environment

WETLAND REDUX

In the heart of downtown Portland's tony Pearl District, an oak savanna emerges, re-creating the "wilds" of Oregon's Willamette Valley in an urban garden park. Reeds, sedges and 4-foot grasses swish in the breeze. Purple camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*), pink-flowered bearberry (*Arctostaphyllos uva-ursi*) and creeping mahonia (*Mahonia repens*) color the terrain. Like a natural spring, water burbles up to the surface and flows into streams that meander over stones, through a marsh and into a pond. Tanner Springs Park is a place for contemplation amid the hubbub of the city, creatively engineered as a sustainable, functioning wetland.

Evocative of the native Pacific Northwest, the 0.9-acre garden was designed by Dreiseitl/Waterscapes of Uberlingen, Germany, collaborating with local landscape architects GreenWorks, P.C. Herbert Dreiseitl describes the process as "peeling back the skin of the city" to look beneath this site's recent industrial past of warehouses and train yards to find the forgotten landscape.

Rainwater is channeled through the vegetation and pond via an innovative biotope system, where the water is filtered, cleansed and recirculated to emulate natural wetlands. Spanning the pond, a metal zigzagged walkway entices visitors to stroll atop the water. A sculp-