A:shiwi Cultural Complex
A Vision for the Zuni Tribe
Zuni, New Mexico—September 2002
introduction

The Ashiwi Cultural Complex will provide a welcoming but stimulating setting in which to learn about the culture, arts, and natural environment of the Zuni people. Exhibits and cultural demonstrations will encourage out-of-town visitors to be respectful, knowledgeable guests, while local residents will find inspiration in the artifacts and stories about their own heritage. A cultural resource facility will preserve important cultural treasures and provide materials for learning about Zuni/Ashiwi culture and past and present. Local residents will find ample ways to use the resources of the Complex for family and social functions.

special thanks
Governor Malcolm B. Bowekaty and the Zuni Tribal Council

consultants
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mission

Goals:
• Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Traditions
• Appropriate infrastructure for archaeological storage, objects, artifacts
• Appropriate infrastructure for cultural and interpretive exhibits and Zuni collections
• Understanding and Study of cultural and artistic expressions
• Provide the place to understand the respectful way to learn about Zuni Pueblo
• Educate visitors of the history and current directions for the Zuni Heritage
• Share the Ecological stewardship of Zuni - historic and present
• Develop a Zuni home for Tourism, Business, and Art
• Education of Zuni youth

The structure of the Complex itself will express the Zuni people’s deep connections to the land. Traditional building materials and techniques will be incorporated into an energy efficient, contemporary design. Passive solar construction and a water catchment system will model these ancient but very modern techniques for both local residents as well as visitors.

Landscape design will also reflect the Zuni people’s enduring association with the natural environment. A xeriscape garden of native plant varieties will celebrate the resilience and productivity of the natural world. A traditional “waffle garden” will demonstrate effective cultivation techniques evolved over eons of gardening. A small peach orchard will echo the contributions of historic newcomers such as the Spanish and others.

A visit to the A:shiwi Cultural Complex will be an enlightening experience that both informs and challenges visitors about the realities and possibilities of the A:shiwi world.
site development

10,000 square feet of building developed over 8 acres of land, A:Shiwi Cultural Complex will create a connection between Bowannie Hall and the Rodeo grounds to create a center for Zuni Commerce and Tourism. 32 acres of property, including Interpretive Terraces, Waffle gardens, peach orchards, and restored desert habitat will educate visitors of traditional and contemporary Zuni cultivation practices while illustrating their connection to the land and resource conservation. The outdoor market area at the entry will offer a place for Zuni artists to present and sell their work. 15 acres will be developed for parking. The development will embrace the continuity of natural habitats and will encourage and support biological diversity.

“The landscape is our church—our cathedral. It is like a sacred building to us.”

–Zuni Atlas
programming

concept plan

concept section
Zuni history holds high reverence for the landscape and resource conservation. The landscape is a spiritual relative that is to be cared for, as it serves as the basis for existence. Through the integration of ecology, integrated design, and landscape continuity, the A:Shiwi Cultural Center will treat with respect the local, regional and global environment.

A:Shiwi Cultural Center will educate visitors by illustrating the Zuni commitment to environmental stewardship about ecological design and care for the land.
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**ecological design methods**

**Design with climate**
- solar gain
- passive ventilation
- daylighting

**Prioritize material based on origin and creation**
- local suppliers, local materials
- rammed earth walls
- stone walls
- salvaged, recycled, or recyclable products
- design for 75 year life

**Conserve and protect water**
- rainwater harvesting
- efficient plumbing
- native plantings
- pervious paving

**Simple, durable systems**
- thermal mass construction
- “desert” living roof
- natural materials
The form of the building is inspired by the cellular, additive nature of the Zuni pueblo, while responding to the climate and views out into the landscape. Comprised of massive stone walls and rammed-earth planes, the building appears as though it is built up out of the soil that it sits on.

Walls project away from the body of the building, reaching out into the landscape to frame the edge of an interpretive terrace and waffle gardens, enclose the market, and introduce visitors in the welcoming plaza. Blurring the line between building and landscape, the axes formed by the main stone walls lead the eye into the museum, and also south and west beyond, toward Dowa Yalanne mesa.
view across interpretive terraces to exhibits and outdoor performance area

view across welcome plaza to the entry, gift shop, and market

view of the Zuni Business Administration with the entry and market beyond
study model
description of the spaces

Welcome Plaza
Approaching the Cultural Center, the visitor encounters low, sloping walls which reach out into the landscape, surrounding the Welcome Plaza. The walls offer seating, as well as define a gathering place in which regional interpretive information can be studied, greeters can introduce the visitors to the experience, and large groups can assemble for entry into the Greeting Hall.

Greeting Area
Walking between two large masses of the building, and along the long stone wall, the visitor is drawn into the naturally daylit Greeting and Entry Hall. Interpretive and introductory presentations will welcome new visitors to the Cultural Center, and departing visitors will have a chance to stop in the Gift Shop. Ahead of the visitor there are penetrations through another massive stone wall, offering slight views to the Dance Hall and Exhibits. Visitors are introduced into the Cultural Center on layers, as though they are retracing steps back through history to learn about Zuni heritage.

Gift Shop
Accessible from the Greeting Hall and the Welcome Plaza, the Gift Shop is a naturally daylit space on the north side of the building which can open to the exterior. The gift shop is located near the entry, affording easy access for quick visitors as well as a final stop for visitors who have explored the Center.

Administrative Offices
Adjacent to the Welcome Plaza and Market, the Administrative Offices provide services to local Small Businesses, home to the Fair Committee, the Arts Council, and the Chamber of Commerce. A daylit entry hall, open to the second floor welcomes visitors and directs them to their respective business. Second floor offices have access to Roof Terraces viewing to the north.

Market
The open air Market is adjacent to the gift shop, providing space for Zuni artists to present and sell their work. Trellis walls and arbors create small galleries in which work can be presented to visitors as they explore the waffle gardens and interpretive terraces.
Indoor Plaza
Adjacent to the Greeting Hall, with access to the Welcome Plaza, the Indoor Plaza is a naturally daylit space for story telling and gathering. The Plaza serves as a transition place, preparing the visitor for their trip through the exhibits. Small, suggestive views of the Exhibit Hall and Dance Hall are permitted through apertures in the thick stone wall, which divides the building east and west.

Interpretive Exhibit Space
Tall ceilings with diffuse natural light and small penetrations in the exterior walls introduce the visitor to the Interpretive Exhibit Space. Luminous areas of the Interpretive hall lead the visitor through the educational tour of the exhibits. Small slit windows high above allow tiny rays of sunlight to enter into the building, washing the walls above the exhibits. Lighting frames permit the curatorial staff to control and modify exhibits as desired. Located adjacent to the Performance Hall and Interpretive Terraces, the Exhibit Hall is the center of the educational tour.

Outdoor Performance Area
Cradled by the large walls of the building, the Outdoor Performance Area offers expansive views to the south across the river and toward the expansive landscape. The east edge of the Outdoor Plaza is formed by the continuation a stone wall that guides the view to the south and east toward Corn Mountain.

Curators and Collection
This area features the necessary spaces for storage of the collection, a meeting room for up to 10 people, a curator’s work room, and general storage.

Performance Area
Passing from the Greeting Hall to the Dance Hall, the visitor moves through a low doorway in a thick stone wall to a lofty, skylit space. Two steps down into the space define the dance area while free standing walls divide the large space into areas of Interpretive, Dance, and Education. A large opening in the thirty foot high ceiling is aligned with solar movement, marking with slots of sun light the annual equinox and solstice within the dance hall. Small penetrations in the walls of the Hall are inspired by the sacred spaces of the Kiva, as well as focus natural light on the dancers.
estimated budget & phasing

phase I a—Visitor Center

**Building Program**
- Phase 1 Exhibits: 1,500 sq. ft.
- Dance Hall - Indoor: 3,000 sq. ft.
- Orientation, Tour Booking: 1,600 sq. ft.
- Gift Shop: 595 sq. ft.
- Market - Initial Phase: 2,000 sq. ft.
- Phase 1 Administrative: 2,000 sq. ft.

**Total Building Area**: 10,695 sq. ft.

**Estimated Total Building Costs**: $2.1 million

phase I b

**Site Work & Infrastructure**
- Entry
- Parking
- Outdoor Plaza
- Utilities

**Total Site Area**: 20 acres

**Estimated Total Site Costs**: $1.2 million

**Phase I Total**: $3.3 million
phase II—Collections & Education

Building Program
- Phase 2 and 3 Exhibits: 1,000 sq. ft.
- Classrooms, Study Room: 600 sq. ft.
- Multi Purpose Room: 500 sq. ft.
- Collections Area, Lab, Workroom: 1,100 sq. ft.
- Curatorial, Museum Storage: 1,500 sq. ft.
- Curatorial Offices: 80 sq. ft.
- Kitchen: 175 sq. ft.
- Phase 2 Administrative: 2,000 sq. ft.
- Total Building Area: 6,955 sq. ft.

Estimated Total Building Costs: $1.4 million

Site Work & Infrastructure
- Viewshed Restoration
- Site Conservation
- Total Site Area: 16 acres

Estimated Total Site Costs: $0.5 million

Phase II Total: $1.9 million
**Phase III—Business Development**

**Building Program**
- Business Incubator: 2,000 sq. ft.
- Small Business Center: 2,000 sq. ft.
- Museum Repatriation Area: 2,000 sq. ft.
- Total Building Area: 6,000 sq. ft.

Estimated Total Building Costs: $1.3 million

**Site Work & Infrastructure**
- Expanded Market Terraces
- Interpretive Landscape
- Total Site Area: 16 acres

Estimated Total Site Costs: $0.5 million

Phase III Total: $1.8 million
Community members, participants in planning sessions, and numerous Zuni community members