



Architect's Newspaper, October 29, 2013 "Cliff Garten Inserts Sculptural "Ribbons" Into San Francisco's 50 UN Plaza," by Sam Lubell
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THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

Cliff Garten Inserts Sculptural "Ribbons" Into San Francisco's 50 UN Plaza

By SAM LUBELL • October 29, 2013



(Jeremy Green)

Los Angeles-based artist [Cliff Garten](#) has just completed his latest commission: *Ribbons*, a series of landscapes and sculptures in the courtyard of the Beaux-Arts 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco. The symmetrical design riffs on the existing structure's classical uniformity by inserting a sculptural collage of paving, seating, fountains, and plantings into the building's 20,000 square foot courtyard.



(Jeremy Green)



Curving concrete pavers are set into a larger surface of decomposed granite, while cast concrete benches twist as if made of rubber, appearing to lift out of the ground pattern.

“Concrete is great. I think I have finally found my medium for infrastructure,” said Garten, who noted that he’s hoping to develop a line of street furniture with the manufacturer [Quick Crete](#).

The project was commissioned by the General Services Administration’s [Art in Architecture Program](#), which sets aside a half percent of construction funds for federal projects for art. See more pictures below.



(Jeremy Green)



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