

## **Project Information:**

**Project Title:** Ship Street Garden

**Location:** Providence, RI

**Completed:** 2021

**Project Size:** 600 sf

**Budget:** \$60k

**Role:** Lead Landscape Architect

## **Summary Statement:**

In the heart of the Jewelry District in Downtown Providence Rhode Island, a small unused, dark, and unkept space was transformed into a simple modern garden oasis in the heart of the city designed for outdoor living.

## **Narrative:**

With a propensity for entertaining and a desire to extend their modern downtown living space into the outside, the clients approached us to re-imagine a 12'x50' space that was subdivided by an overgrown and mostly only visual garden, and a space to park a car. The site is located in the Jewelry District of Providence, surrounded by taller historic buildings that reflect the city's industrial past, so the garden itself receives little sunlight, and privacy/security was a major concern given the hustle and bustle of being located in the urban center. The clients travel considerably, so a lower maintenance regime was also important.

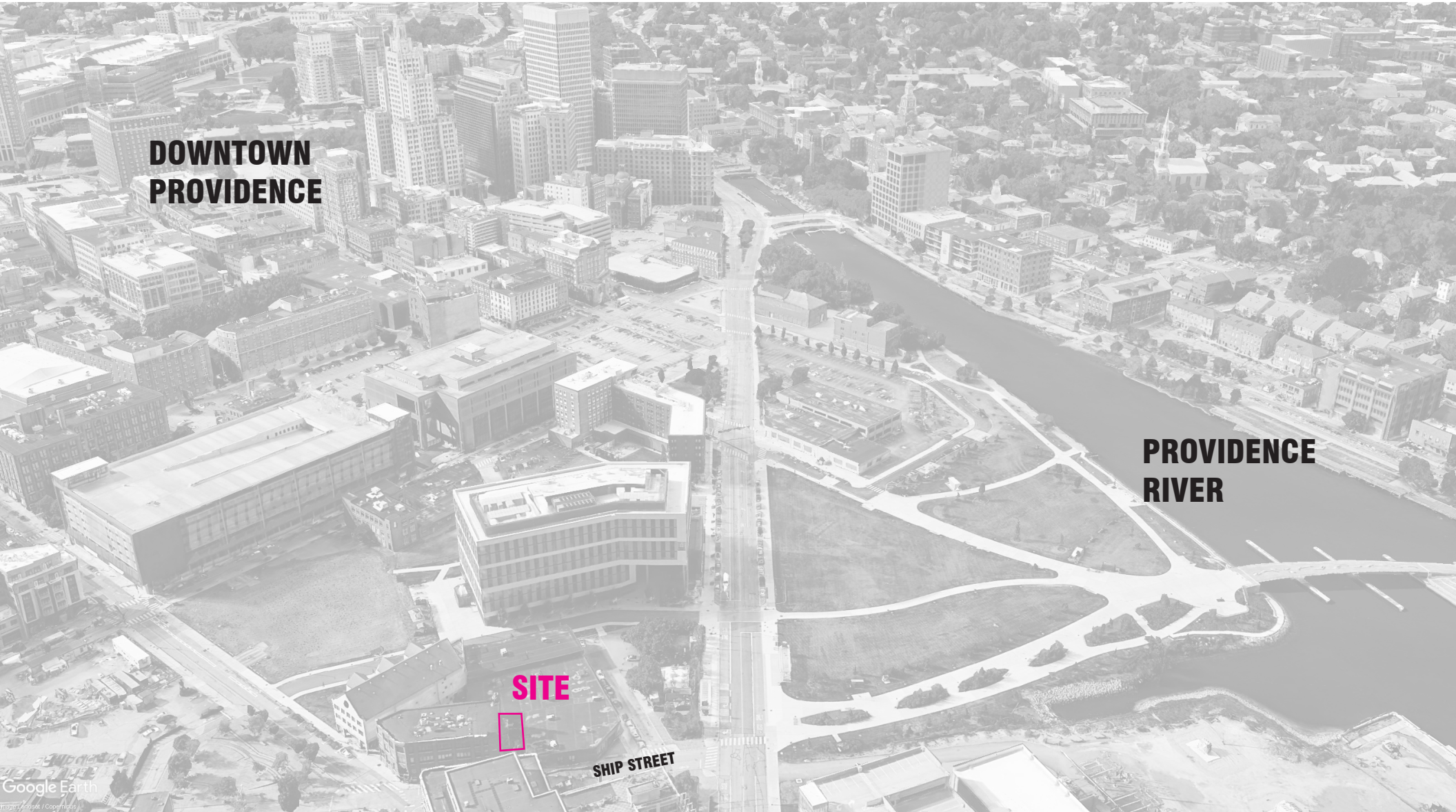
The idea was to brighten and unify the space through an articulated ground plane and simple but elemental materials of stone, wood, concrete, and a robust green wall. These elements would be further accentuated through the warmth of a fire and tree uplighting allowing the space to be used throughout the night and seasons.

A car park was still necessary, and to add complication, a heated snow melt system to eliminate shoveling. Also, the client wanted the flexibility of having a larger space to entertain by removing the car but still wanted it to feel cohesive. To achieve this the ground plane design used larger cast-in-place concrete pavers in pea stone that accommodate the tires and snow melt system for the vehicle while seamlessly transitioning into the primary space of the garden.

A specimen Paperbark Maple was selected to inconspicuously help define the car park space and create a threshold along with a custom concrete and cedar bench that also included a removable dining table for the flexibility of use. Anchoring the space is a rectangular concrete gas-powered fire-pit that when on illuminates and warms the garden both physically and visually.

A dense row of fastigate European Hornbeams line the existing adjacent brick building forming a robust green wall and are uplit at night to great effect.

To address the privacy and security concerns, a cedar and steel custom automatic vehicular and pedestrian gate were designed providing not only a beautiful screen as an offering to the streetscape but the necessary protection from the busy urban street.



**DOWNTOWN  
PROVIDENCE**

**PROVIDENCE  
RIVER**

**SITE**

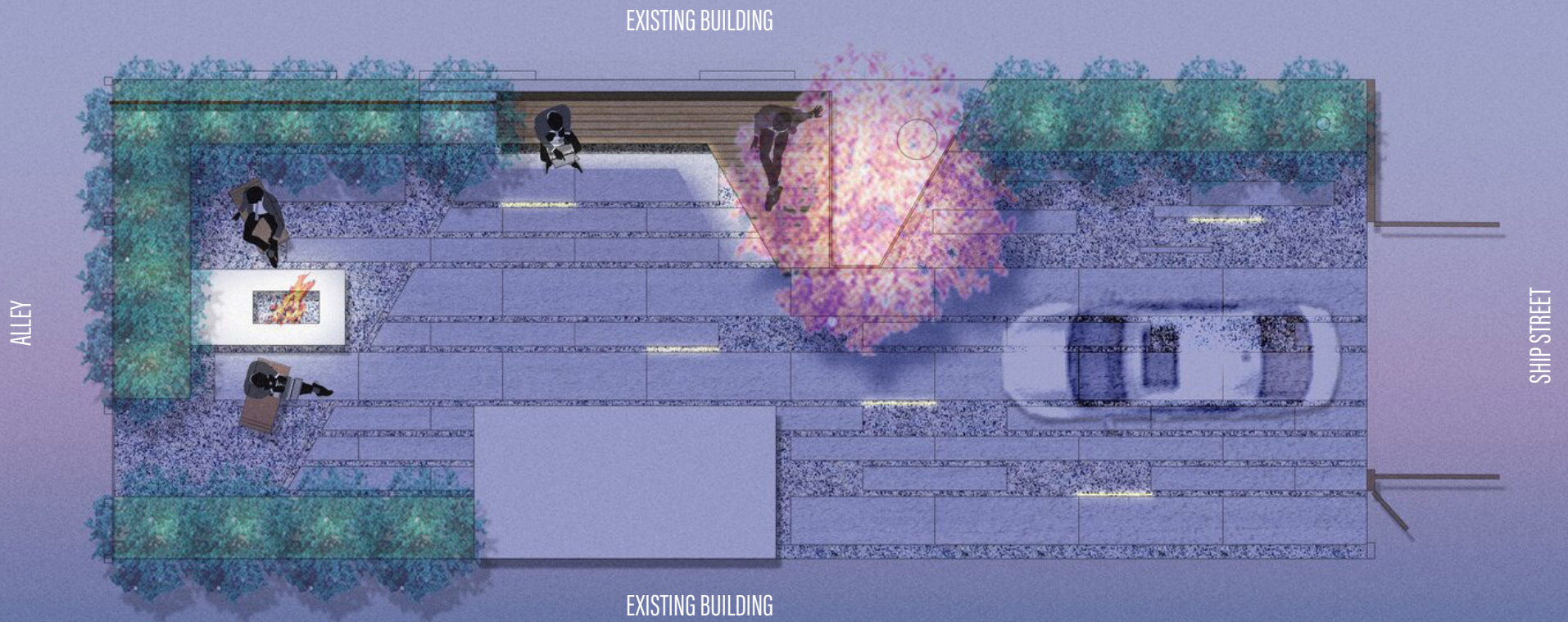
**SHIP STREET**

Google Earth

Site context image.



View into the garden from a third floor balcony.



Plan View rendering of the proposal. A view small adjustments were made during the construction process.





Photograph of the existing conditions of the garden.



The clients enjoy a glass of wine at the concrete fire pit.



An Acer griseum and custom concrete seating define the outdoor dining and fire pit area. The backrest for the seating doubles as a screen from the neighboring office windows.



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View from the dining table looking at the custom automatic gate.



View from Ship Street of the custom gate/privacy screen.



