Sandia Plaza Branch of The First National Bank

Albuquerque, N. M.

Antoine Predock, AIA, Architect
Stanley G. Moore, Associate
Van H. Gilbert, Associate

Robert Krause Structural Engineer
Allison Engineering Mechanical Engineer
Don Fowler Electrical Engineer
Lembke Construction Co. Contractor
Site:
In Albuquerque, New Mexico, a flat suburban site on formative commercial "strip" next to a shopping center. Views toward northeast mountain range.

Program:
Emphasize the consultative side of banking through the building. Relate to pedestrian customers from the shopping center next door. Respond to regional climatic impacts and views. Make an oasis in the "strip" environment.

Design Solution:
A walled entry court wraps around the mountain view-oriented glass facade. A diagonal pedestrian shortcut to the shopping center passes through the court. The other sides of the bank are closed and the pyramidal roof acts as a prow into
duststorms from the southwest, protecting the entry court. The
south and west elevations are blank in response to solar im-
pacts. The high side of the building shades the courtyard and a
fountain adds coolness and masks street noises.

Inside, the consultative functions (financial planning, loans)
are raised for separation and views to the mountains. The tell-
ers below are oriented toward the view with the vault as a cen-
tral symbol. From within, the bermed courtyard wall height
cuts off views of the suburban foreground and acts as a visual
base for the mountain view. Out-
side, the same wall separates the
pedestrian court from the vehic-
ular pattern. A multi-use meeting hall adjoins the banking
area. Tapestries are used as col-
or events on the essentially blank
interior walls.

Construction:
Sandblasted cast in place concrete walls. Post-tensioned con-
crete waffle slab roof structure.

Quarry tile courtyard and roof finish. Architectural metal-black
anodized aluminum. Bank equip-
ment metal—stainless steel. Oak veneer casework with black lam-
inate tops.
An Award of Merit was presented the architect of the Sandia Plaza Branch of the First National Bank at the Western Mountain Region, AIA, Conference held recently in Estes Park, Colorado. The jury commented as follows:

The unusual form of this branch bank building makes a strong statement in the shopping center where it is located. The building is of concrete, of excellent quality to judge by the photographs, and this material is handled with great appropriateness and with a commendable restraint which the strong and dramatic form of the building required for maximum effect. Surfaces are simple and plain, an important consideration in dealing with geometric forms of exceptional configuration. The opening up of the entrance elevation to the enclosed court and, from the upper level, to the view of the mountains, makes the interiors unusually pleasant, and the coffered ceiling which incorporated the illumination of the entire banking room is handsome. The landscape design uses berms to screen the road from the court and to form an environment in which both materials and climate respond to each other, and in which the banking institution and the community can relate pleasantly to each other. For these reasons, the Jury found this building excellent and presents to it the Award of Merit.
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