

# Rio West Business Park

## Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



City of Tempe  
Cultural Services  
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Photo: Craig Smith

### Artwork

*Aquifer Revealed*

### Development

Rio West Business Park

### Address

1851 W. Rio Salado Parkway

### Artist

David Brant

### Completion

2005

### Materials

River stone, Concrete, Aluminum and ground blue glass terrazzo

**Description:** The concept is two-fold. The first is the celebration of the Rio Salado's location of a development site through the interpretation of river geology, water and plant life. The second is the artistic acknowledgement of the restrictions placed on the development site. Because of the proximity to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, no water features were permitted as they might attract birds. Because aquifers are associated with water and the artist was restricted from using real water, the piece features abstract shapes to imply the flow of water over spillways and onto a dry riverstone water basin. While real water will attract real birds, faux water attracts faux birds. A series of abstract, wavy-winged birds, of a wingspan of three feet are located atop each light column and a single bird atop the main element. Each bird is mounted with a heavy duty spring feature that allows each bird piece to move ever so slightly in the wind.

**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. David was formally educated in landscape architecture and trained in a variety of artistic arenas. For 20 years prior to the formation of the company, IDEA, he 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 in project theming and story rendition through landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, public art and graphic design.

**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. Be it sculpture, painting, reprographic or photographic art, or a piece of furniture, no line therein exists in vain. 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.

Tempe's Art in Private Development program is managed by city of Tempe Cultural Services staff with input from the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission, a 15-member, mayor-appointed advisory board.