



## Design Concept



- Design concept is a “Geode” for the city, a central framework with a defined, solid exterior, containing a magical gem as its inner space.
- Street wall along Main and Center Streets was created due to city’s lack of density and need for spatial definition.
- Mesa Arts Center is the central axis of the city, serving as the meeting point for all four corners of the city.
- Design creates a lively, highly image-able destination center while linking the previously disconnected city regions.



- Formal elements of the plaza are intended to create a poetic statement about the environment and the people coming together in celebration in a family-oriented, active space for Mesa.

## Shadow Walk

- The Shadow Walk is the grand promenade that runs through the building complex.



performances, art exhibits, smaller “parklets” for quiet relaxation and water features for enjoyment.

- The desert sun is the single most defining concept as resulting shadows from the plants becomes the fundamental element of design.
- The Shadow Walk provides opportunities for both large and small group gatherings,

- A series of colored glass canopies, free-standing structures of woven strands of stainless-steel, and raised glass screens cast colored shadows on the ground.



## Gardens

- The art gallery sports a vivid, colorful garden on its “roof” at street level where plantings are actually exhibited on podiums, hinting at what goes on below.
- Translucent colored glass screen walls define smaller, garden-esque areas where people can sit, talk and generally separate themselves from the crowds. These gardens create more intimate areas within the greater public space.



## Water Features

- Paralleling the Shadow Walk is the Arroyo, a water feature whose narrative is appropriate to the southwest: a boulder-filled ditch, made of steps of cut stone and lava rock, runs along the western side of the Shadow walk for its entire length.
- Banquet tables run throughout the Shadow Walk. The banquet tables are long, thin stainless steel tables with a running water slot in them. They are meant to be gathered around, and leaned upon, and create more formal social situations closer to the theaters.



## Plants

### TREES

- Weeping Acacia
- Weeping Wattle
- Swee Acacia
- Anacacho Orchid Tree
- Bottle Tree
- Blue Palo Verde
- Citrus Trees: Valencia Orange, Navel Orange, Tangelo, Lemon, Lime, Tangerine
- Shamel Ash
- Italian Cypress
- Honey Locust
- Jacaranda
- Ironwood
- Canary Island Pine
- Thornless Mesquite
- Thornless Texas Honey Mesquite
- Evergreen Elm
- Mexican Fan Palm
- Date Palm

### SHRUBS

- Century Plant
- Smooth-edge Agave
- Foxtail Fern
- Bougainvillea "La Jolla"
- Red Yucca
- Lantana
- Big Blue Lily Turf
- Green Cloud Sage
- Oleander "Mrs Roedings"
- Wheeler's Dwarf Tobira
- Dwarf Rosemary
- Deer Grass
- Octopus Agave

### VINES

- "Barbara Karst" Bougainvillea
- "San Diego Red" Bougainvillea
- Creeping Fig
- Carolina Jasmine
- Yellow Trumpet Vine
- Japanese Wisteria

### SPECIALTY ITEMS

- Golden Barrel Cactus
- Annuals
- Boojum Tree
- Ocotillo
- Totem Pole Cactus
- Purple Prickly-Pear
- Mexican Organ Pipe
- Joshua Tree
- Bermuda Grass

## World-class Facility Design Team

- BOORA Architects of Portland and DWL Architects + Planners of Phoenix, architects
- Martha Schwartz Partners, landscape architect
- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, theater consultant
- Auerbach Glasow, lighting designer
- McKay, Conant Brook, acoustical consultant

## Mesa Arts Center by the Numbers

- People: 350,000 - 500,000 estimated annual attendance (1,000 - 2,000 people/day)
- Events: 600 - 800 performances annually, galleries open year-round, 750 classes offered year-round
- Size: Three-building complex, 212,755 square feet on seven acres
- Capital Budget: \$94.5 million
- Groundbreaking: May 20, 2002
- Opening: Spring 2005

## Contact Mesa Arts Center

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**MESA ARTS CENTER**



ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOS BY JAMES SINSHEIMER AND JEREMY JONES

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