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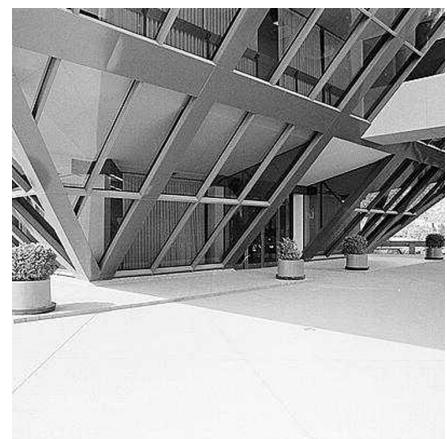
TEMPE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

31 EAST FIFTH STREET

The centerpiece of the Harry E. Mitchell Government Complex, the Tempe Municipal Building is a unique pyramid of solar-bronzed glass and steel inverted in a sunken garden courtyard. Prior to redevelopment, the 300-foot by 300-foot site harbored the city jail, firehouse, library, and court, all in one 1920s building, with additional City offices in various nearby residences. Recognizing the need for new facilities, the Mayor and Council, in 1968, considered options for a new municipal complex. Some Councilmembers, and not a few citizens, favored the Rural and Southern site, location of the new library. They reasoned that the site was bigger and more centrally located. By a 4-3 vote, however, the decision was made to redevelop in the downtown, thus setting the example for all that was to come over the next three decades.

The architect explains the design concept as addressing five critical requirements: 1) a "timeless architecture" that would retain its identity in a changing environment; 2) a complete respect for the Arizona sun; 3) an "open space vista" at the heart of a tight site; 4) open citizen access emphasized by a "walk-in" environment; and 5) "community integration" by having the overall plan "radiate" into the immediate surroundings.

The original 55,800 square-foot construction was completed in 1970, with the 9000 square-foot west Garden Level infill completed in 1986 and the 3300 square-foot east Garden Level addition completed in 1997.





"The construction of City Hall sent a message to our citizens that we were committed to reviving our downtown. It has a timeless beauty that says we are here for the long haul."

State Senator Harry E. Mitchell
Mayor of Tempe, 1979-94

public role: This project was initiated and financed by the City through the sale of bonds through a non-profit corporation, and repaid with tax revenues.

developer: City of Tempe (Ken McDonald, City Manager)

architect: Michael & Kemper Goodwin, Ltd. (original); subsequent additions and renovations by Hofmann-Dietz (HDA), Jon Hamilton & others.

other design team: Hamlin, Mann & Anderson, Engineers (original)

builder: M.M. Sundt (original)

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