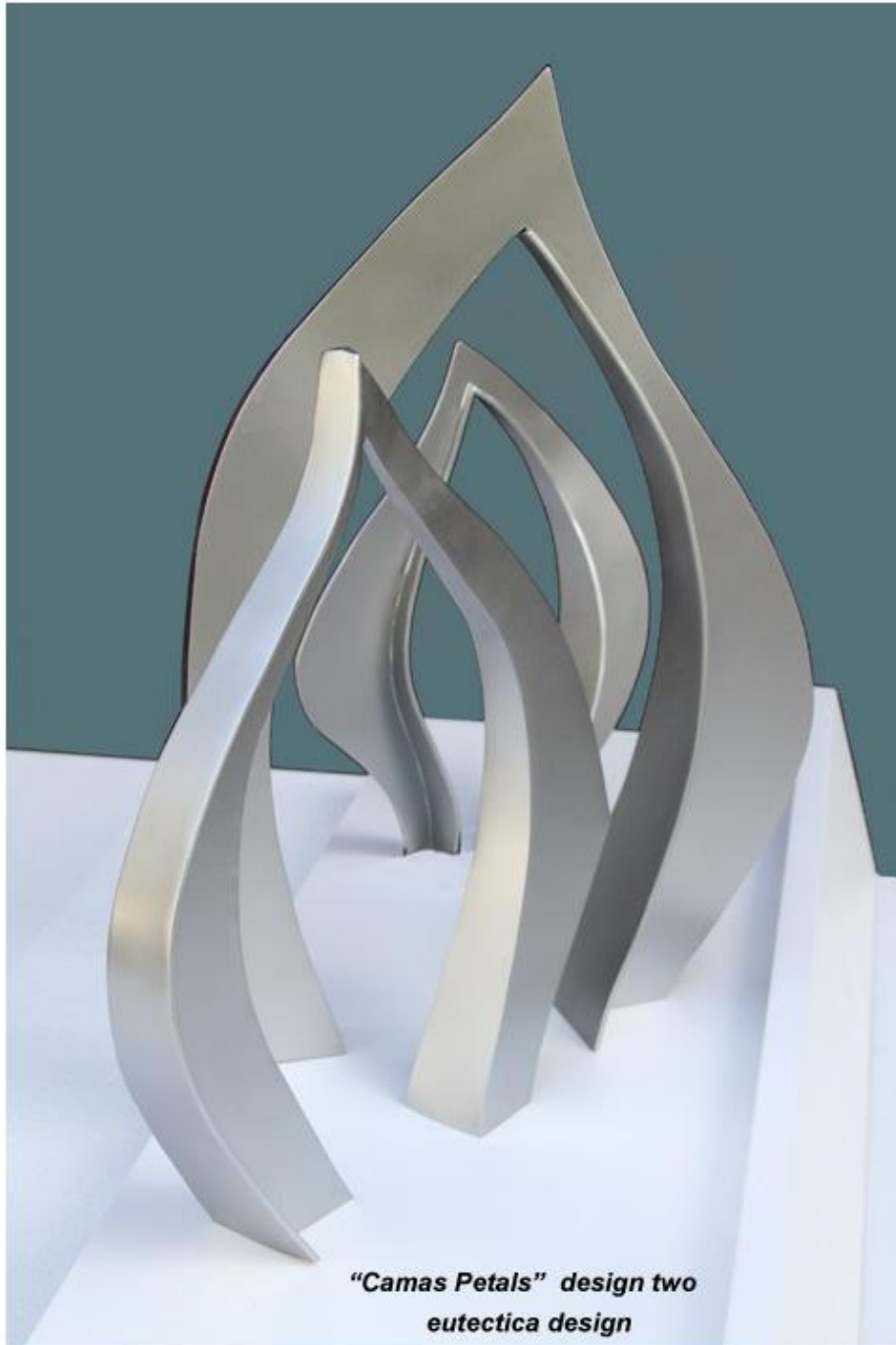
eutectica design



eutectica design
"Camas Petals" design one

“Camas Petals” design two

“Camas Petals” design two is composed of three fabricated stainless steel sculptures in a curvilinear design. The three petals are positioned closer together to evoke the sense of “flower”. The sculptures are 21.5 feet, 16.5 feet and 14 feet, with similar weights of design one.



*“Camas Petals” design two
eutectica design*

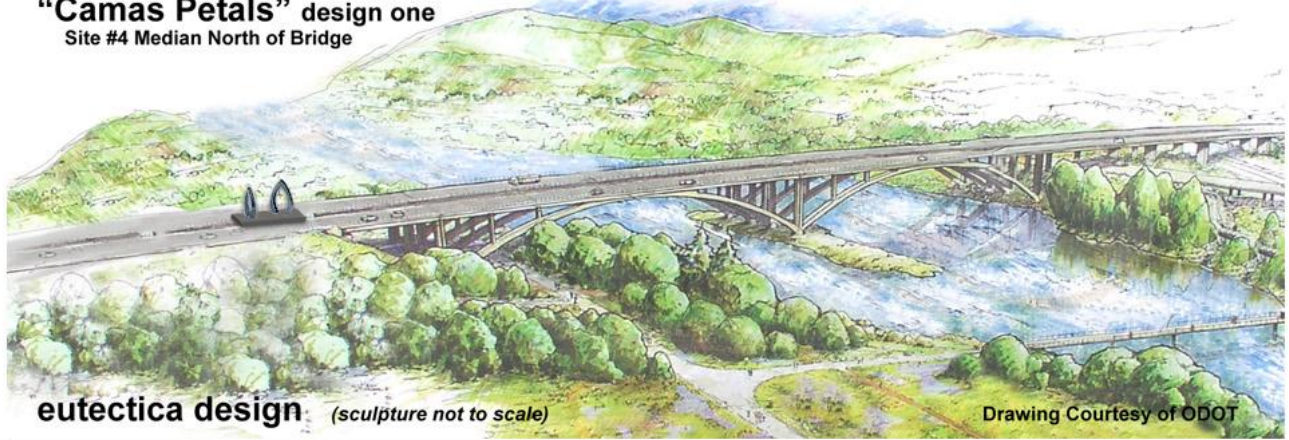


"Camas Petals" design two with subtle blue uplights

“Camas Petals” Sculpture Site Drawing

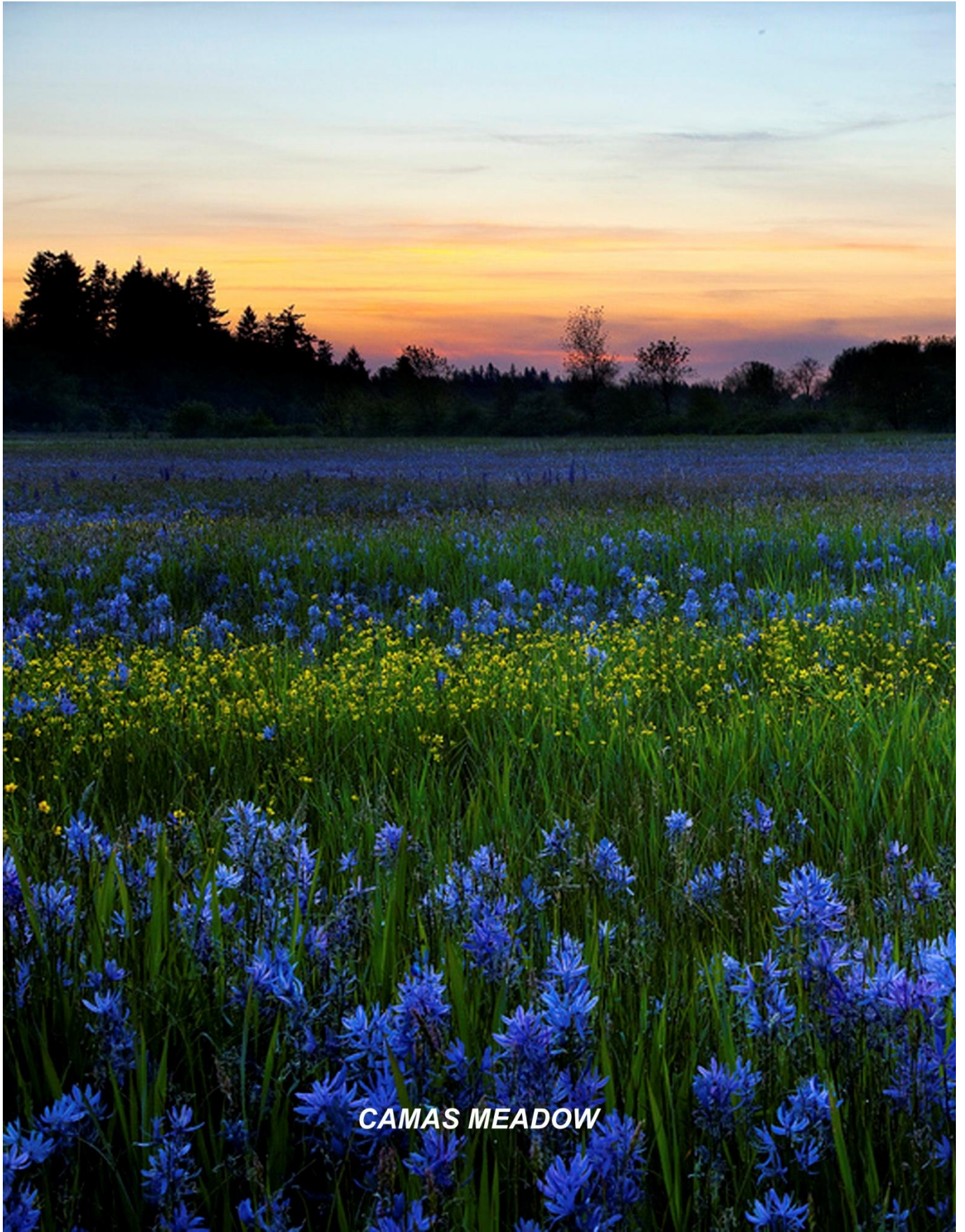
Site #4: Median North of Bridge

“Camas Petals” design one
Site #4 Median North of Bridge



“Camas Petals” design two
Site #4 Median North of Bridge





CAMAS MEADOW