

● Dow Jones **-389.24** • 11,780.94
 ● NASDAQ **-105.84** • 2,621.65
 ● S&P 500 **-46.82** • 1,229.10
 ● 10-year Treasury **-0.12** • 1.96%
 ● Crude Oil **-\$1.06** • \$95.74
 ● Gold (N.Y.) **-\$750** • \$1,790.90
 Dollar • One U.S. dollar equals:
 ● Euro **+0.0156** • 0.7385
 ● Peso **+0.343** • 13.677
 ● Yen **+0.09** • 77.82

\$263.3 billion

Single-family mortgage securities issued by Ginnie Mae this year through October. The government-owned corporation, which packages mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Administration and other agencies, has issued more mortgage bonds than Freddie Mac — at \$251.5 billion — making Ginnie the second-biggest funder of home loans, according to Inside Mortgage Finance, a trade newsletter. Fannie Mae, the oldest of the three guarantors, led with \$418 billion. Ginnie Mae said it financed nearly 60 percent of all U.S. home purchases during the year, reflecting the increasing role that the FHA has been playing in the market.

ECONOMY

TREASURY PRICES UP: Treasuries rose Wednesday, pushing 10-year note yields down, as investors sought safe assets amid concern Italy will struggle to form a government and implement austerity measures. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.96 percent. Falling Treasury yields are a sign of rising bond prices.

INVENTORIES TRIMMED: Wholesale businesses reduced their stockpiles in September for the first time in nearly two years — by 0.1 percent — while their sales rose. The trend could be a good sign for future factory output because manufacturers will have to produce more if demand keeps rising.

TIGHT SUPPLIES FORECAST: The government slightly reduced its estimate for next year's corn supply, a move that could keep food prices high for most consumers.

NATION

SOLAR TRADE TUSSLE: The Commerce Department opened an investigation sought by U.S. manufacturers who accuse the Chinese green energy industry of "dumping" solar panels into the United States, aided by government subsidies, at prices lower than the cost of making and distributing them.

GOOGLE DROPS APP: Google, the maker of Android software for mobile phones, said it will stop supporting the Gmail application for rival BlackBerry smartphones, made by Research In Motion. The app for Google's Web-based email will no longer be available as of Nov. 22 and won't be supported after that, but users may continue to use the app if already downloaded.

EARNINGS

CISCO: First-quarter net income edged lower to \$1.8 billion, or 33 cents per share, at the world's biggest maker of networking equipment. Revenue grew 4.7 percent to \$11.3 billion, bolstered by a turnaround effort and demand for data centers.

MACY'S: Third-quarter net income surged to \$139 million, or 32 cents per share, as the department store chain benefited from tailoring its merchandise to local markets. Revenue rose 4.1 percent to \$5.85 billion as the retailer raised its full-year profit outlook.

WENDY'S: Third-quarter loss widened to nearly \$4 million, or a penny per share, as the fast-food company paid more for beef and had higher costs related to selling its Arby's franchise. Revenue rose a less-than-expected 2 percent to \$611 million.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV: Third-quarter profit rose by 16.3 percent to \$1.73 billion, largely due to the continued popularity of global brands like Stella Artois and Beck's at the world's largest brewer. Revenue grew by 3.6 percent. In the U.S., the share of Budweiser continued to decline, although at a slower pace.

WORLD

STEADY OIL DEMAND SEEN: OPEC held steady its forecast for oil demand growth next year, but warned that uncertainty has increased in the world's



I feel that we have been borrowing our landscape character from other regions of the world for far too long." Glen Schmidt • landscape architect on the ASLA national board



Drought-tolerant landscaping at Sony's Rancho Bernardo headquarters. M.W. PELTZ + ASSOCIATES

'S.D. STYLE' LANDSCAPE: LESS WATER, MORE LIFE

Some homeowners, businesses embracing more native, drought-tolerant surroundings

ROGER SHOWLEY • U-T

IN DEPTH C3

Modern San Diego, founded in the 19th century by Midwesterners accustomed to green lawns and lots of rain, is facing the 21st century with a new water-saving ethic — and local landscape architects are showing the way.

Fresh from hosting their annual convention at the San Diego Convention Center last week, the designers of parks, commercial campuses, residential yards and natural open space retreats offer a new paradigm for the land beyond the four walls of where we live and work.

"It is not uncommon to

find a cultural and often fanatical love affair with turf grass, which is typically a fast and easy way to achieve the look of a lush landscape," said landscape architect Glen Schmidt, San Diego's trustee on the ASLA national board. "However, I feel that we have been borrowing our landscape character from other regions of the world for far too long, and that it is time to create a 'San Diego Style' of landscape that can offer a unique sense of place

SEE LANDSCAPE • C3



Briercrest Park has a large play area. SCHMIDT DESIGN GROUP

TOYOTA RECALLS 550,000 VEHICLES

Steering system defect involves 2004-06 models

MALCOLM FOSTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota Motor said Wednesday it is recalling more than 550,000 vehicles worldwide — mostly in the U.S. — for problems that could make them harder to steer.

The recall affects 447,000 vehicles in North America, as well as 38,000 in Japan and another 25,000 in Australia and New Zealand, said Toyota spokesman Dion Corbett. In Europe, some 14,000 vehicles are being recalled along with 10,000 in the Middle East and 14,000 in Asia outside Japan.

Toyota has received a total of 79 reports about the defect dating back to 2007, said Corbett. There have been no reports of ac-

SEE TOYOTA • C4

U.S. models recalled

Toyota: 2004 and 2005 Camry, Highlander, Sienna and Solara; 2004 Avalon; 2006 Highlander HV

Lexus: 2004 and 2005 ES330 and RX330, and 2006 RX400h

BROADBAND PLAN AIMS AT TRIMMING DIGITAL GAP

U-T NEWS SERVICES

The Federal Communications Commission launched a \$4 billion program to narrow the digital divide by making high-speed Internet access and computers more affordable for more than 25 million mainly low-income Americans.

The FCC said Wednesday that a public-private partnership called Connect-to-Compete, which includes major broadband and computer companies and nonprofits, will make "the biggest effort ever" across the nation — starting next summer — to help poorer citizens as well as rural residents, seniors and minorities obtain broadband access.

Those who qualify would pay \$9.95 a month for Internet access. SEE BROADBAND • C5

WALMART EXPERIMENTS

"Our business is growing"

IN DEPTH

MORE THAN JUST PLANTS

Landscape architecture — the design of the land beyond buildings — covers far more ground than skyscrapers, houses and shopping centers. Here are examples of several local landscape architects' solutions and what to look for if you visit.



DAVID REED

Residences

"Many large estate communities are reluctant to part with the lawn aesthetic they have engendered for so long," says David Reed, principal of his own firm. "How, then, can we bridge the divide between high-water-use and intensive-maintenance landscapes of the past and the extremely low-water-use and more-sustainable landscapes required in our future?"

Hunter residence: Rancho Pacifica, Rancho Santa Fe

Landscape architect: David Reed

"The owners had purchased the home, already completed and landscaped, and were already sensitive to its water use. The main intent of the remodel was to reduce water demand. This was accomplished by reducing the lawn area in the front yard by half and replanting with very drought-tolerant UC Verde Buffalo grass, which is reputed to have a crop coefficient as low as .2, as low in water use as ice plant. Over 40 species of regionally appropriate plants were chosen and added to the garden for their long-bloom season, ease of maintenance, drought tolerant or xerophytic characteristics, and site-specific suitability."

Public parks

"Our parks need to be dynamic and interesting places for people to visit and enjoy, not only places to exercise and play, but also places that are restorative, where visitors can reconnect with nature and the great outdoors," says Glen Schmidt, principal of Schmidt Design Group.



SCHMIDT DESIGN GROUP

Briercrest Park: 9001 Wakarusa St., La Mesa

Landscape architect: Schmidt Design Group with James Hubbell, Drew Hubbell and Aesthetics Inc.

"The park, which is adjacent to the Grossmont Healthcare District library and conference center and future Challenge Center, serves as a healing environment for those in need of reflection and nurturing. At the center of the park, the landscape takes on sculptural form and leads people down to a small wetland environment. The park features a variety of gardens, including butterfly, texture and fragrance, and a large play area full of innovative and unique play equipment that provides for diverse experiences and a sense of discovery."



Mission Valley before the restoration of the San Diego River (left) and after. WIMMER YAMADA AND CAUGHEY

Open space

"Great examples of landscape design often go unrecognized because the finished look is so natural it is unnoticed as 'man-made' by the observer," says Pat Caughey of Wimmer Yamada and Caughey.

First San Diego River Improvement Project: between state Route 163 and Qualcomm Way in Mission Valley Received the Legacy Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects at its recent convention in San Diego for a project at least 15 years old.

Landscape architect: Wimmer Yamada and Caughey

"The project restored the San Diego River channel to provide a natural and sustainable means for seasonal flood control and mitigation. Although there was an initial investment and cost to re-engineer the river channel and revegetate the banks of the channel, the long-term savings resulting from reduced property damage, overall maintenance of the river and protection of water resources over the past 20 years have outweighed the initial investment."

Commercial and industrial office parks

"Considering that the projects become a home away from home for all those that work there," says Michael Peltz, president of M.W. Peltz + Associates, "the project needs to be attractive to potential employees, future tenants and their guests. Likewise, the property's appearance and amenities help to determine lease rates and impact its occupancy percentages, all of which comes into consideration for the owner, who must balance the operational cost and income of the property to maintain a positive cash flow or the project won't last."

Sony Electronics: 16350 Via Esprillo in Rancho Bernardo

Landscape architect: M.W. Peltz + Associates

"An interesting feature of the project is that condensation water from the building's cooling system was reused to provide water to the project's only water feature. Additionally, portions of the surface parking lots and fire lanes use permeable concrete to allow surface water to drain through the pavement into the subgrade, thereby reducing the amount of stormwater runoff. The end result is a cool and comfortable garden with opportunities to hold large events, and smaller, tucked-away places to enjoy the garden in solitude — both with equal success."

ROGER SHOWLEY • U-T

New products in landscape design

• All-in-one solar light fixture by Sunmia of Milpitas that doesn't require a separate photovoltaic panel.



available through the plant broker Florasource in San Clemente.

• LED lights add color to — and reduce operating costs of fountains designed by Roman Fountains of Albuquerque, N.M. The company is supplying light-emitting diodes in a rehabilitation of a fountain in El Cajon.

LANDSCAPE • Sony headquarters radically different

FROM C1 while still looking lush and beautiful."

Like early adopters of the latest electronic gadget, some San Diego homeowners and commercial property owners have already made the switch from water-hogging grass to a xeriscaped plant palette that not only uses less water but requires less fertilizer and

offices across the street at the Rancho Bernardo Corporate Center sit on a 105-acre campus where water costs run three to four times more per acre.

"We're looking to phase in drought-tolerant landscaping," he said of that older campus.

The same cost-benefit ratio thinking goes into many homeowner and business

the return on investment can sometimes be recouped in as quickly as five years. In other cases, it can take 50 years to cover the transition costs.

But in a global-warming world, landscape architects think they can lead the way to a more sustainable future and not lose beauty for the sake of saving water.

"Landscape architecture is rising — the knowledge,

Quoting New Urbanism architect Andres Duany, Schmidt said the idea is catching on that while it might have been cool to be a star architect in recent decades, landscape architects are getting more attention and credit as they plan whole environments in which the buildings are just one component.