

Disc golf emerged as one of several alternative lifestyle sports from the counter-cultural social movement of the 1960s and its popularity has steadily grown while other postmodern recreation forms have faded or plateaued (Wheaton 2004). As an accessible, malleable form of outdoor recreation its appeal can be explained by the sense of place elicited from direct engagement with the landscape and community derived from a culture of play. This thesis identifies the landscape and cultural characteristics of disc golf that make it attractive by collecting and analyzing qualitative data directly from its participants in the Los Angeles region. Semi-structured interviews were conducted at four popular disc golf courses representing four distinct landscape typologies to discover user preferences related to landscape characteristics, while demographic data identified patterns of user responses.

As the economy weakens, leisure demand for open space increases and landscape architecture in academia has the opportunity to research how disc golf course growth can activate underutilized urban environments. With new knowledge about subculture and course typologies, designers can apply knowledge of disc golf as a unique, cultural form of recreation to steer its evolution as a component of multi-functional urban environments.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISC GOLF COURSE DESIGN:

# INSCRIBING LIFESTYLE *into* UNDERUTILIZED LANDSCAPES

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