

Hayden Ferry Lakeside 2b

Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
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Photo: Craig Smith

Artwork: Crossing

Location: 60 E. Rio Salado Parkway

Artist: David Brant

Completion: 2007

Materials: Concrete, terrazzo, concrete masonry unit, water, river stones and aluminum

Description: The concept is gleaned from the rich history of the Salt River, the Hayden Ferry and the Hayden Flour Mill. Near the turn of the century a small tributary ran from the flour mill to the river. The water course emanated from the run-off associated with the water wheel that powered the mill. This tributary was replicated as an abstract, meandering blue paving pattern with an accent of Salt River stones. As the water course moves toward the space between the phase one and phase two towers, the soft meandering path becomes an urban canal in the most abstract sense. The sequence of planters that line the canal appear to be adding water to the canal. The planters are sloped toward the canal as if to abstract the desert hillside water runoff. As the canal moves north, the flow of the canal is abstractly interrupted by a cast-in-place concrete seat wall with similar concrete pilasters that give it the appearance of a buttressed dam. It is this "holding back of the water flow" that starts a dramatic sequence of programmed water events.

In 1870, Charles Trumbull Hayden found it necessary to connect to the nearby Phoenix settlement. This was made possible by Hayden's Ferry - a cable raft ferry. An abstraction of the spirit of the ferry is integrated into the water feature in the form of metaphoric boat prows that appear to come ashore. The prows are sculpted of ground finish aluminum with expressed rivet connections and elements of framework through the use of crafted aluminum angles intersected with aluminum plates.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

Artist biography: Brant has more than 35 years experience in a variety of projects and media throughout the western United States. He was educated formally in landscape architecture and trained in a variety of artistic arenas. For 20 years prior to the formation of the company, IDEA, Brant held responsible positions with design firms throughout Phoenix and Southern California and was a founding partner in a major southwest landscape architecture firm. Brant is responsible for all aspects of IDEA's projects, utilizing his award-winning experience landscape architecture, design and public art.

Artist statement: Despite the continuous change in his artistic style, one common thread unites each project he undertakes. No matter how small or large the piece, it must not only "fit" into its environment, but also abide by the rules of simplicity, wherein each element serves a specific purpose. Moreover, the piece must contribute to the environment in which it lives, both by borrowing elements from its surroundings to create cohesion, and by reflecting a component of the "story" of the space to synthesize its purpose with its environs. His palette, therefore, exists only of those materials that are appropriate to the surrounding environment, and is, thus, ever changing. "The art is the place and the place is the art," he said.