
Profile

Cassandra

First Name

Ensborg

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

[Redacted]

Street Address

[Redacted]

City

[Redacted]

Suite or Apt

CA

State

93105

Postal Code

Indicate Supervisor Who Will Receive a Copy of your Application *

Third District - Joan Hartmann

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Architectural Review - Central County: Submitted

Reference 1 Name

Carol Puck Erickson

Reference 1 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 1 Telephone

[Redacted]

Reference 1 Occupation

Landscape Architect, CBAR member

Reference 2 Name

Robert Kupiec

Reference 2 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 2 Telephone

[Redacted]

Reference 2 Occupation

Architect, Montecito Planning Commissioner

Reference 3 Name

Deborah Schwartz

Reference 3 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 3 Telephone

[Redacted]

Reference 3 Occupation

Planner, City of Santa Barbara Planning Commissioner

If you are now, or have ever been employed by the County of Santa Barbara, please list the department in which you worked, your title, and the dates you were employed.

NA

Interests & Experiences

Please explain why you are interested in serving, and what experience you bring to the Committee. Attach additional documentation as necessary.

As a resident of Santa Barbara County and an architect, I am always working to promote design excellence in our built environment. Community work to educate and advocate for good design principles is important and I spend considerable time in these efforts. Sustainability, conservation, preservation, and respect for our history and natural environment are important to me and I believe that the work of the design review boards is critical to ensure that these important aspects are carefully considered for development projects to ensure the greatest benefit for all. Experienced design professionals serving on these design review boards is necessary and I am aware that there is a need particularly in the Central and North County Districts where there are fewer numbers of design professionals residing. I have been urged to apply, have given it much thought, and will be honored to serve, if approved. Please also see attached Resume.

Give any information explaining qualifications, experience, training, education, volunteer activities, community organization memberships, or personal interests that bear on your application for the above Board, Commission or Committee. Attach additional documentation as necessary.

Please see attached resume for this information.

Cassandra Ensberg FAIA LEED AP BIO RESUME.pdf

Upload a Resume

C. Ensberg Montecito A Short Story A Long History 8.5 x 11 SM.pdf

Please attach any additional documents here

Demographics

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Female


Date of Birth

Education Completed:

BFA from Colorado State University

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I agree that upon submission of this application all information provided is a matter of public record, and is subject to disclosure.

I Agree *



CASSANDRA ENSBERG FAIA, LEED AP Architect & Artist
Santa Barbara, California

Cassandra Ensberg was born in Wareham, Massachusetts. As an artist from the beginning and the daughter of a career Air Force pilot, she attended schools in California, Montana, Alabama, New Hampshire, Alberta Canada, and North Dakota before graduating from **Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Fine Art and concentration in Interior Design**. She worked as a studio artist and as a designer architectural firms in Denver, Colorado and in Santa Barbara before becoming a **licensed California architect** in 1996. In 1996, she and her architect husband Tom Jacobs formed the design firm of **Ensberg Jacobs Design Inc.** Community, conservation, sustainability, preservation, the natural environment, function, and art are key in all her work.

She devotes time to educate about the importance of art, design, and architecture by community involvement through both the **Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara (AFSB)** and the **American Institute of Architects, Santa Barbara Chapter (AIASB)**. She served as President of the AFSB in 2014 and 2015 and has been a member of the board since 1988. She directs the **Kids Draw Architecture** program which she founded in 1989. She promotes and creates art as the highest expression of the soul and uses an artistic approach to all of her work. Her most recent show exhibited eighteen of her stitched collages at the **Arts Club of Washington (DC)** in May of 2019.

From 1995 – 2003 she served as chair on the **City of Santa Barbara Arts Advisory Committee** and sub committees of **Visual Arts in Public Places** and the **State of the Art Gallery** Committees.

From 2009-2011 she served as a board member on the Santa Barbara **Mission Canyon Association**.

From 2005 and to the present she has been a supporter and member for the Development and Events Committee for the **Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST)**.

She is an active member of the AIASB and served as a board member from 2008 - 2014. She helped envision and organize the 2017 **State Street Charrette** to bring local architects and planners together to develop ideas to support housing and to revitalize Santa Barbara's downtown corridor. In 2017 and 2018, she served as **AIASB Advocacy Chair** to implement positive changes to the City and County Ordinances governing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU "Granny Flats"). She served on the **AIASB Community Recovery Team** to assist after the 2018 Thomas Fire and Debris Flow in Montecito. She continues to work through AIASB to inspire development in positive ways and to bring affordable housing to the community by advocating for simplification of Planning and Development practices.

She is a **LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)** accredited professional. In 2016 received the national high honor to be elevated to a **Fellow of the American Institute of Architects** for her service to society work particularly as related to the importance of art in architecture.

Cassandra Ensberg FAIA, LEED AP

Office
Cell

www.Ensberg Jacobs Design.com

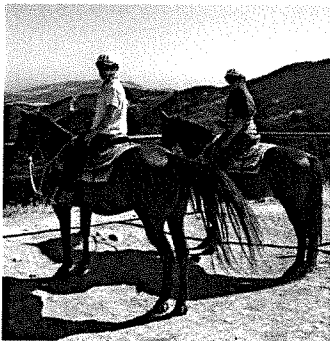
MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA

A short story about a rural community & magical village.

Cassandra Ensberg FAIA

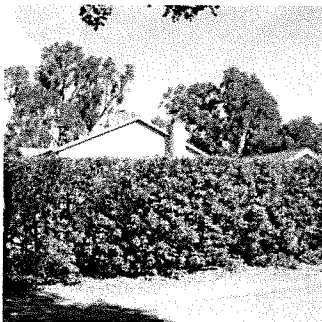


Paradise



In the early days, Montecito developed as a glorious rural village situated between the mountains and the great blue ocean – wide and open - with cottages connected by paths between the creeks, boulders and huge Sycamore Trees. It was a wondrous nature garden with the perfect weather and where the most exotic of plants thrived. Everyone knew everyone and houses were known, not by their address, but by the families who lived there. Children on ponies or bikes were free, welcome, and unrestricted to explore the natural beauty. Montecito is known as a community full of artists and the most creative minded folks whose homes and celebrations created a signature inspired life style - living in nature with the most fun people. Artists shared their wares at the annual “Pot Wars”. Mountain Drive is where the hot tub was born, and the quaint San Ysidro Ranch drew the rich and famous from all over the world to experience this rural delight. And, in the middle of Montecito sits the spectacularly unique garden designed by a most creative lady named Ganna Walska.

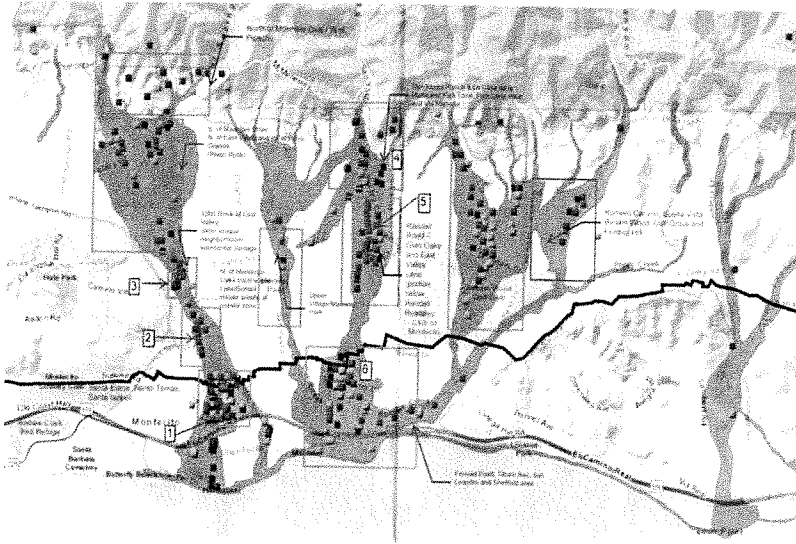
Evolution



Changes come. The beauty and real community that is Montecito and Santa Barbara drew people from far and wide to escape strip malls and tract homes. In the process, many unique properties were demolished and replaced with big houses with monumental iron gates, stonewalls, and tall meticulously manicured privacy hedges. The openness and connections that are the essence of a village began to disappear. Some sweet little homes remain, but many are gone and replaced with mansions behind hedgerows, that, while beautiful in a certain way, reduce neighborly connections, “shared landscape and “borrowed” views. Rules came into being that supported properties to be invisible from the street, and each other. Trails and kids on ponies or bikes became fewer - all replaced by more and more cars. Children now driven to school and more limited to explore nature in privately walled back yards via scheduled “play dates” - delivered by their parents in a car.

Nature Intrudes

The greatest of fire in California came followed by the greatest of rains that caused the mountain to come down in a terrible fury of water, mud, boulders and debris that decimated all that lay in the natural path of flow. Too many lives were lost, and homes destroyed. The topography along the creeks was altered and a new grade elevation created by the deposited earth, as is nature's way. The entire community is traumatized and in mourning and yet, we learned that this exact occurrence of nature is not that unusual and had happened in a similar way to create Santa Barbara's much loved Rocky Nook Park. We have learned a hard lesson about the natural forces and the



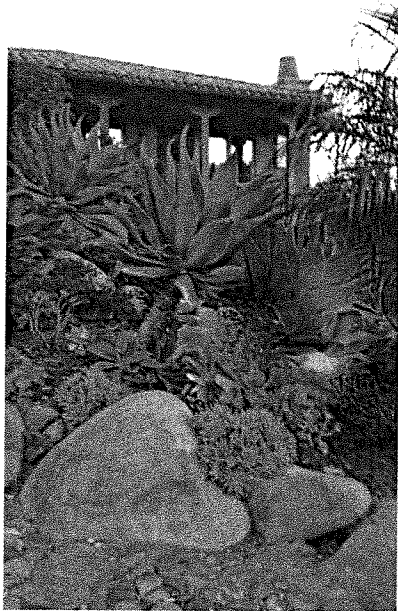
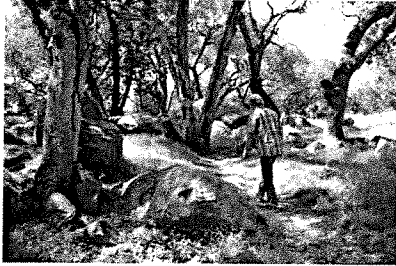
structure of our Geology and Geography that caused what we experienced.

These forces will always be with us. We can be better informed and make better planning and design decisions for our homes on our chosen place on earth.

Work with Nature for a Better Way



From the ruins, we can learn and choose better ways to work with the known forces to build and live more safely in our beautiful natural environment. What are these patterns of development and how can we employ them in ways that work best for everyone? There are many considerations and great opportunities that can come from the devastation. As with fire, the Phoenix rises even greater from the ashes. These are some ideas to consider:



- Think big picture, think differently, be open and creative to consider the best use of sites, safest areas for structures and safer alternative architectural design solutions.
- Support a connected community - that is safer from fire, provides for the natural flow of water and the circulation of people and vehicles, while recapturing Montecito's essence in a creative open rural style.
 - Consider open natural / native landscapes.
 - Reopen views, resist replacement of tall walls and hedges that block views; encourage "borrowed views" for all.
 - Save Water; reduce hardscape; use permeable materials.
 - Use native natural materials of boulders, wood, and soil. Instead of hauling away, use chipped or milled wood for trails, yards, and special constructions; use boulders to line trails, in the landscape, and for construction.
 - Use local artists to create delightful details from native materials.
 - Consider donation or buy out opportunities that exist or could be developed. Think "Douglas Family Preserve".
 - Explore creation of easements for development & expansion of Montecito's Public Trail System.
 - Support update of the Community Master Plan that embody these ideas for the entire area and the hallmarks of the original village.
 - Think of your neighbors and the broader community. Be generous and find ways to work together and to help.