

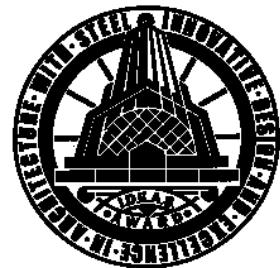


*Innovative Design and  
Excellence in Architecture with Steel*

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*Regional Winner*

## City of Tempe Police Substation



**A**s part of the movement towards community-based policing, a new 28,000-sq.-ft. police substation in Tempe, AZ, was designed to encourage public interaction with police personnel. The challenge, of course, was to also create a functional and secure facility.

### ***Juror's Comments:***

*A parade of playful forms in the desert sun, welcoming the public to a place they'd rather not go. The simple, elegant counterpoise of cantilevered trellis expresses the lightness and strength of structural steel. The detailing and integration of the structural steel details are handled in a subtle manner, which creates an interesting series of compositions.*



The architect's response to this complex program was a low-rise structure with three separate, yet interrelated areas: public; secured patrol; and training. The center and symbolic heart of the building is the community room, with the rest of the functions spiraling out from that central point. "The main building is concentrically wrapped around the community room," explained John F. Kane, AIA, with Architekton in Tempe.

Since land is relatively inexpensive, a low-rise, spread out design was most cost effective for the multi-use facility, which includes a shooting range,

patrol functions, administrative space and a community room. While the building itself is masonry and concrete block, the roof structure is steel, as are the window lintels and some exposed architectural steel elements—most notably an impressive walkway overhang.

"The idea behind the walkway is to provide a counterpoint to the heavy massing of the building," Kane said. Steel was chosen for the walkway both for its airy appearance and to pick up the aesthetics of the window lintels.

A curving, daylight lit circulation

*The low-slung Tempe Police Substation is designed to welcome the public. Photography by Timothy Hursley*





spine facilitates the relationship of the different function areas within the structure.

Topping the circulation is a Kalwall ceiling, which is separated from the masonry structural components with expansion joints. Exposed steel lintels, utility bridges and soffit frames provide detail to the otherwise plain walls. Curving steel pipe is used to define and celebrate key nodes within the project and to add scale to the volumes in which they exist.

“We used steel in the details as a sculptural, space planning element,” Kane explained. Typically the lintels are W12 beams, some of which are curved in plan.

The roof structure is a combination of rolled beams and open web joists with a metal deck roof. In addition, there are some interior pipe columns to support loads in some large open areas, according to Les Selberg, P.E., of Drotter/Priniski & Associates in Phoenix.

### **Project Team**

**Project:** City of Tempe  
Police Substation

**Architect:** Architekton,  
Tempe, AZ

**Owner:** City of Tempe

**Structural Engineer:**  
Drotter/Priniski &  
Associates, Phoenix

**General Contractor:** Sun  
Eagle Corporation,  
Chandler, AZ