

# Rhythms of Place

Photographic Explorations of the UCSC Campus



An exhibition

Curated by James Clifford, Irene Reti and Richard Wohlfeiler

Porter College Faculty Gallery

April 14, 2015

The Santa Cruz campus is often said to be beautiful, awesome, spectacular— words that strain to evoke a sense of place for which we lack adequate language. The experience is kinesthetic. Walking, we feel with our whole body the shape of a forest path; we strain to encompass a looming redwood; we catch our breath with the great, sweeping Monterey Bay at our feet, or pausing on a vertiginous footbridge.

In this gallery, juxtaposed images suggest sensory rhythms that are characteristic of UCSC's built environment—the movement between shadow and light, void and building, thicket and clearing; the structural tension of vertical and horizontal; contrasting views from high up and deep down; diverse collaborations of nature and culture—planned, improvised, and accidental.

As curators we have explored the collection of historic photographs held by McHenry Library's Special Collections. We have gathered work by professionals and amateurs, including our own photographs. The goal is neither historical nor documentary, but phenomenological. We have looked for strong images that express an experience of place.

This experience, grasped differently by each individual, is a potent legacy that needs to be rediscovered and protected. Over the years, many elements of the "Santa Cruz Vision" have been lost, compromised or transformed. Yet a radical impulse is preserved in UCSC's campus environment—a place for wondering and wandering, for imagination and renewal.

J.C., I.R., R.W.



Of rhythm is image  
of image is knowing  
of knowing there is  
a construct.

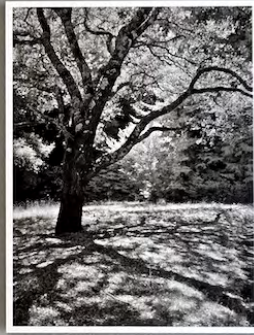
--Charles Olson







15





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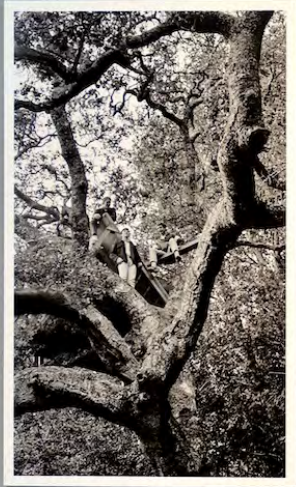


















A digital record of the historical exhibition, “An Uncommon Place,” that accompanied “Rhythms of Place” can be accessed at the UC Santa Cruz Library: <https://exhibits.library.ucsc.edu/exhibits/show/an-uncommon-place>

For further reflections on campus form and history (with photographs):

UC Santa Cruz Library: *Seeds of Something Different*.  
<https://exhibits.library.ucsc.edu/exhibits/show/seeds/home>

*In the Ecotone*. <https://people.ucsc.edu/~jcliff/publications.html>