CAMINO ROJO at NOB HILL

Re-Imagining a New West Gateway Micro-Node

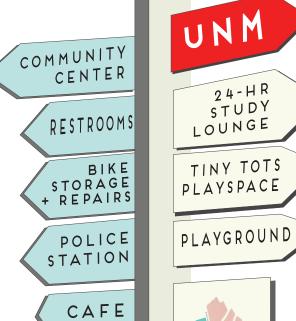
The historic district of Nob Hill is considered one the most "walkable" neighborhoods in ABQ, and its varied mix of architecture, history, and landmarks, along with a dynamic and charming retail/dining corridor on and near Central Avenue, make the area a top destination for both locals and visitors alike. The neighborhood, however, suffers from a lack of a cohesion and communal centrality as it sits along the busy auto-centric corridor of Central Avenue with the ART Bus System, a project that has been riddled with traffic flow problems, collisions, design flaws and low ridership. Camino Rojo imagines Nob Hill with a new focal point, a nexus: a safe, green space.

The 5-point intersection where Central, Girard and Monte Vista Blvds come together is particularly dangerous and problematic to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Camino Rojo at Nob Hill envisions a new *loci* that provides a community gathering place, a park setting that is safe and enjoyable for both residents and visitors, for UNM students, for pedestrians, bicyclists, children, and for people that simply need a shady place to sit down and rest. Its prime location at the western gateway to Nob Hill serves as a local crossroads, a micro-node successfully connecting the various elements of the area.

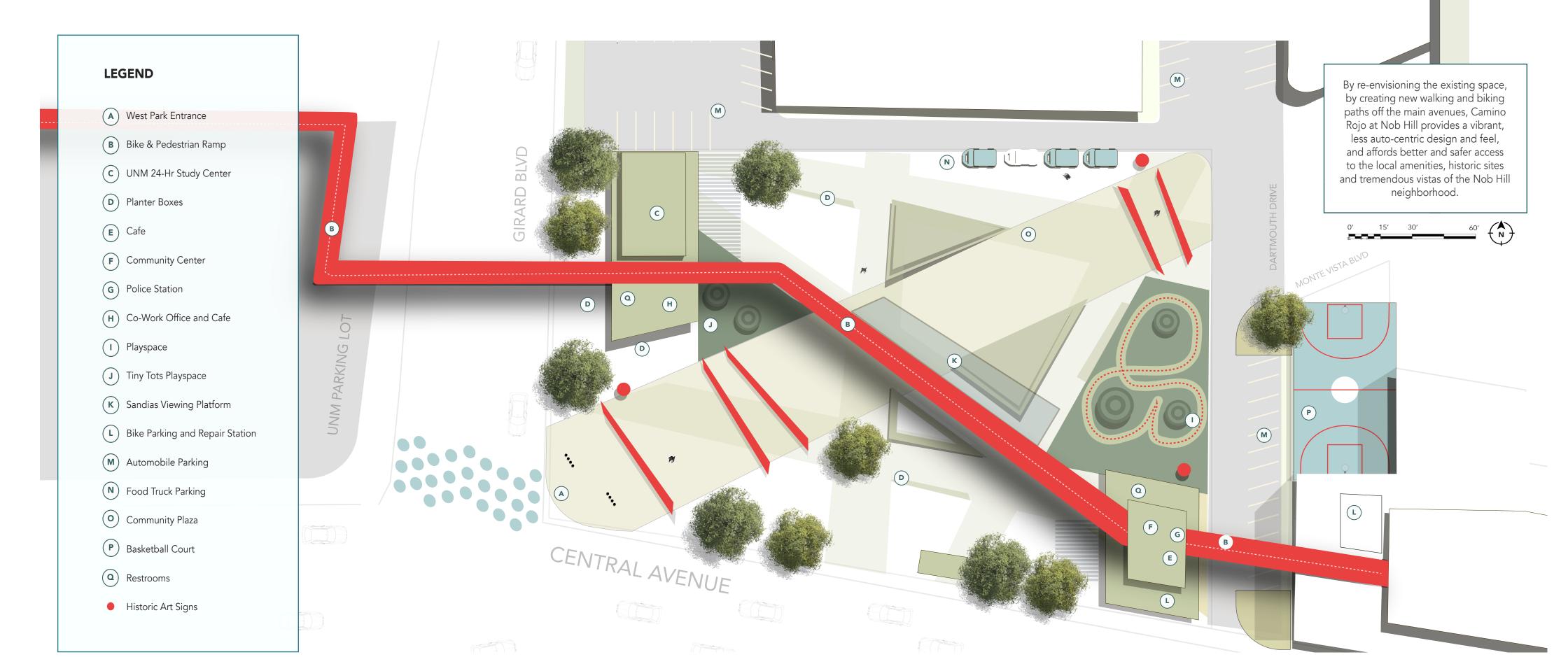
The most outstanding aspect of Camino Rojo Park is the elevated red steel bicycle and pedestrian ramp that runs from UNM, close to student housing, through the park and onto the second floor of the commercial buildings that line Central Avenue adjacent to the park. This allows safe passage for bikes and pedestrians without having to cross the dangerous intersections. It also takes advantage of the tremendous views from Nob Hill's elevation as it faces the Sandia Mountains. The new ramp is positioned to allow for multiple roof-top dining sites and a platform specifically built to enjoy views from the park.

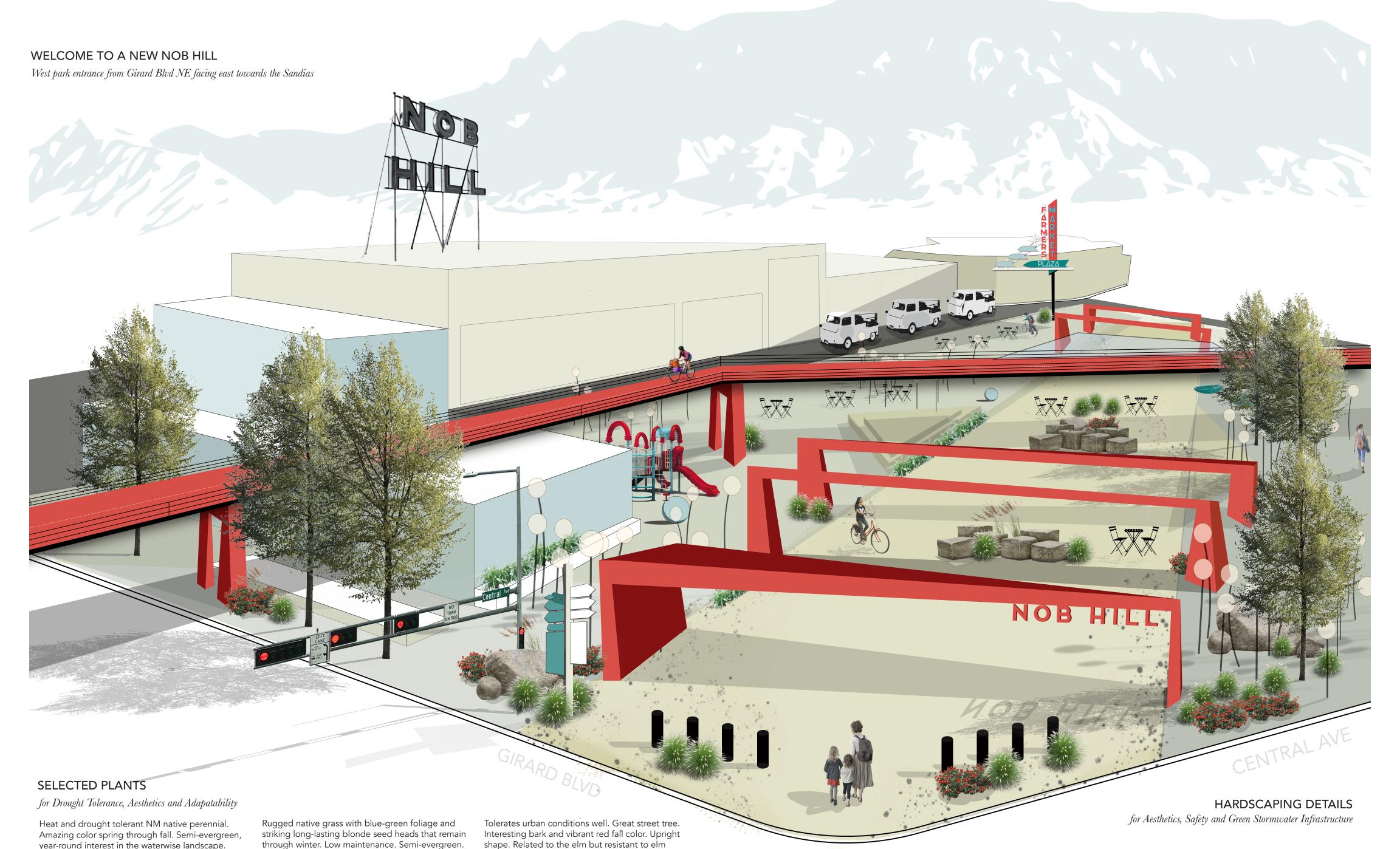
Camino Rojo Park also boasts a collection of art signs, fabricated in powder-coated steel as modern homages to the old Route 66, that show maps and clear directional signage. A new 2-story Community Center offers restrooms, a cafe, a small, efficient police station, and a bike repair/parking area. Two playgrounds and a basketball court have been added to attract multigenerational assemblage. The new central plaza will be organized and managed by both the City of ABQ, UNM, and the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association to host regular entertainment, community events and classes, local food trucks, and a weekly Farmers' Market.











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