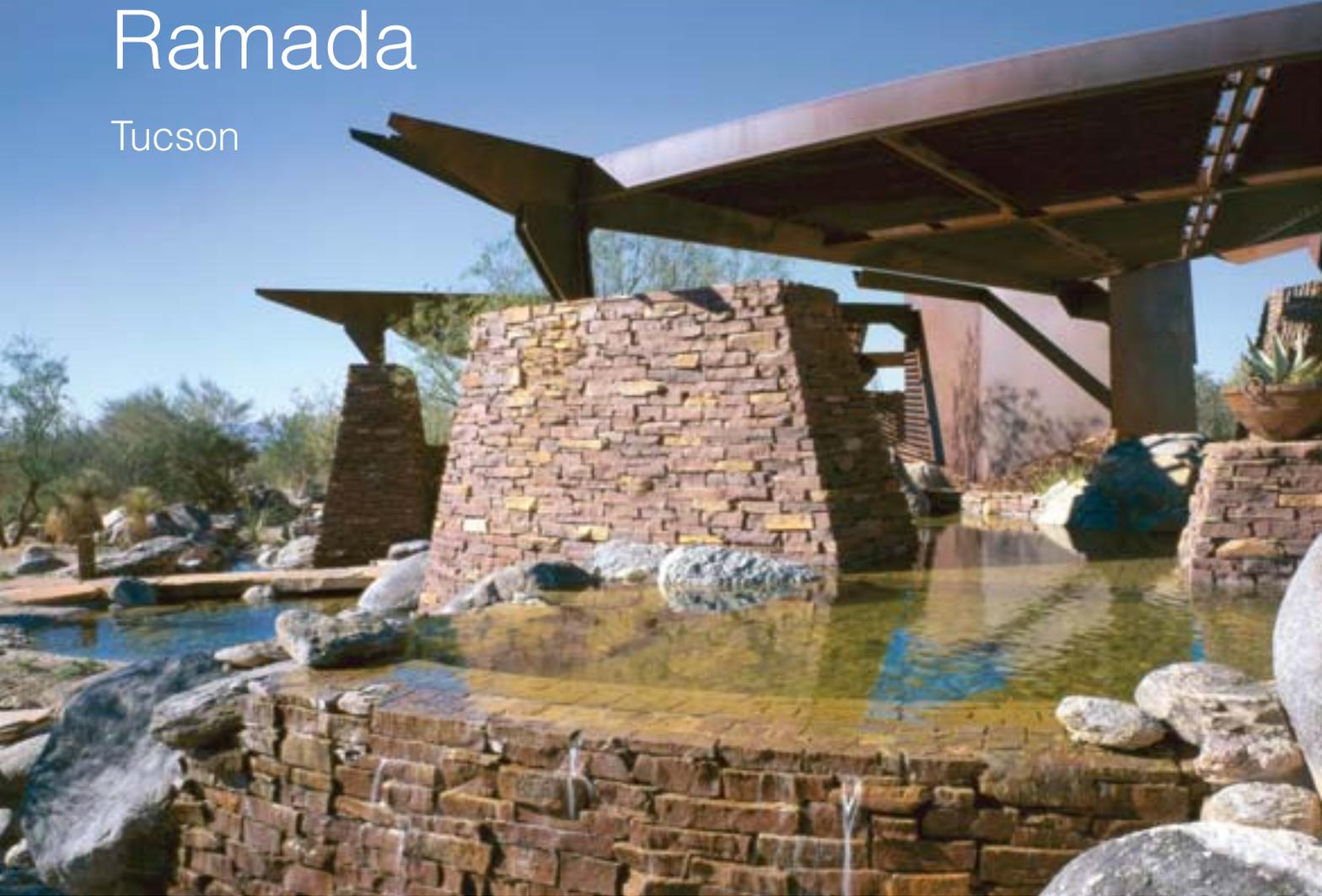




merit award  
less than \$10 million

# Desert Garden Ramada

Tucson



All photographs © George Howard

**T**his composition of rugged steel, rock, water and shadow terminates an entry spine road and sequence into a new residential subdivision.

Rusted, angled building and roof forms suggest the jagged profile of the nearby Catalina mountain range. Stepped walls of stone echo ancient ruins. Steel beams, both angular and sharp, resemble the barbs of the native vegetation.

The sweeping steel shade structure creates a space with void and mass. It is composed of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " plates, and round HSS supports. All connections

are welded, and there are no bolts in the structure. The roof plates are louvers that provide shade below. Almost all of the connections were shop welded, with final field welds made after the structure was erected. Above the louvered roof are large triangular plate beams that were shop fabricated.

This combines with the massive stone buttressed walls, the dynamic of water over stone, and the desert vegetation to act as a gathering place for the community and a destination for quiet contemplation in a desert environment. ★

## ARCHITECTS

Seaver Franks Architects, Inc., AIA,  
Tucson

## OWNER/DEVELOPER

Diamond Ventures, Inc., Tucson

## STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Watson Engineering, Tucson

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Bob Kolt, Tucson

juror comments

“Rich interaction between steel details and masonry piers—steel used in an unexpected way.”

