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DESIGN FOR STRUCTURE AND SHADE

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2016 Resource Guide

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FUNCTIONAL TENSIONED SHADE SCULPTURE

Early 2006 issues in the U.S. Southwest spring up like each summer emergency stage seemed appropriate. Established in 1972, Tollman Arts, is one of those emergency buyers, and like many American towns that produce the automobile, the transformation of the landscape by the mid-century concrete freeway system left its mark on the town too.

Tollman, tucked into a far southeast corner of Phoenix, used to be the very people got in and out of Phoenix from Los Angeles via Van Buren Street. For decades, Van Buren was Tollman's main through street, made into a four-lane highway in the 1960s to handle the steadily growing traffic. Before Interstate 10 was built about a mile north. After the Interstate, the diminished traffic flow opened an opportunity that has led to a four-year city redevelopment project, the Downtown Tollman Redevelopment corridor, that has transformed the street into a mile-long pedestrian-friendly destination recently nicknamed the "Paseo de la Luz" (path of light).

Urban renewal efforts include aggressive architectural improvements to the city's streetscape, sidewalks, landscaping, water features, lighting and gathering spaces. At the heart of the project, midway between 95th and 97th avenues, is an open green space and gathering area where a dramatic water feature and shade element are incorporated into the program.

Designed by International Systems Structures (ISS), Scottsdale, Ariz., this tensioned shade structure of gently arching beams spanning over the water feature, creates a focal point and memorable landmark for the community. A complex assembly of compound arching beams and intersecting tensioned fabric panels work together in a dynamically lyrical composition. Eight rectangular columns, equally spaced around in a circle that surrounds the water pool, are casted on slightly-pivoting Ø6000 steel arches and top like a giant's eight double arching beams in pairs of two, each spanning more than 70 feet, create in the same effort to create a square void just above the pool. Tensioned fit between each pair of a shape somewhat like a M four triangular fabric panel on the corner point beam



of steel was modeled to develop their specific shapes," says Josh Schwartz, owner of ISS. "Due to the size of some of these best steel beams, we had to have them rolled out of state and shipped in. The result is a structure that helps to define Tollman, but creates a modern and beautiful destination.

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By Bruce N. Wright, AIA

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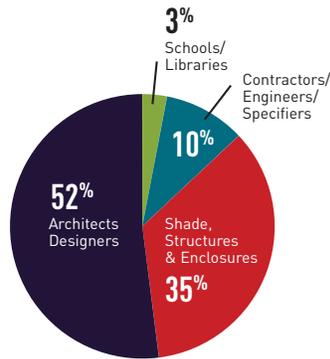
Fabric Architecture

RESOURCE GUIDE

featuring Shade and Weather Protection

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