

Reef Design in an Octopus' Garden

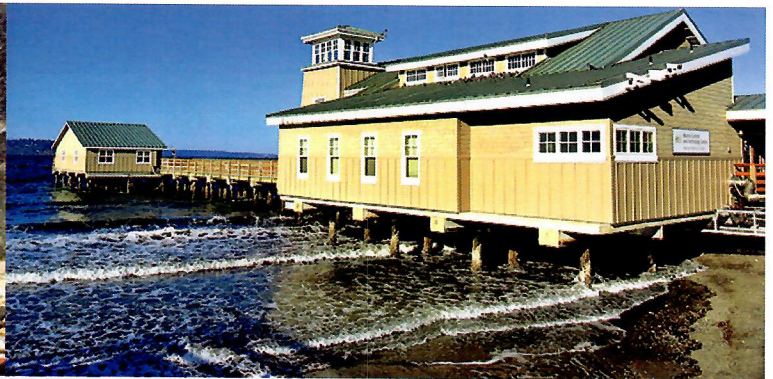
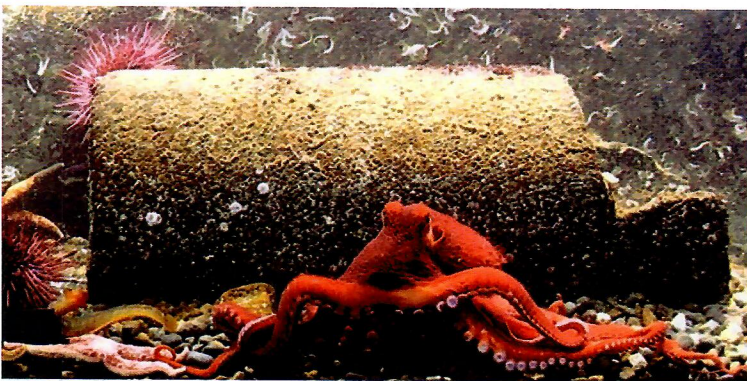
Marine Science and Technology Center (MaST) - Redondo Beach, WA

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Washington Scuba Alliance (WSA) is developing design options for artificial reefs where divers can observe the **diversity of Puget Sound's marine flora and fauna**. One of these reefs will be located at Redondo Beach, a small community on the boundary of Des Moines and Federal Way. WSA has received \$500,000 in funding from the state of Washington to build the reef. The reef will be sited across approximately 4 acres of intertidal habitat at one of the most popular dive sites in the entire Puget Sound. An adjacent pier contains **Highline College's Marine Science and Technology Center (MaST)**, which conducts active marine research and teaching programs and has a public aquarium which is home to over 250 species of marine life. A small stream, piped and culverted for much of its length, flows into the bay at the base of the pier.

UW Landscape Architecture has been invited to help develop plans for the reef. Sometimes a sweet project comes across your desk and you just can't say "no." This is such an opportunity. Characteristics that make the project particularly intriguing:

- the manageable scale of the project, site and context.
- the fact that **the design will be implemented**.
- the complex of **regulatory agencies, municipalities, non-profit organizations, private and public neighbors, interest groups, educational institutions and programs**, etc. (with mandates, goals, needs and aspirations that may cooperate or compete) which the designers must navigate and making sense of.
- the opportunity to **synthesize and integrate these disparate views, goals, needs, hopes, dreams and regulations into a coherent understanding of the design possibilities** and do so in a way that maximizes the opportunity for all parties to cooperate.
- the opportunity to **combine art and science in the reef design**. Rus Higley, Manager of MaST speaking of the potential of design: "art is one of the best ways to teach science".
- the opportunity to articulate this synthesis in visually comprehensible and appealing ways and present these design ideas to disparate audiences.



Wait, there's more:

In conjunction with exciting sub-marine opportunities (yellow and otherwise), the studio will keep its head above water and **address water quality/stream flow issues in the adjacent stream**. Doing so will integrate knowledge you have developed through other classes--**stormwater treatment, stream channel redesign, and other watershed issues, etc.**--with **marine ecosystem considerations** and allow us to place the reef design in a broader, watershed master plan context.