

Hello Nzuzi Mahungu and the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee,

My name is Ryder Holmes Wilson, a concrete artisan based in Santa Rosa, and I am interested in creating a functional sculpture out of concrete for the Joe Rodota Sebastopol trailhead. I imagine a work that represents the intersection of two communities and a comingling of their ecologies through two concrete obelisks connected by a spanning bridge. Through colorful botanical imprints in white concrete of plants like agave, oak, ferns, grapes, nopales, corn, redwood, and native herbs, I would represent a narrative of both ecological alignment and contrast between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol. The goals would be to beautify the location, offer a space to relax after a long walk, and to educate the public on the ecological diversity of the trail and its surrounds with a low maintenance, low impact sculpture.

The material I work with is specifically Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete (GFRC), a much higher quality version of concrete than the typical construction variety. It is highly durable, but because it can be made as thin as ½", it would be lightweight enough to easily transport the work from my studio to the installation location. Graffiti resistant sealers can ensure both natural and artificial stains are a non issue. Upkeep would be minimal, entailing a biannual resealing process. In the event of damage, it is a highly repairable material. Installation would require a small amount of construction concrete poured as foundations to adhere the sculptures to.

For the last 12 years I have worked with concrete in a family business, Holmes Wilson Furniture, that my parents started in 1995. I took over the business in January 2023. I worked under the tutelage of my mother (MFA from Otis College) on thousands of pieces of furniture, sculpture, and wall panels for hundreds of different clients. Some larger outdoor public works we have created include outdoor seating for Clark College, and tables and panels for malls in Corte Madera, Maryland, and Honolulu. We have worked with dozens of designers and stores, including Baker Furniture, 505 Design, The Gardener, and more. These projects often involved negotiating client desires, as well navigating logistics on manufacturing, shipping, and recommendations on installations. While I have never engaged in a public process, my general experience in working with designers provides me with related experience. I have lived in both Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, and am relatively familiar with their respective cultures and flora.

For the process, after approval from the board on several iterations of concept art and 3D models, and an extensive color selection, I would consult with a local botanist to narrow my plant selection to the most appropriate for the site, and a structural engineer for installation, and a separate concrete engineer at the Concrete Countertop Institute (CCI) for the actual sculpture design to maximize the integrity and safety.. I would then construct molds and create the pieces through a casting, curing, grouting, polishing, staining, and sealing process. Throughout this process I would send updates twice a month to the board. I would provide documentation for maintenance, repair, and information about the work.

Please see my website for much more information and many more images than supplied below. I look forward to hearing from you, and hope that whatever work comes from this, it is a beautiful result.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ryder Holmes Wilson

Art Depiction

I propose two concrete totem-like structures for the site, each with dimensions of 24- 30” diameter and a height of 8-10’ feet. These light, earth-colored pillars would contain imprints and relief of a variety of plants, grouted in a colorful manner. They would have some texture and be organic, but not rough. The two pillars would be connected by a 5-6’ long, 20-24” wide, 1-5” thick surface at standard bar height that would also be imprinted with botanical designs. One pillar, a bit rounder, would represent Sebastopol, while the other, a bit more angular, would represent Santa Rosa, with the bridge between them representing the Joe Rodota trail. It would serve as a space for pedestrians to have meals or a coffee and conversation.

While there would be some overlap between the botanical imprints of the two pillars, the “Sebastopol” pillar would primarily be moisture-loving plants like redwood, ferns, dock, various fruit trees and native herbs, while the “Santa Rosa” pillar would be embellished with sunnier plants like corn, agave, artichoke, mustard, and grasses. Both pillars would contain oaks and grape leaves. The spanning bridge would be embellished in a manner where the biomes come together in conversation with each other.

The pillars and spanning bridge would be positioned to be parallel to highway 116. Each pillar would be sunk into a foundation of the appropriate size, with the spanning piece slotting into the two pillars upon installation, completely unable to move once the pillars are set in place.

Timeline

- Upon Approval: 50% Deposit Due by May 31st
- May- June 15th: Design, Modeling, Structural Engineering Research, Contracting of Installation, Concept Art
- Final Concept Art Presented: June 15th
- June 15th - July 25th: Acquisition of construction materials, mold materials, botanical materials, and mold-making
- July 25 - August 3: Mold construction
- August 4 - August 16: Casting process
- August 16 - September 14: Finish work: Polishing, Grouting, and Sealing
- 50% Payment Remainder Due: September 10
- Estimated Completion Date: September 15
- Possible Installation Date: September 16

Budget

- Artist Fees: \$14,100
 - Design Fees: \$11,388
 - Structural Engineering Design: \$2,700
- Materials, Equipment, Production Cost: \$3730
 - Cement: \$310, Pozzolon, \$90, Aggregate: \$155, Polymer: \$140, Fiber: \$65, Scrim: \$60, Pigment: \$90, Polishing Pads, \$60, Sealer: \$160, Hired Labor: \$1420, Mold Materials: \$810, Silicon Spacers: \$120, Miscellaneous (rags, buckets, small tools, mold release, etc.): \$250
- Studio Rental: N/A (Existing studio suitable)
- Transportation: \$370 for vehicle rental or labor
- Installation Costs: \$2900 for cement foundations and subcontracted labor
- Lighting Costs: N/A
- Insurance: \$1200
- Taxes: \$2312
- Documentation: \$400

Resume

Holmes Wilson, Ryder

 www.holmeswilson.com - Santa Rosa, California

Experience

2012 - PRESENT

Holmes Wilson Tables - *Designer & Owner*

- Designed several lines of furniture with physical molds and modeling software
- Researched developments in concrete technology and improved product durability with 25% less weight
- Managed sales and customer experience
- Maintained and updated website and Instagram with photography and written copy
- Established workflows that resulted in a sub-1% failure rate and only a single customer refund in the last eight years
- Developed extensive plant knowledge and care to maximize botanical design opportunities

Education

UC Davis - B.A. in Philosophy, Minors in Professional Writing and English

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center - Permaculture Design Certificate

Commissioners and Partners

Baker Furniture 2014 - 2022

My mother and I worked with Baker Furniture (formerly McGuire Furniture) to produce a collection of 10 furniture designs of side and coffee tables. We created more than a thousand pieces of these designs and coordinated to ship them to High Point, North Carolina.

Contact: Mark Richardson, 310 717 8254

505 Design 2015 - Today

We have worked with designer Ji Park at 505 Design on three major projects, including The Village at Corte Madera, and Honolulu's International MarketPlace, and a newer apartment complex in Oakland.

Contact: Ji Park, jpark@505design.com

Ryder Holmes Wilson - 2024

Pike & Rose 2015

We worked with Federal Realty to produce 32 outdoor coffee tables for Pike & Rose, a mixed use shopping mall in Bethesda, Maryland.

Contact: Federal Realty, 301 998 8100

Clark College 2012

LSW Architects Clark College commissioned more than a dozen coffee and side tables with botanical impressions for an outdoor seating area for their new STEM building.

Contact: LSW Architects, 360.694.8571

The Gardener 1995 - Today

In 1995 My parents started working with The Gardener, a renowned home decor and gardening store, who have had locations in Healdsburg, Berkeley, and San Francisco. They have purchased hundreds of pieces of our work over the last two decades, including dining, console, coffee, and side tables, as well as agave sculptures.

Contact: Tina Chinn, tina@thegardener.com

Abode 2017 - Today

We have worked with Abode in Half Moon Bay for several years, supplying them with beautiful 'Pliny' side tables

Contact: Rachel Ortolan, rachel@abodehalfmoonbay.com

Maker & Moss 2014 - 2023

Maker & Moss had a strong aesthetic and design presence on Hayes Street in San Francisco, selling our work for several years.

Contact: Matt Bissinger, matt@makerandmoss.com

Caravane 2017 - Today

The Parisian brand of Caravane has but one store in America in San Francisco, and we are proud to have been represented by such a tasteful company for several years.

Contact: Krista Peltreau-Villeneuve, krista@kpvinteriors.com

Lair Design 2012 - Today

Lair Design in Seattle has an extensive catalog of projects, to which we have contributed various side and coffee tables

Contact: Christiane Pein, christaine@lairdesign.net

Ryder Holmes Wilson - 2024

Images of Merit and History



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. Concrete Side and coffee tables with palm tree seedpod and corn husk imprints. These works and several other product lines were commissioned by Baker Furniture in 2018. Over our contract with Baker, they purchased hundreds of thousands of dollars of products, with orders of 50+ pieces at a time. Contact: Mark Richardson, 310 717 8254



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. Several 30", 16" and 14" diameter concrete coffee tables at The Village in Corte Madera with sage leaf imprints. Project involved panels with sage imprints as well. Commissioned by Ji Park of 505 Design in 2017, jpark@505design.com. Budget: \$13,900



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. Several 20" diameter x 18" tall, and 24" x 18" concrete coffee tables at the STEM building at Clark College in Vancouver, WA. Budget: \$10,250 (Note that the stained, larger pieces are not our work) Commissioned in 2014 by LSW Architects, hello@lsw-architects.com



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. A long line of our organic, “handmade” concrete Pliny tables commissioned in 2012 by designer Wendy Owen. Pieces were roughly 16” diameter x 18”, as well as larger 30” x 18” coffee tables. Budget: \$11,700. Work [featured](#) in House Beautiful magazine in 2017. Contact: wendyowendesign@mac.com



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. 52” long, 26” wide, 16” tall. 'Roadcut' concrete oval coffee table inspired by mossy roadcuts of Salt Point. Non-commissioned, purchased by private buyer for \$2700.



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. Concrete backsplash tiles with impressions of various grasses and native plants, grouted in a variety of colors. Total length, 16', height of thinner pieces 20", 36" height for stove tile. Budget: \$4700. Commissioned in 2016 by Kay Barnes, bkaybarnes@gmail.com



Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. Brown concrete square stool with corn husk relief, 12" x 12" x 18". Aesthetically, this and the following work are most in line with the sculptural proposal, though the proposed obelisks would be more colorful. Non-Commissioned, produced in 2021.



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. 'Kloof' Textured Red and Rust-colored side table with corn lily imprints. 16" x 18" tall. Non-commissioned, produced in 2022.



By Ryder Holmes Wilson, Pamela Holmes. Concrete Freyja Agave Coffee table, 2017, non-commissioned, sold to The Gardener. 40" diameter x 15" tall.



By Ryder Holmes Wilson. 20" x 104" gray pigmented concrete hearth for Les Milles house in Sebastopol, CA in 2023. Two hearths commissioned for \$2900. Contact: Alex Richter, 707 338 1627