



HWY 509

TO DUWAMISH TRAIL

HWY 99

S KENYON ST

Seattle's South Transfer Station is a civic facility that combines innovative functionality for recycling and garbage service with an iconic site design, reflecting the community values of environmental sustainability and contextual connection to the neighborhood.



Bold geometries and materials help to create a unique landmark. Aesthetically, the design addresses vastly different scales and perspectives—that of a passing motorist, the users of the facility, and the single-family community adjacent to this industrial area.



The landform is folded and cut, creating a sense of the building emerging from the ground. A series of site walls frame and choreograph the visitor's site experience, separating public and commercial access through unique, grade-separated entry sequences.



The site design includes over 600 linear feet of custom gabion veneer walls. Their highly textured presence are designed at a scale to draw interest from vehicles on adjacent roadways and from pedestrians on the site.

Boyer AVE E 62 AVE S SW Thistle ST S Bailey ST Highway SW Dravus ST

Accessible Entrance  
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Designed into the gabion walls are niches where facility staff can showcase a curated selection of items they salvage from the material brought to the transfer station, facilitating public display of this long-standing practice.



The iconic gabion wall signifies the pedestrian entrance to the building. It slopes gently with grade and serves as an additional display platform for the found objects rescued from their journey to the landfill.



An entry plaza with generous plantings welcomes visitors to the site. Recycled local street signs provide a colorful backdrop and a rich contrast to Liriodendron, Taxus, and Euonymus. Gabion walls signify grade change, separating public and service areas.



Custom designed benches within the entry plaza help assert the human scale into the pedestrian entry sequence. Niches within the benches echo the design detail of the gabion wall that frames the public access point to the facility.



Details within the landscape are clean and uncomplicated, allowing contrasts of color and texture to showcase the natural beauty of simple materials. These contrasts elicit visual interest at a range of scales and proclaim infrastructure as art.



Public art is incorporated into the site design--a local Seattle artist salvaged pieces of the demolished South Park Bridge and used them to create monumental sculptures that embed the neighborhood's history and spirit into the site.



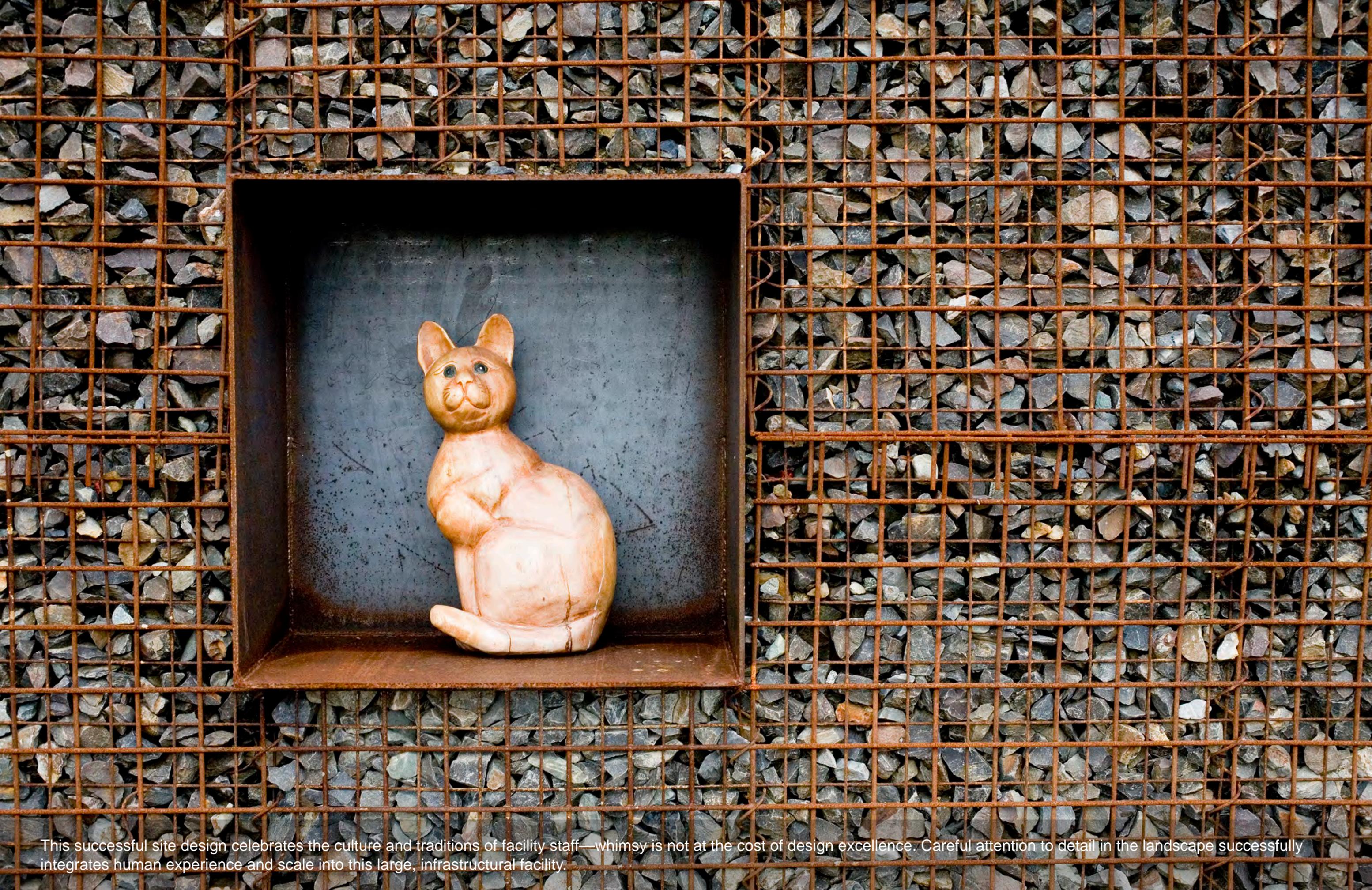
Groves of evergreen Sequoias are set within shrub massings with seasonal color to frame views of the facility on all sides, establishing scale and context. The textural foliage helps mitigate any dust stirred up as vehicles exit the building.



Gabion veneer extends from the public entrance to the service areas. These carefully placed gabion-veneer retaining walls screen static service elements while visually unifying the public entrance and back-of-house areas.

Rainwater is collected and stored in a 45,000 gallon detention system, reducing storm-water runoff from the site into the Duwamish River. The water is used to irrigate the water-wise landscape and for wheel-washing to conserve water and reduce operating costs.





This successful site design celebrates the culture and traditions of facility staff—whimsy is not at the cost of design excellence. Careful attention to detail in the landscape successfully integrates human experience and scale into this large, infrastructural facility.