

# SIXTH STREET PARK, Phase I

24 EAST SIXTH STREET

The 1.5 acre park was conceived by the City Council as a community "living room," as well as an arrival experience for visitors to the Harry E. Mitchell Government Complex. The design team involved a quilt artist as an integral member, leading to the incorporation of patterned stone paving, a modernist interpretation of the downtown street grid meeting the Rio Salado. The paving "knits" various elements of the park and surroundings together. Elements include a plaza, fountain, elliptical promenade, seat walls, benches, lawns and lighting. Additional stairs and ramps improve access to the Podium and Garden Level of City Hall. The park also incorporates Plazita de Descanso (Little Place of Rest), a "pocket park" and sundial located on land donated by the Birchett family, forming a connection to Mill Avenue.

Future phases will expand the park to five acres, encircling the Municipal Building while converting Fifth Street to a drive-through plaza and visually linking the Mission Palms Hotel with the government complex. A grand lawn will replace parking lots to the east and an "aqueduct" water feature will be added to the west plaza.

The project received a 2003 Tempe Beautification Award of Distinction, and a 2003 Valley Forward Award of Merit.

**public role:** City dedication of existing street right-of-way and surface parking lot; provision of Capital Improvement Program funds for design & construction and Municipal Art funds for artist involvement in the design team and incorporation of custom paving stones.

**developer:** City of Tempe

**architect/design team:** Roberts/Jones (Jim Roberts, AIA), architect; Idea Inc. (Dave Brant, ASLA), landscape architect; Meiny Vermaas, Artist; Mark C. Vinson, AIA/AICP, City Architect

**builder:** Terra-Cal Construction

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