Grants Branch Community College

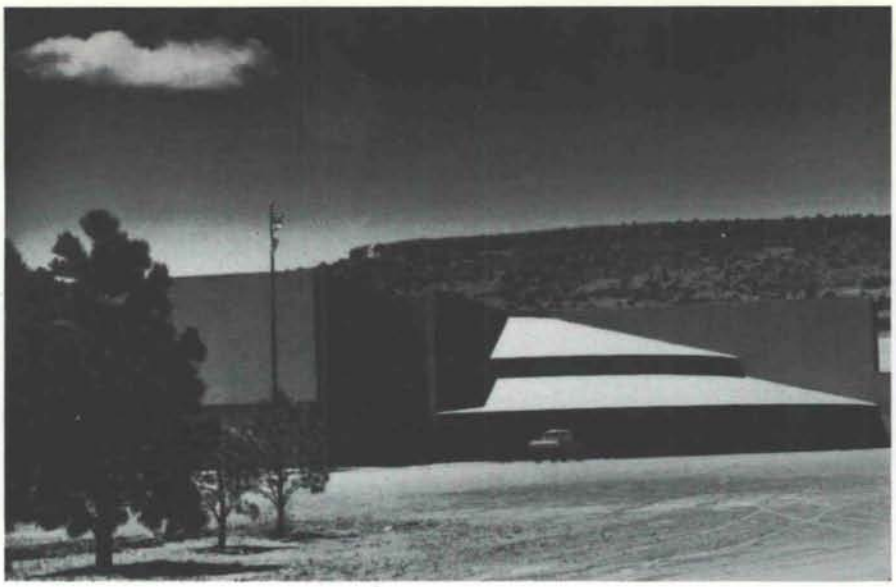
Phase II Architect:
Arthur W. Dekker
Phase II Consulting Architect:
Schaefer & Associates
Phase III Architect:
Alianza Arquitectos: An Architect's Alliance

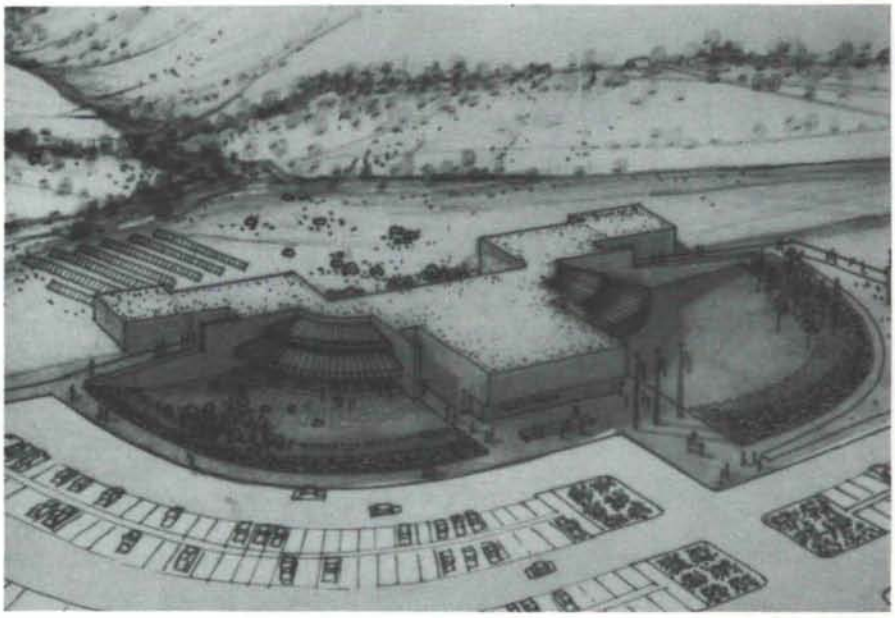
The project comprises Phases II & III of a community college branch of New Mexico State University, serving Western New Mexico. The site is at the edge of a small community impacted by growth generated by uranium mining, and consists of 39.5 acres at the foot of Black Mesa, forming a backdrop for the town. The site, at elevation 6500 ft., offers southeast views to the town and across the valley toward lava beds, while northeast views focus on 11,300 ft., Mt. Taylor.

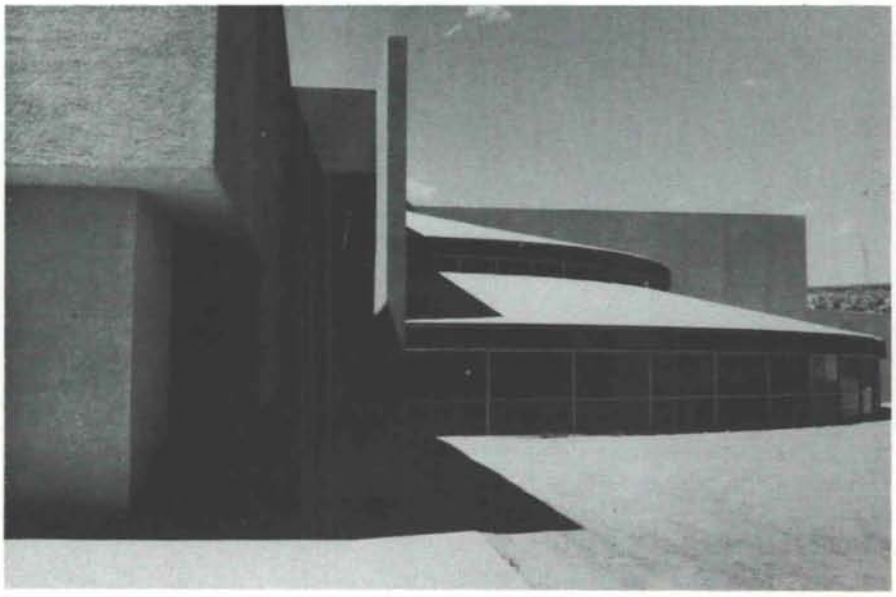
The initial campus core provides the first major cultural facility of Grants. To allow the institution, opened in 1969, to continue functioning, construction was in the central open space surrounded by 14 former Job Corps pre-fab structures, all but two of which were demolished or relocated later. Expansion along the north-south level axis will include replacement of remaining gym and shop structures.

A light steel frame provides flexible space within a thick-walled stuccoed block enclosure. Carefully oriented areas of transparency comprise 22% of vertical surface, 8% of total building envelope, well within ASHRAE standards for energy conservation. The zoned heat pump mechanical system includes storage tanks to which solar collectors have been added to provide a solar assisted heating cycle.

Slope of site allows a two level compact core, while curving sweep of parking area offers direct exterior access into either level. Students and citizens of the community enter according to their destinations, with community oriented facilities on the lower level.







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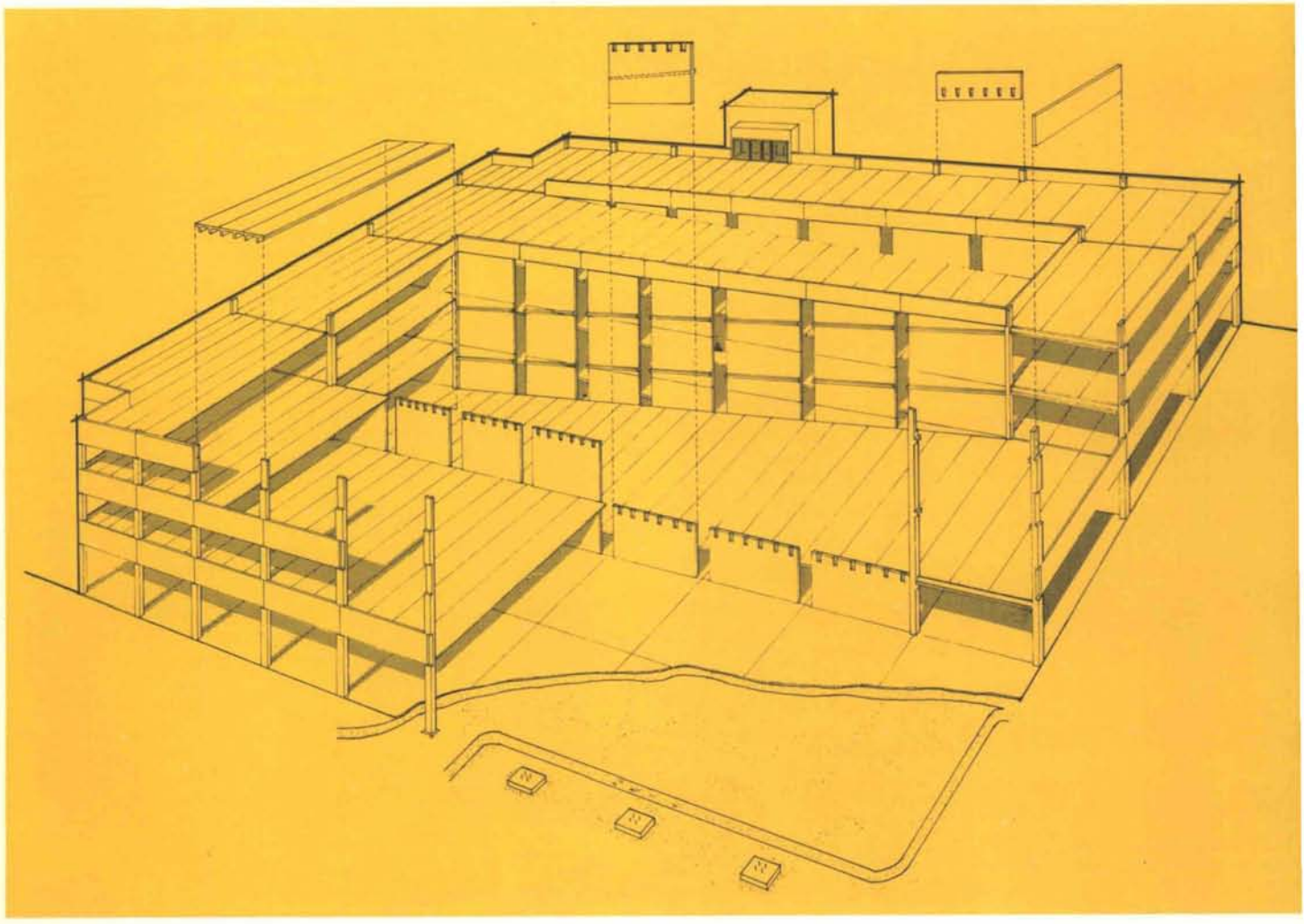

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