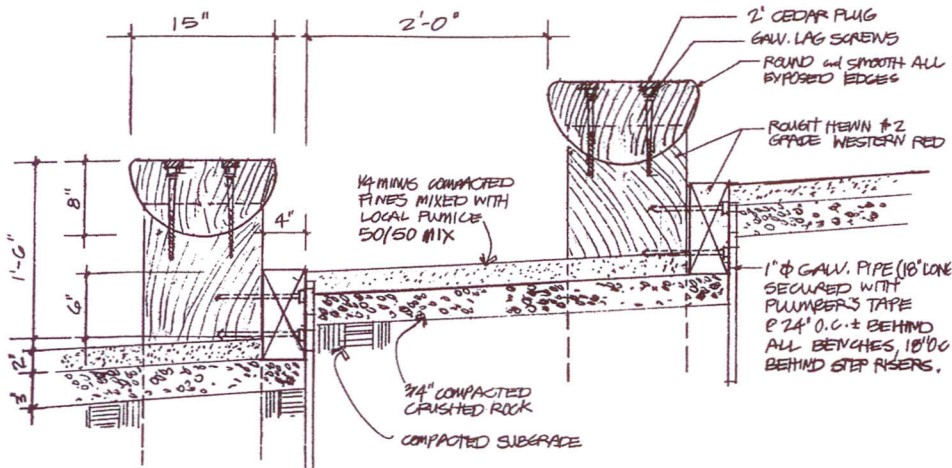




actively involved in the restoration. The State Historic Preservation Office made it clear that we would have to defer to the original design as much as possible—18-inch-wide cedar benches fastened to 12-inch-square cedar posts with 8-inch quarter-round log risers. We also had to make the amphitheater accessible from the lodge, something that the original builders did not

address. In addition, we had to deal with the storm drainage, erosion, and crumbling paths and revegetate disturbed areas with native plants. Finally, we had to get it all built within a three-month construction season.

Cedar is not nearly as plentiful in the Northwest as it was in 1937, but we did find a local supplier who had large lathes for



Thirty-foot-long cedar logs were placed on a lathe to be cut into precisely dimensioned rounds, top left. A bench mock-up displays the “draw knife” finish, top right, and the placement of the benches is shown in section, above. Cascadian Landscapers applied a gravel/pumice surface before attaching the benches, below.



turning 30-foot raw logs into precisely dimensioned rounds. Opting for 15-inch-wide benches versus the original 18-inch benches saved nearly \$13,000 in lumber costs. Snow loads of up to 12 feet deep had to be factored in as well, requiring post spacing to not exceed six and a half feet on center. The original post spacing was nearly 10 feet on center, and many benches collapsed after only 10 years of service. The timber supplier introduced us to a “draw knife” finish, a term he used for a process that pulls a series of cutting edges over the log surface and gives it a distinctive “hand-hewn” look.

The cedar rounds were then split down the middle, cut to the bench lengths with a two-inch-deep dado notch below, and matched precisely to each post.

Prior to any removals or grading, a retention basin was installed just above the amphitheater and fitted with local rocks of varying sizes to blend into the surrounding landscape. Geotextile fabrics stabilized the primary drain channels. We also added a footing drain below the stage and ran it under the boulder walls to ripped outfalls. Concurrent with this effort, the Forest Service donated an additional diversion ditch some 300 feet up the slope to capture most of the snow melt pouring off the glaciers.

Once the posts were set in place, it