

# EL PASO I-10 CORRIDOR AESTHETIC MASTER PLAN



VICKI SCURI SITEWORKS 2011

# EL PASO I-10 REVIEW

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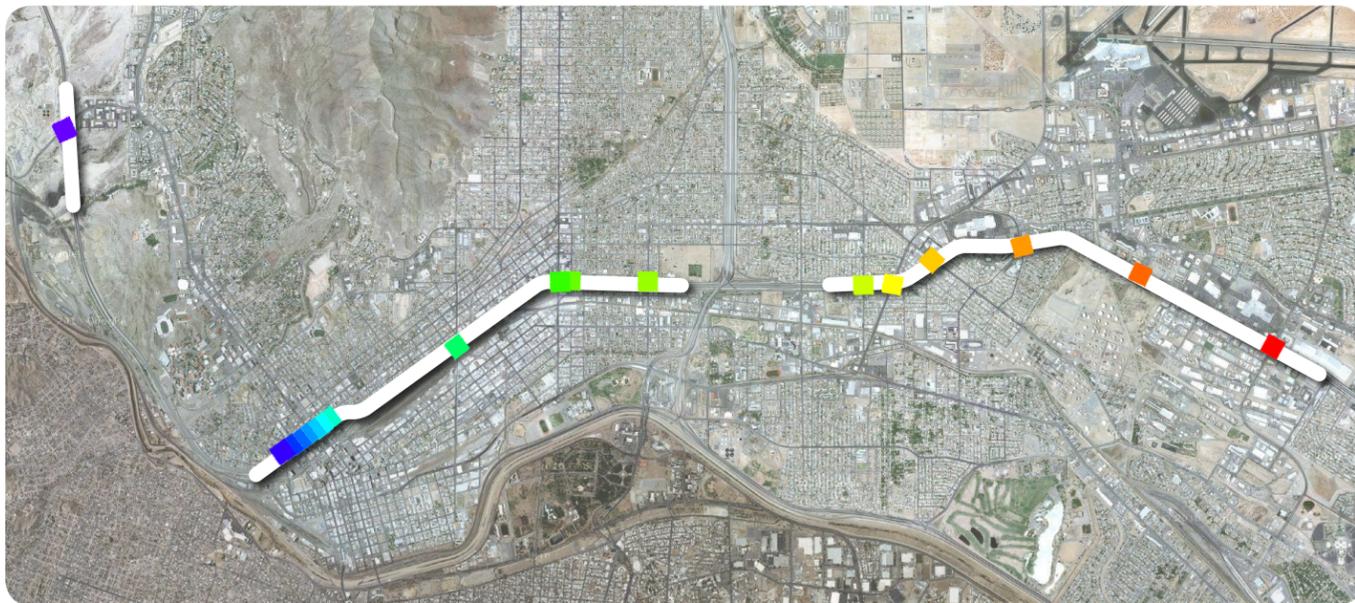
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# PART 1: SITE ANALYSIS

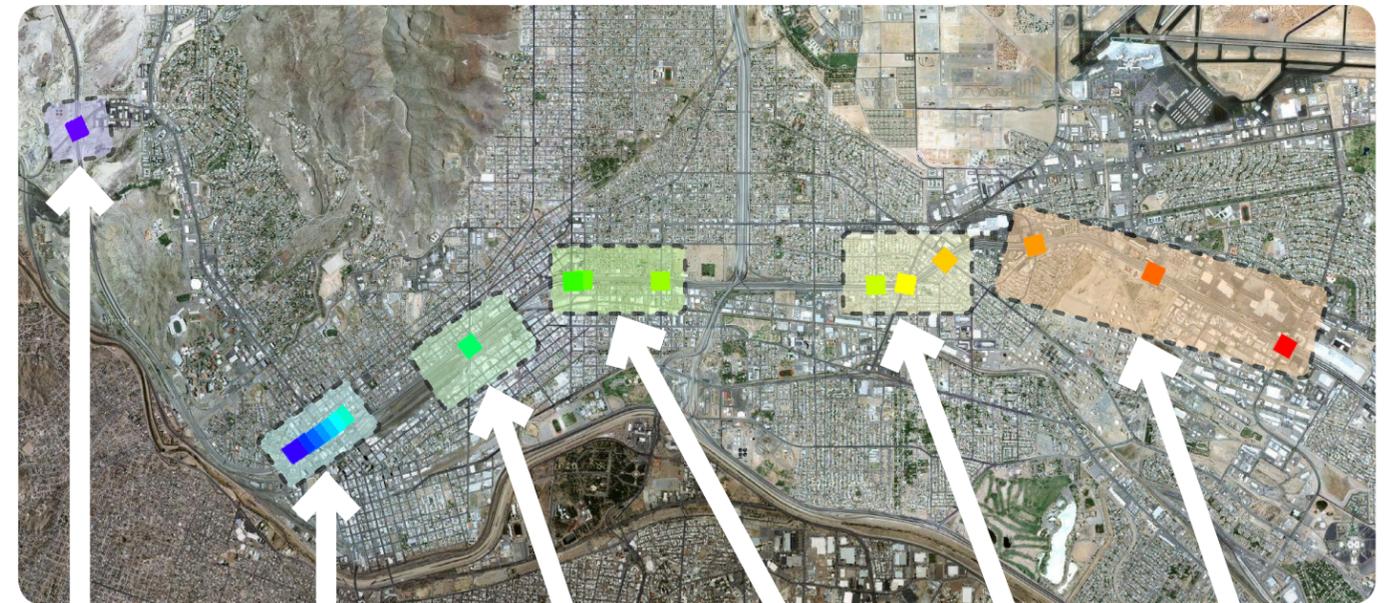
I-10 creates a spine through El Paso connecting the City's many neighborhoods along its length. Roadway interchanges and bridges mark each neighborhood. These bridges, whether they go under the highway, as in the neighborhoods to the east, or span over the highway, as in the downtown and to the west, serve as opportunities to represent the identity of the neighborhood they connect. Incorporating specific artistic elements in the implementation of a comprehensive aesthetic plan achieves this goal. Unifying similar elements makes each bridge a part of a larger scheme. Many of the bridges share similar situations that when addressed similarly will achieve this unity. Furthermore, each bridge must have its own distinguishing elements setting it apart from the others, creating an opportunity for unique artistic expression. This expression must reflect the specific nature of the neighborhood the bridge occupies and promote a sense of identity.

Each bridge exists within a specific context and neighborhood facilitating the grouping of these contexts according to their similarities. Starting east and moving west along I-10; Hawkins, Airway and Geronimo all sit in retail areas; Trowbridge, Paisano and Chelsea group close together, sharing a part-residential/part-industrial area; Copia and Piedras share a residential neighborhood feel; Cotton occupies its own railroad district; the downtown bridges all share similar conditions crossing from the core into residential neighborhoods; and finally Executive sits isolated in the west. Grouping the bridges by their prominent neighborhood characteristics allows them to be analyzed together and for developing common approaches for similar conditions. This establishes an aesthetic hierarchy, promoting an overall vision and approach for the for the I-10 corridor, while marking districts along its length, strengthening El Paso's identity.

## PROJECT SCOPE



## BRIDGE GROUPINGS



Executive

Downtown  
Bridges

Cotton

Copia and  
Piedras

Trowbridge,  
Paisano and  
Chelsea

Hawkins,  
Airway and  
Geronimo

# HAWKINS BOULEVARD

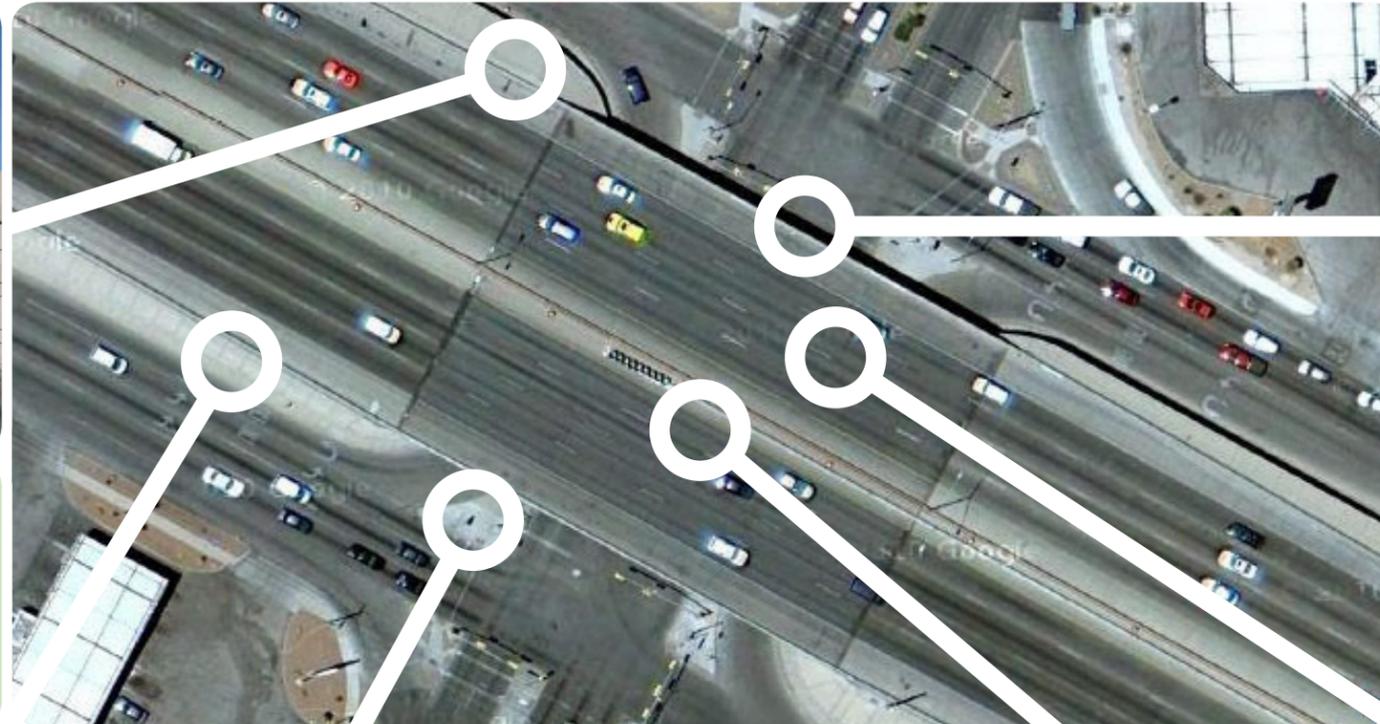
Hawkins represents an important commercial connector linking together the industrial areas to the south with the mall and residential neighborhoods to the north. As the farthest east of the bridges in the project scope it exists as a boundary condition. It introduces the themes and concepts to be applied along the entirety of the plan. Specifically, setting the level of enhancement for the neighborhoods which share retail locations and require a welcoming identity for residents and visitors alike.

Opportunities at Hawkins include landscaping; promoting pedestrian circulation; sidewalk patterning and adding elements that provide human scale; creating artistic identity features on the span and columns; and lightening the bridge's underside with paint and LED lighting. This transforms the area making it more memorable and inviting.



## LANDSCAPING

Swaths of landscaping cut into the slope paving create soft rhythms of greenery with native and hardy trees and shrubs.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADE

The facade of the bridge span offers a location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



## SLOPE PAVING

The slope paving presents a monotonous and barren landscape; covering it with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane.



## MEDIANS

The medians and edges of the site represent perfect locations for human scaled landscape features, making the area more welcoming.



## UNDER THE BRIDGE

Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# AIRWAY BOULEVARD

✓PRIORITIZED

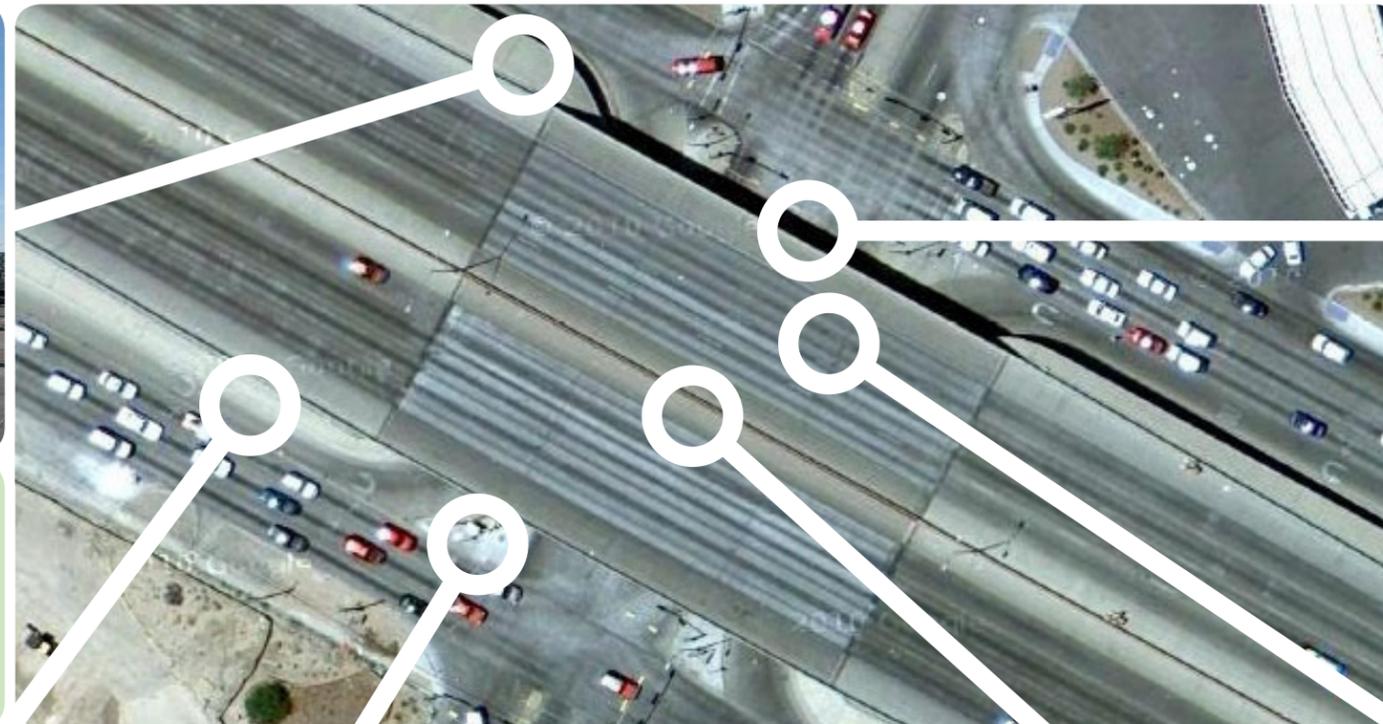
Airway establishes both the main link between the City and the Airport and a gateway for tourists and locals alike. Opportunities at Airway include the bridge span, paint, lighting, columns, slope paving, medians, pedestrian circulation and landscape. Creating artistic identity features on the span and columns, and lightening the bridge's underside with paint and LED lighting, mitigates the harsh contrast between the conditions at the site.

Addressing slope paving, medians, pedestrian circulation, and landscape creates a cohesive concept across the entirety of the project. Adding elements of human scale; using sequential patterning and color to lighten the infrastructure; and softening the ground plane with landscaping and paving patterns promotes neighborhood identity while transforming the bridge into a true gateway experience.



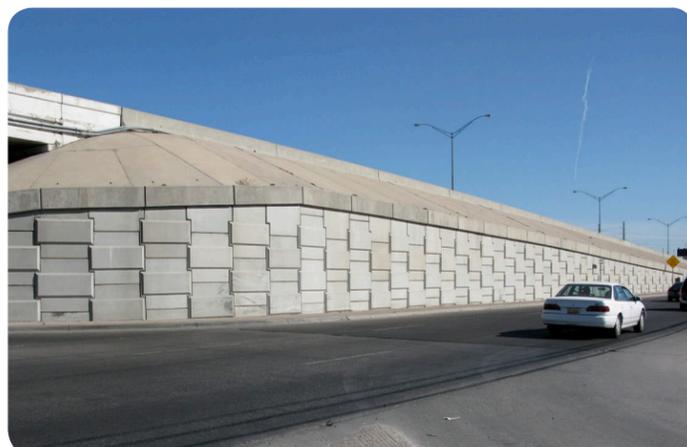
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## UNDER THE BRIDGE

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## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# GERONIMO DRIVE

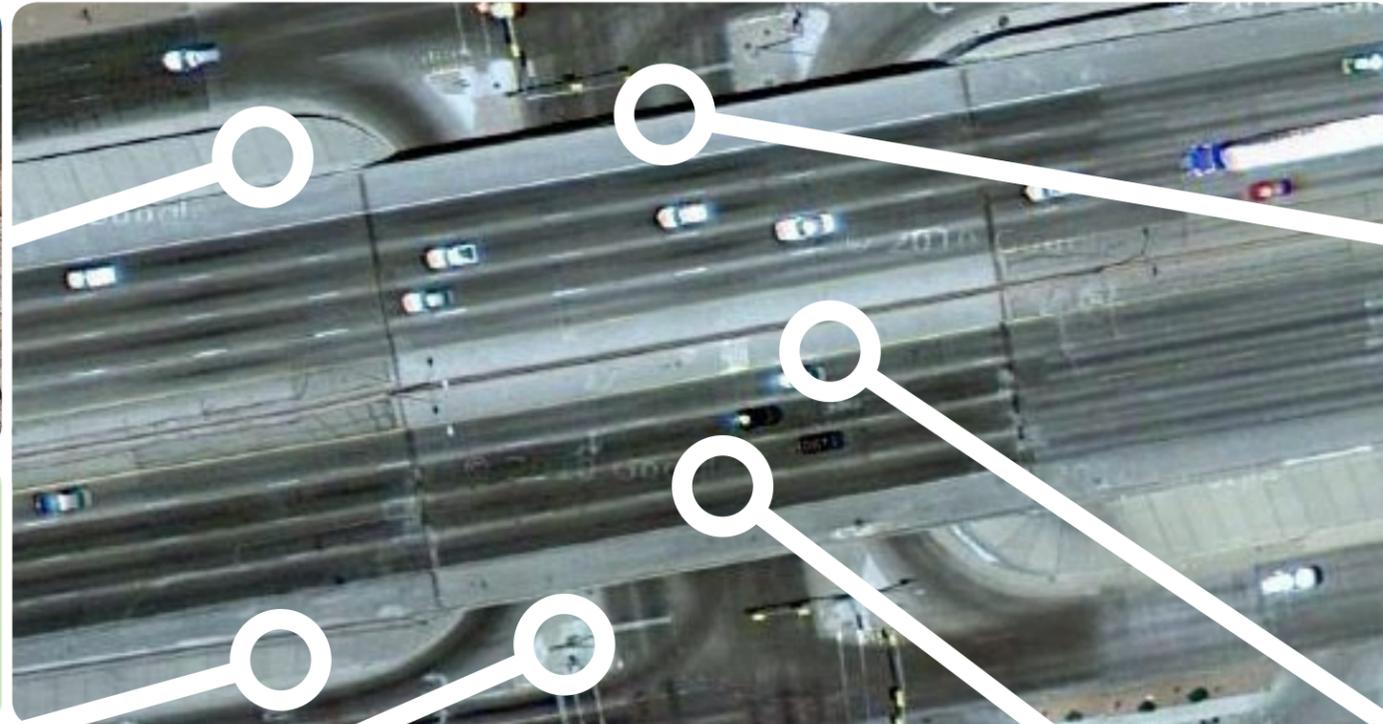
Geronimo unites a neighborhood with a mall, a church, and many homes nearby; creating a community feel with many well-kept single family homes within a few blocks of the infrastructure. Wrought iron fencing distinguishes many of the residences. Nearby, a thriving mall houses many retailers, including Costco, Marshalls, Kohls, Office Depot and many more. Unfortunately the infrastructure feels run down and does not support its community role. This presents a great opportunity for improvement and connection.

Addressing Hawkins, Airways and Geronimo as a group reinforces the area as a retail destination. Opportunities at Geronimo include landscaping; promoting pedestrian circulation; sidewalk patterning and adding elements that provide human scale; creating artistic identity features on the span and columns; and lightening the bridge's underside with paint and LED lighting. These improvements give the area a more inviting feel in character with the rest of the project.



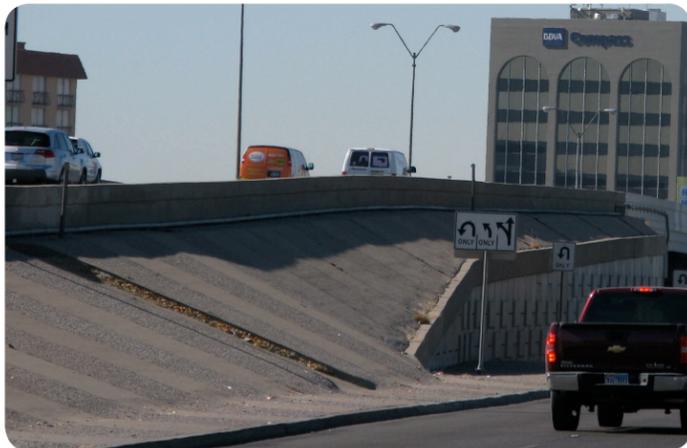
## LANDSCAPING

Swaths of landscaping cut into the slope paving create soft rhythms of greenery with native and hardy trees and shrubs.



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## MEDIANS

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## UNDER THE BRIDGE

Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# TROWBRIDGE DRIVE

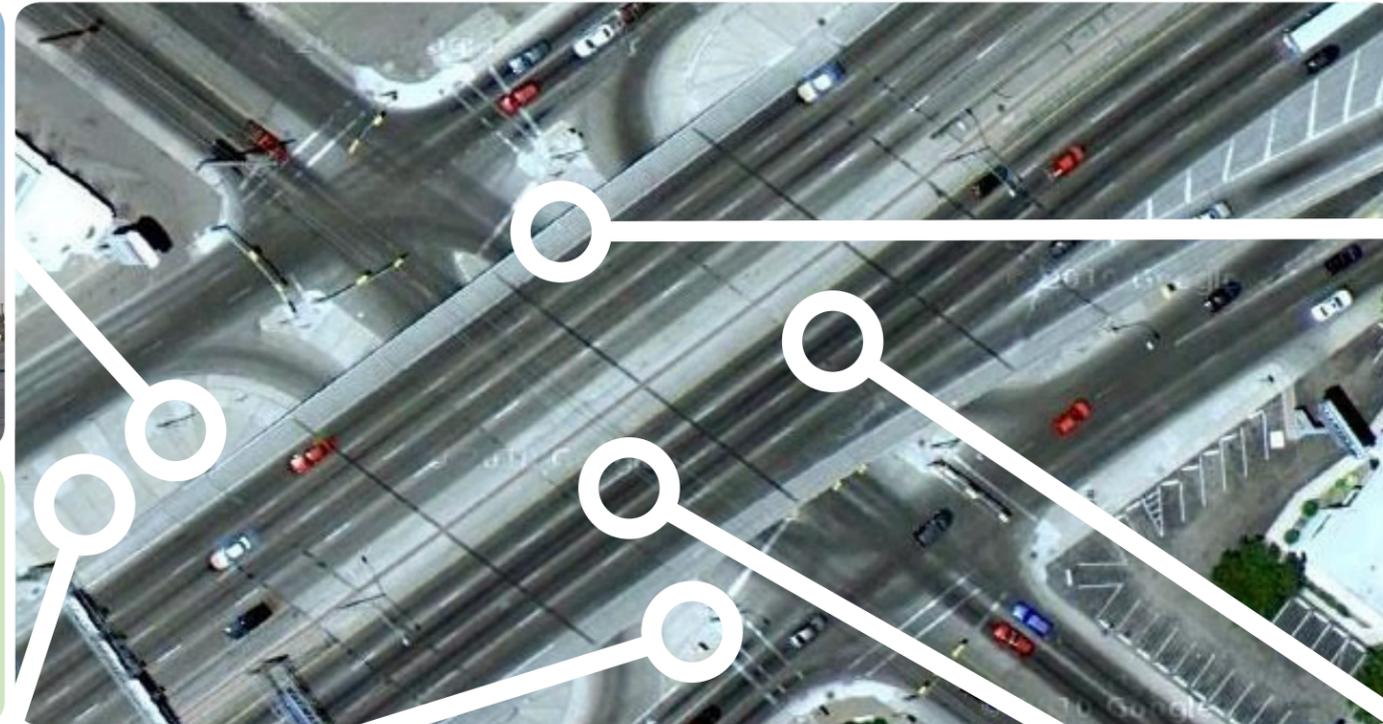
Trowbridge connects the town diagonally linking the residential neighborhoods on either side of I-10. Opportunities at Trowbridge include landscaping; promoting pedestrian circulation; sidewalk patterning and adding elements that provide human scale; creating artistic identity features on the span and columns; and lightening the bridge's underside with paint and LED lighting.

Trowbridge looms vast with many columns and many hard-scape surfaces in a commercial/industrial area that demands a unique solution to create a sense of identity. Incorporating human and site scaled aesthetic elements, in all the components of the infrastructure; and transforming the columns, spans, vertical walls, slope paving, pedestrian walkways, lighting, and nearby grounds lessens the massive nature of the infrastructure.



## LANDSCAPING

Swaths of landscaping cut into the slope paving create soft rhythms of greenery with native and hardy trees and shrubs.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADE

The facade of the bridge span offers a location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



## SLOPE PAVING

The slope paving presents a monotonous and barren landscape; covering it with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane.



## EDGES

The medians and edges of the site represent perfect locations for human scaled landscape features, making the area more welcoming.



## UNDER THE BRIDGE

Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# PAISANO DRIVE

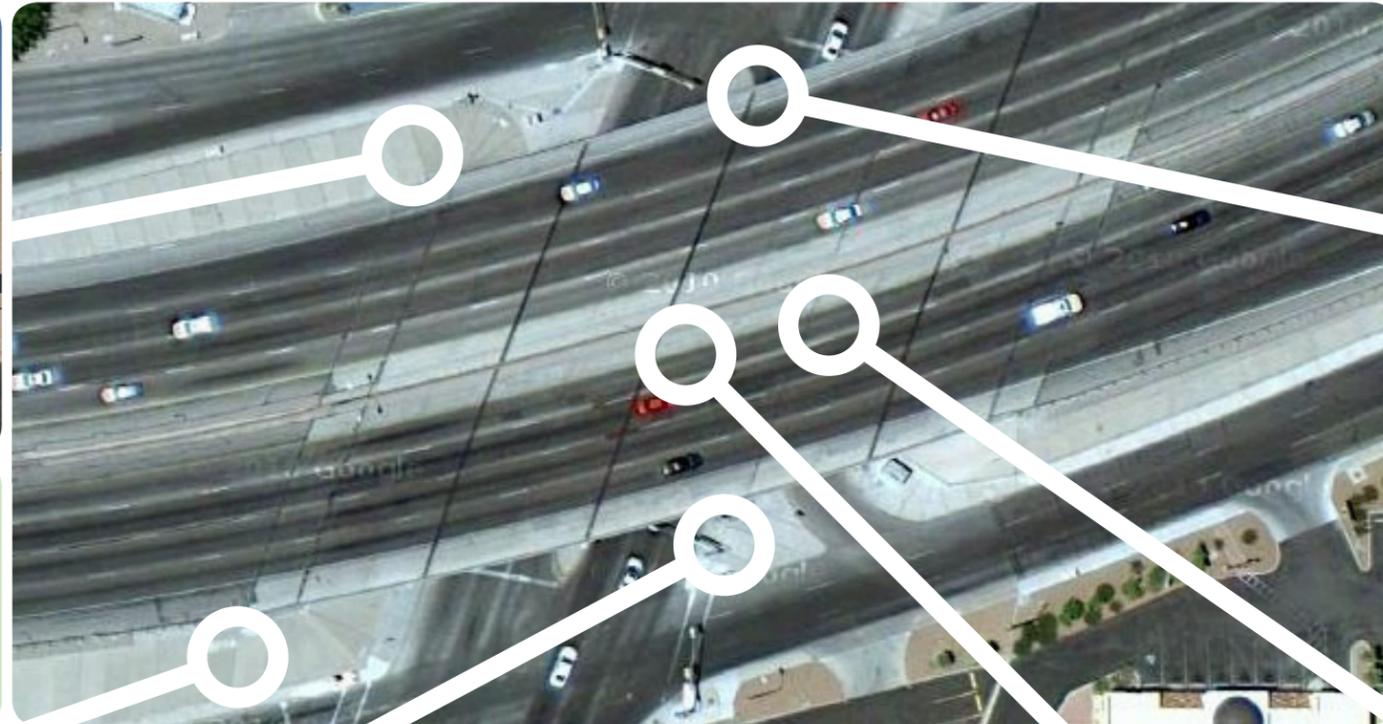
Paisano connects north and south as an important through street in the area. Its large scale dominates the neighborhoods around it. Incorporating aesthetic improvements in concert with the whole concept scheme fits the bridge into its context better.

Opportunities at Paisano include landscaping; promoting pedestrian circulation; sidewalk patterning and adding elements that provide human scale; creating artistic identity features on the span and columns; and lightening the bridge's underside with paint and LED lighting. These changes greatly improve the site making the bridge a highlight on the path of Paisano as it cuts through town.



## LANDSCAPING

Swaths of landscaping cut into the slope paving create soft rhythms of greenery with native and hardy trees and shrubs.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADE

The facade of the bridge span offers a location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



## SLOPE PAVING

The slope paving presents a monotonous and barren landscape; covering it with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane.



## MEDIANS

The medians and edges of the site represent perfect locations for human scaled landscape features, making the area more welcoming.



## UNDER THE BRIDGE

Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# CHELSEA STREET

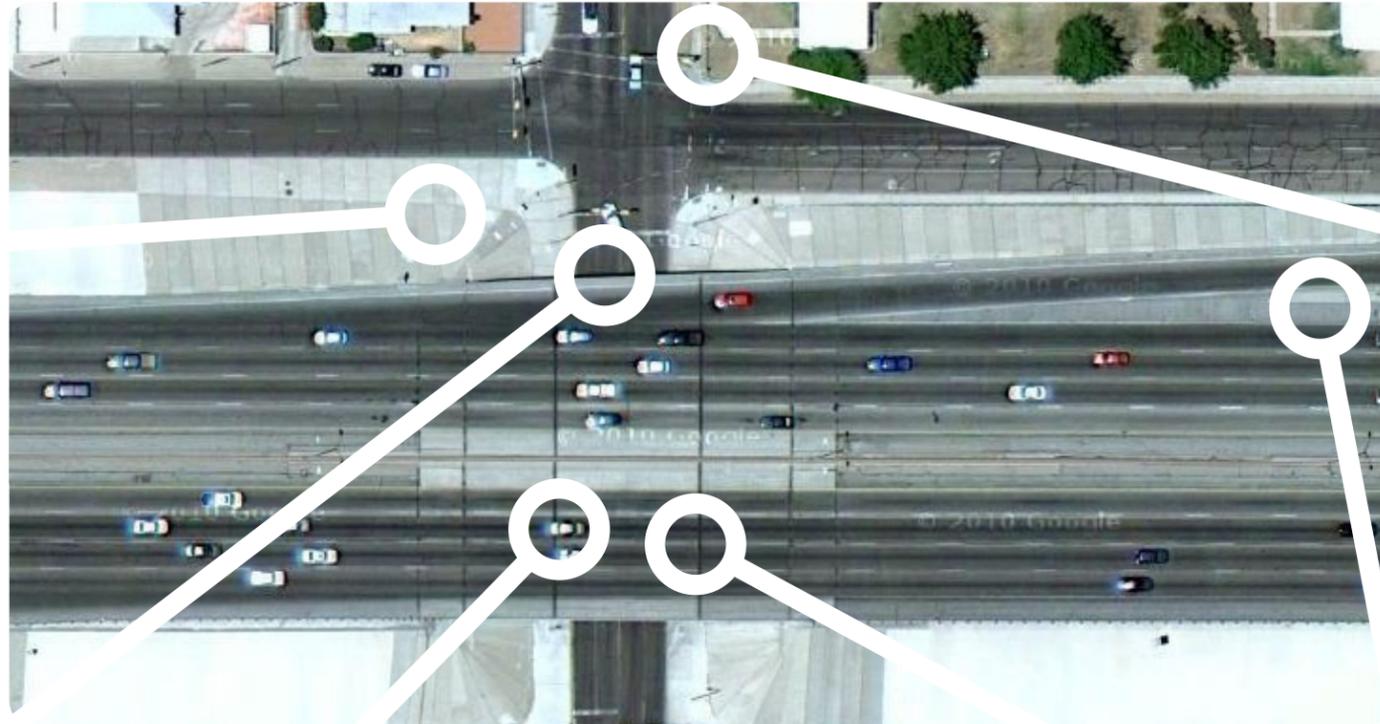
Chelsea displays a strong neighborhood character interrupted by the tall steep slope paving of I-10 and the dark underside of its bridge. The slope paving meets the ground without the mediation of an MSE wall and has an unfinished feel. The neighborhood around the bridge transitions from the commercial/industrial area of the east to a more residential community to the west.

Pulling elements from the neighboring communities into the infrastructure gives the bridge a stronger connection to place and a more complete design. Opportunities at Chelsea include landscaping; promoting pedestrian circulation; sidewalk patterning and adding elements that provide human scale; creating artistic identity features on the span and columns; and lightening the bridge's underside with paint and LED lighting.



## LANDSCAPING

Swaths of landscaping cut into the slope paving create soft rhythms of greenery with native and hardy trees and shrubs.



## STREETSCAPE

The existing streetscape elements provide a reference for bringing the neighborhood feel into the infrastructure of the bridge.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADE

The facade of the bridge span offers a location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.



## UNDER THE BRIDGE

Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



## SLOPE PAVING

The slope paving presents a monotonous and barren landscape; covering it with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane.

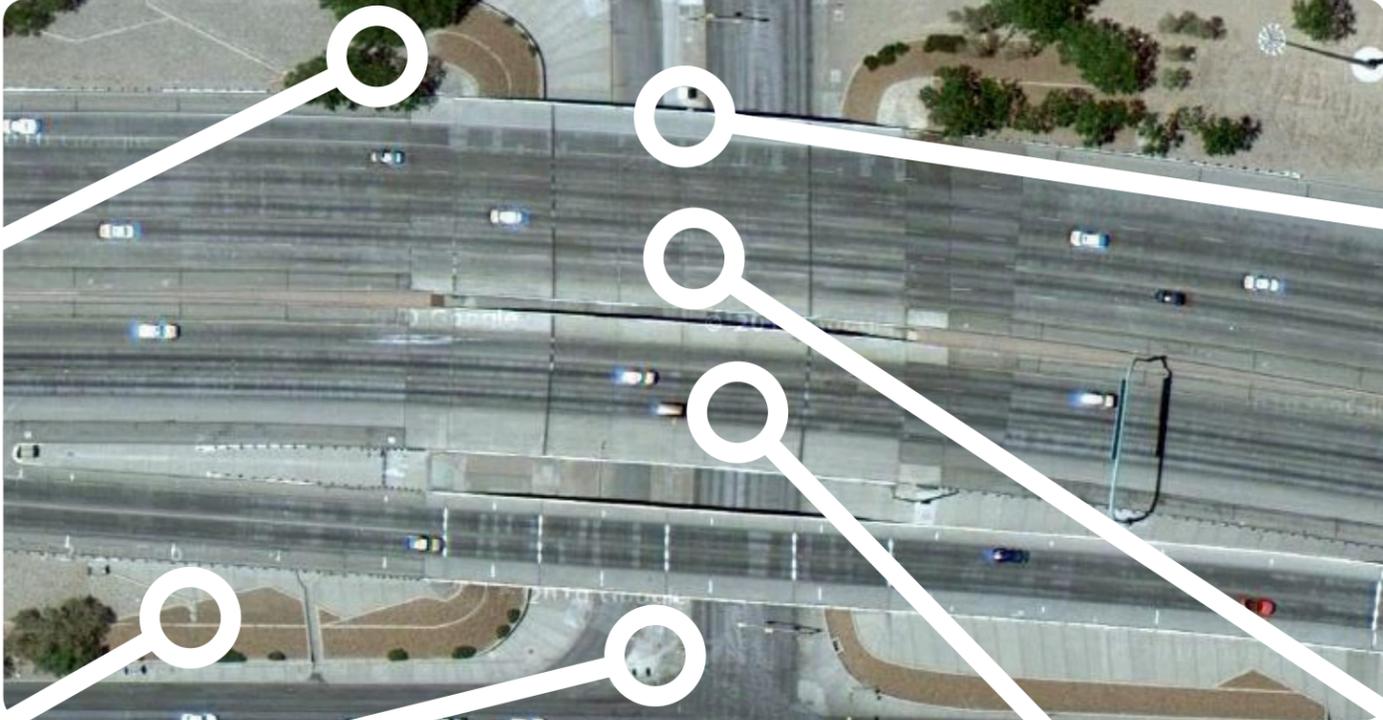
# COPIA STREET

Copia serves as a successful precedent for managing large amounts of slope paving. The use of colored rock aggregate and landscaping helps to create a more pleasant experience. However, this example should not merely be copied and much more can be done to improve the bridge.

Opportunities at Copia include using the span and columns to create artistic identity features and using paint and lighting to lighten the underside of the bridge. The improvements to Copia must not only address the specific needs of its site but also fall within the larger scheme, especially the transitions between existing and proposed slope paving treatments.



**LANDSCAPING**  
The many trees and plants clustered together help to create a sense of rhythm that softens the experience of being on or near I-10.



**BRIDGE SPAN FACADE**  
The facade of the bridge span offers a location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



**SLOPE PAVING**  
Covering the slope paving with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane. Designs and patterns add neighborhood identity.



**MEDIANS**  
The medians and edges of the site represent perfect locations for human scaled landscape features, making the area more welcoming.



**UNDER THE BRIDGE**  
Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



**COLUMNS**  
The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# PIEDRAS STREET

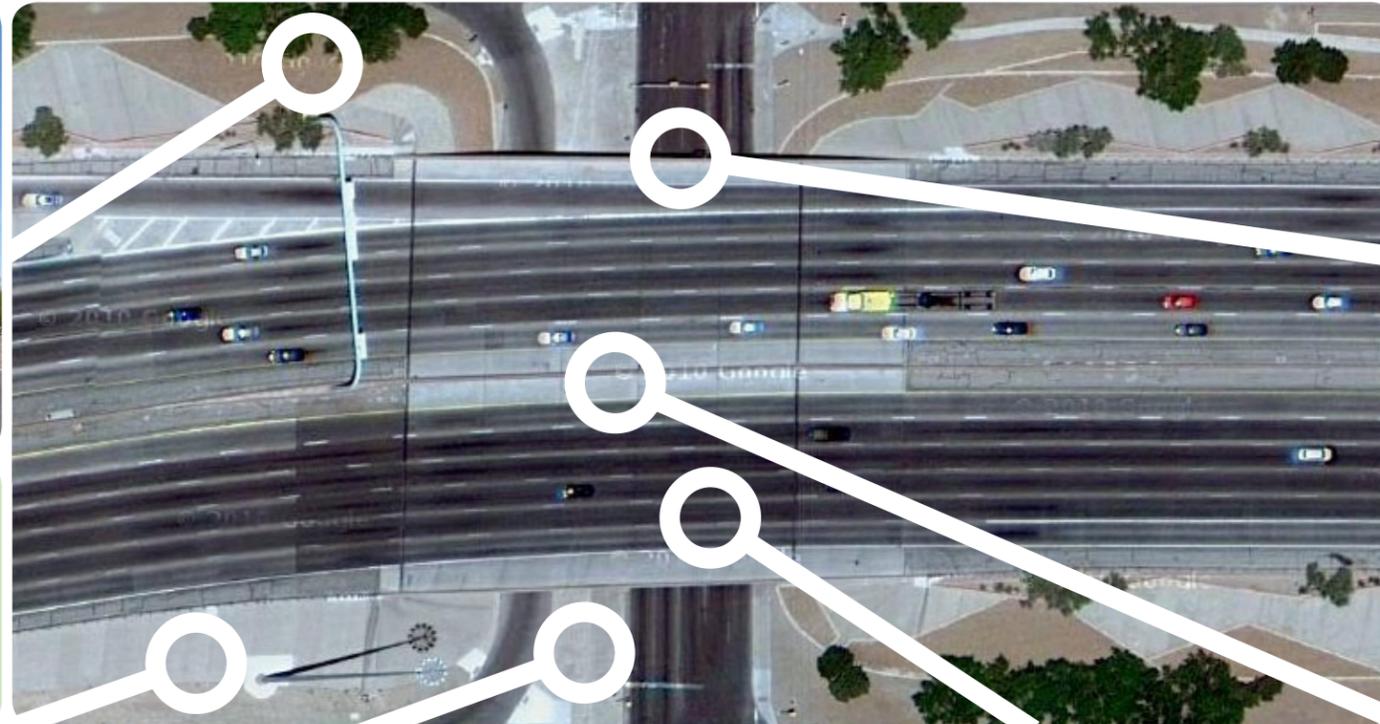
Piedras serves as a successful precedent for managing large amounts of slope paving. The use of colored rock aggregate and landscaping helps to create a more pleasant experience. However, this example should not merely be copied and much more can be done to improve the bridge.

Opportunities at Piedras include using the span and columns to create artistic identity features and using paint and lighting to lighten the underside of the bridge. The improvements to Piedras must address the specific needs of its site while also managing the transitions between existing and proposed slope paving treatments.



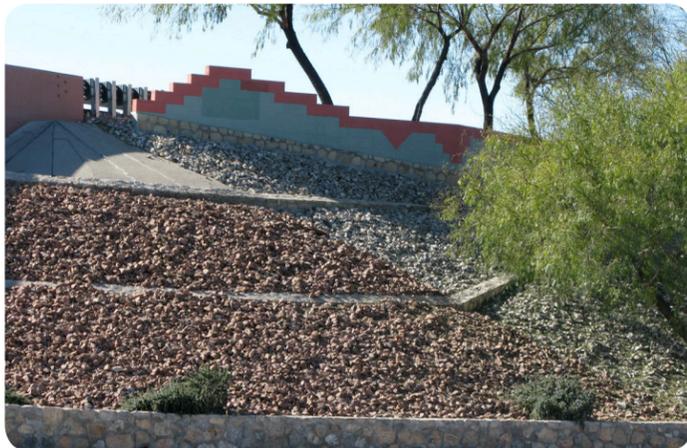
## LANDSCAPING

The many trees and plants clustered together help to create a sense of rhythm that softens the experience of being on or near I-10.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADE

The facade of the bridge span offers a location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



## SLOPE PAVING

Covering the slope paving with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane. Designs and patterns add neighborhood identity.



## MEDIANS

The medians and edges of the site represent perfect locations for human scaled landscape features, making the area more welcoming.



## UNDER THE BRIDGE

Both painting and light fixture choices lighten and improve the feeling of the space under the bridge.



## COLUMNS

The columns under the bridge present a great opportunity to create neighborhood identity through artistic imagery.

# COTTON STREET

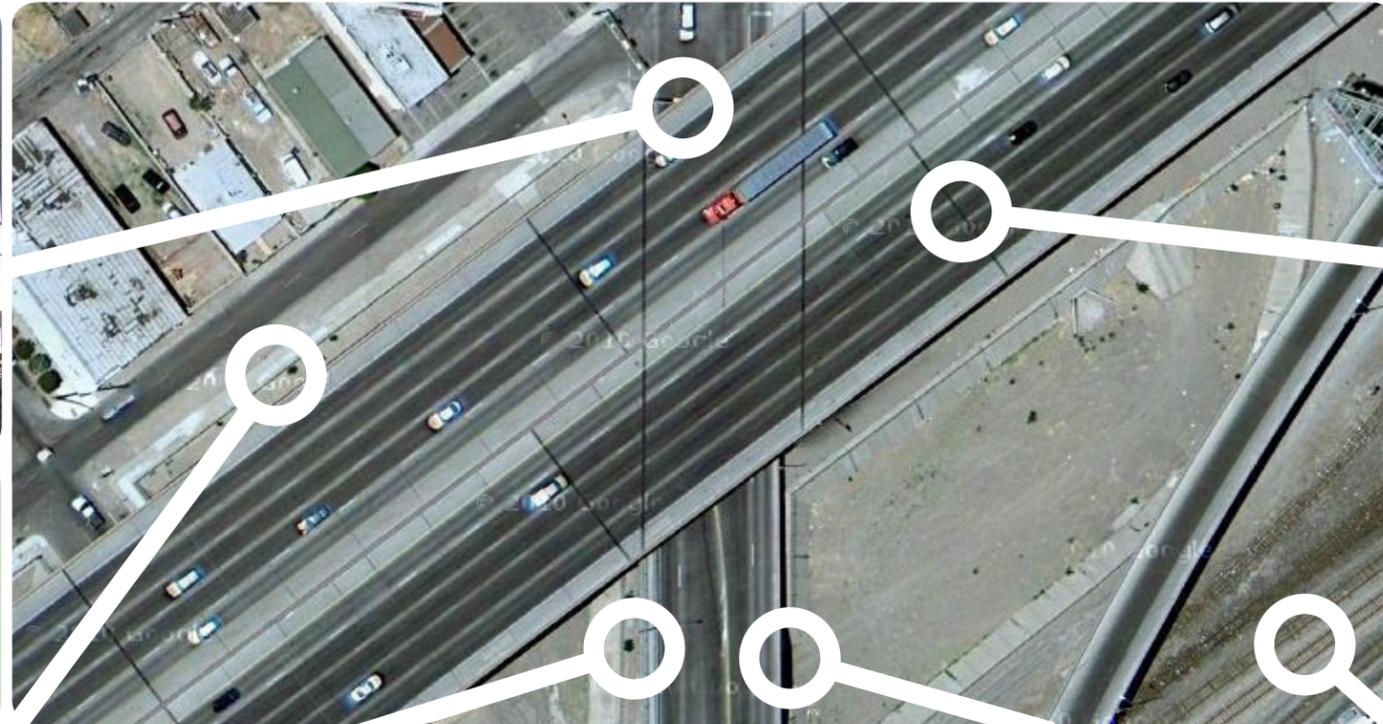
Cotton represents a unique situation along the I-10 corridor. The elevated highway sits on very tall columns as it runs alongside the railroad tracks. Cotton itself runs under the highway and then bridges over the railroad tracks. Aesthetic elements added to this bridge portion of Cotton tie it back to its railroad context.

These elements include train imagery in some railings and arches along the top of other railings. They need specific attention to determine how to improve the existing features. If in the future the train yard moves, the underside of the highway and its columns become valuable place making elements.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADE

The facade of the bridge span offers another location to implement an artistic intervention to create a sense of place.



## COLUMN FIELD

The column field under the highway offers a large opportunity for artistic intervention to add interest to an otherwise dead space.



## EDGES

Planting in the medians and edges of the underside of the bridge masks its height and dominating appearance.



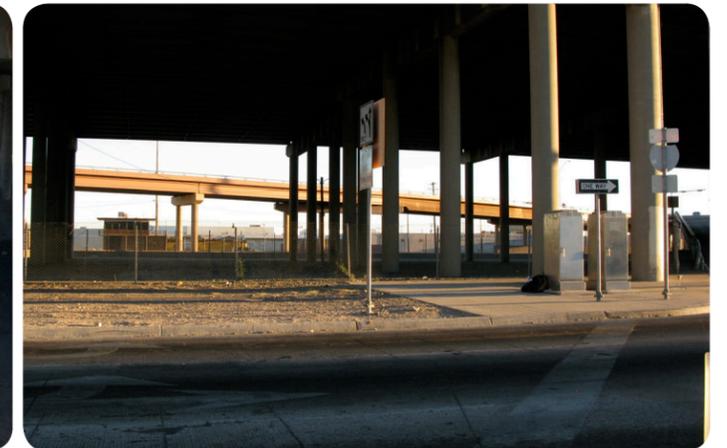
## GRAPHIC RAILING

The existing railing with the train graphics necessitates review to incorporated it into the total design scheme.



## LANDSCAPING

Landscaping will improve the barren nature of the drainage ditch transforming it into a verdant bio-retention swale.



## RAIL YARD

If the rail yard becomes vacant, its future form must include possible community uses incorporated into the total design scheme.

# RAILROAD ARCHES

✓PRIORITIZED

The arches along the south side of 1-10 bordering the rail yard stand as a defining icon in this area. They welcome those traveling west into the downtown and follow those exiting downtown from East Franklin. The fifteen groups of three arches march along the railroad and reflect the arches of the Old Train Depot. A decorative gate marks each end of the array of arches. When they were installed, more than fifteen years ago, a system of fiber optics created a light show that animated the arches at night.

Now the arches stand in disrepair. The lights no longer function. The steel structures are rusty. Still the idea of the arches presents a great opportunity to create identity along the highway. If rebuilt they will once again make an evocative statement. The arches, railings and their supports must be removed and reconstructed with modern lighting technology. Other improvements include landscaping the medians and along the fence.



## GATES

The gates at the beginning and end of the arch sequence use forms reminiscent of El Paso's wrought iron metalwork.



## ARCHES FRONT

The roadside arches once housed a dramatic lighting feature that sequenced and changed colors. Many locals recall this feature.



## MEDIANS

The medians and edges of the site represent opportunities for vehicular scaled landscape features, making a welcoming gesture.



## OLD TRAIN DEPOT

The Old Train Depot displays a striking array of arches that serve as a reference for the metal decorative arches along the roadway.



## ARCHES BACK

The backside of the arches face an empty lot that would benefit from landscaping.



## ARCH DETAIL

The rusty arches and railings need replacing which requires the complete rebuilding of the brick supports.

# DOWNTOWN BRIDGES

✓PRIORITIZED

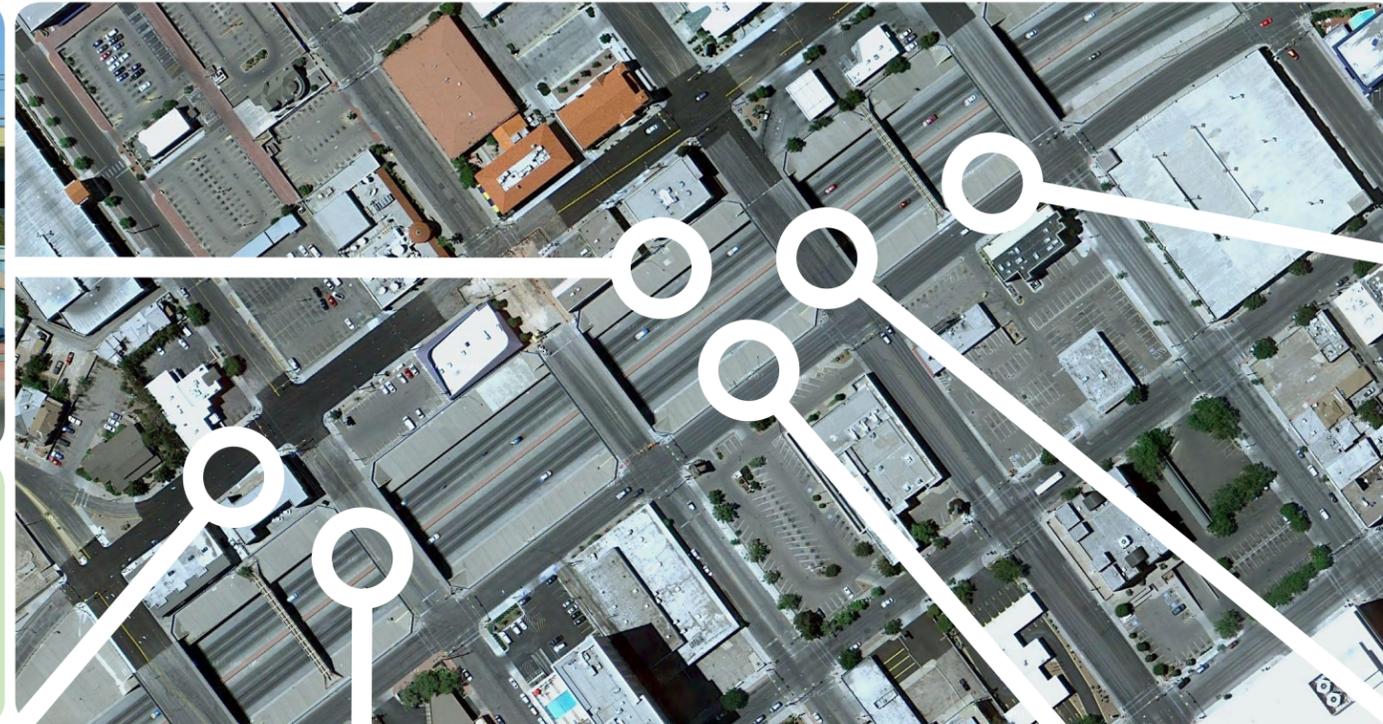
Downtown is a unique situation along the I-10 corridor. The highway is depressed below the grade of the street grid resulting in many bridge crossings over I-10. Previous aesthetic efforts made to this area of highway include painting the bridges many colors and painting murals on the walls.

Whatever design measures are taken in the downtown, they must serve to unify it with the greater design scheme while also highlighting its importance as the center of the urban experience. Rethinking color, railings, lighting, and slope paving is key to success downtown.



## MURALS

The murals on the roadway walls are figurative symbols in bold colors that need to be updated for a contemporary urban space.



## SLOPE PAVING

The slope paving presents a monotonous and barren landscape; covering it with rock creates a visually compelling ground plane.



## BRIDGE SPAN FACADES

The facades of the bridge spans are painted in many light pastel colors and need to be refreshed to relate to the murals.



## LIGHTING

Lighting along the roadway presents an opportunity to create dramatic identity elements that add life to the bridges.



## LANDSCAPING

Swaths of landscaping cut into the slope paving create soft rhythms of greenery with native and hardy trees and shrubs.

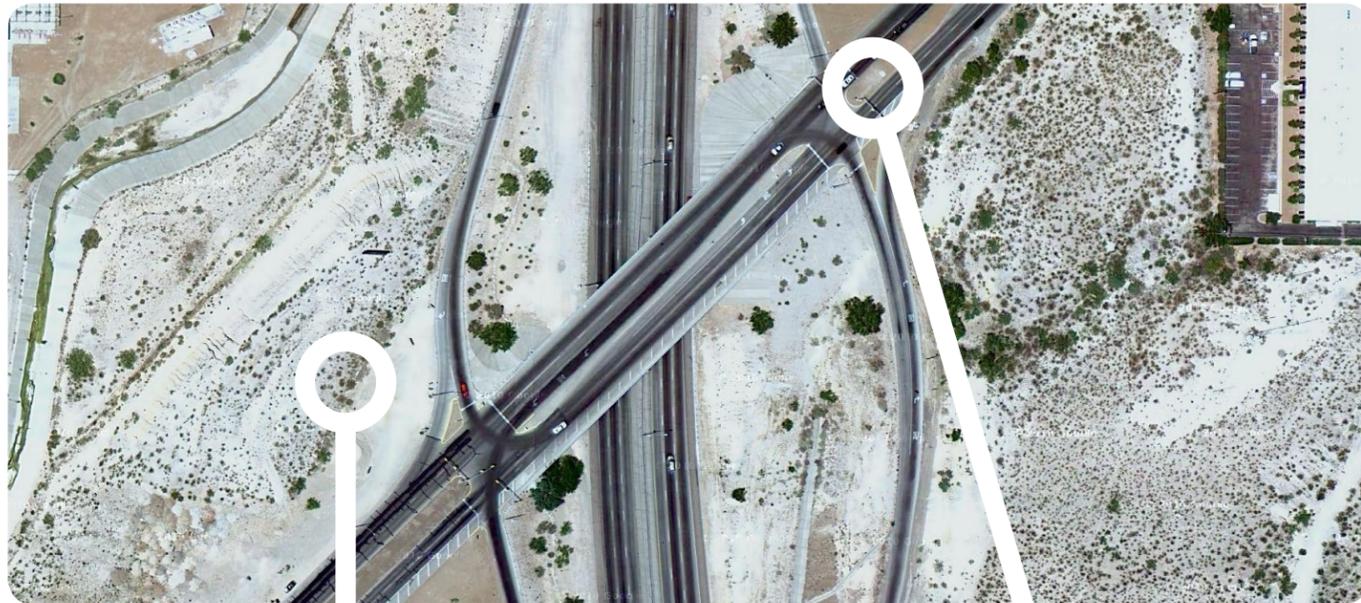


## RAILINGS

The railings of the bridges can be improved to create a sense of place, designing them to relate to context will tie them to the city.

# EXECUTIVE CENTER BOULEVARD

Executive represents a unique situation along the I-10 corridor. The surrounding landscape grows in a natural manner creating a powerful sense of place. The native plants and trees soften the hard edges of the infrastructure and blend it into the landscape. However, the medians feel too manicured and contradict the adjacent landscape. Approaching the medians with the same concept as the nearby landscape reinforces the total scheme. As the farthest west bridge on the project scope, Executive serves as an introduction to the city.



## LANDSCAPING

The natural landscape presents a successful precedent for the I-10 corridor, using trees and native plants to soften the infrastructure.



## MEDIANS

These medians offer a precedent for stone, but the plants are too controlled. A natural expression ties the medians to the landscape.

# SITE REVIEW SUMMARY

The bridges share more in common across the scope of the I-10 corridor than they differ. This makes it easier to apply a cohesive scheme to improve them aesthetically. Improving their slope paving, landscaping and infrastructure in similar treatments unifies the total experience.

The bridges to the east all act similarly as the highway bridges over the neighborhood streets. It makes sense to treat these locations similarly within a larger plan.

The bridges at the rail yard, downtown and to the west represent unique situations and must be considered on their own while fitting into the total plan.

Positioned into the cohesive aesthetic scheme, each bridge must also

appear as a distinct element within the larger plan. Because the bridges read as indistinguishable from each other, they lack a sense of place. Any aesthetic applications must create a specific identity for each bridge.

The bridge facades, columns and lighting schemes are key opportunities to make these specific identity statements. Each bridge must make its own statement, but they all must also speak the same aesthetic language.

Many of the proposed solutions already exist in and around El Paso as demonstrated in the following precedents. Following and drawing influence from these successful examples helps to tie the scheme back into the local context.

# PART 2: DIAGRAMMING

To be successful, a cohesive scheme applied across the whole corridor must pull together many elements while allowing for unique expressions. Carefully considering each of the elements maximizes their potential within the scheme. By compiling and analyzing precedent examples, a sense of what others have done can be gained. This knowledge of previous work influences and inspires the direction of future planning. These ideas for designs then get diagrammed out to understand the possible successful variations. The diagrams allow for a general understanding of a design before it gets specifically refined. Then the diagrams get placed in a composite to see them in site.

Each bridge, named in columns across the top, presents opportunities for aesthetic improvements, named in rows down the side. The boxes filled with color represent a specific opportunity existing at a specific bridge. Later, the book illustrates each element of aesthetic improvement. Refer to the following pages for guidance in choosing and applying these improvements to the bridges.

## AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS

	FIRST PRIORITY			10 to 20 Year Plan Ranked by Priority								
	Airway \$ 10 M	Downtown \$ 44.5 M	RR Arches \$ 1.8 M	Hawkins \$ 10 M	Executive \$ 12 M	Geronimo \$ 10 M	Trowbridge \$ 20 M	Paisano \$ 15 M	Chelsea \$ 10 M	Copia \$ 20 M	Piedras \$ 10 M	Cotton \$ 8 M
Slope Paving	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	
Landscaping Including Walls	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Medians	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Neighborhood Identity	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple
Facades	Light Blue	Light Blue		Light Blue		Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Columns	Pink	Pink		Pink		Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink
Lighting	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Walkways	Orange	Orange		Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Abutments	Blue			Blue		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Walls (MSE and Cast in Place)	Grey	Grey		Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Railings		Light Green	Light Green									Light Green

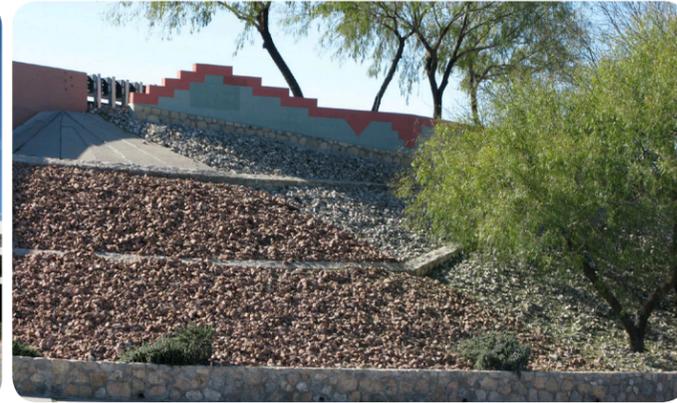
# SLOPE PAVING

The ubiquitous slope paving represents the largest area for aesthetic enhancement along I-10. Adding local rock on top of the slope paving or painting it creates color and textural interest.

## PRECEDENTS



The rock aggregate at Copia serves as a good precedent example for informing future slope paving design solutions.



The many colors and textures of rock aggregate at Piedras represent a good precedent for future design solutions.



Rock aggregate in many colors placed on the slope in a shape or motif adds visual interest to the sides of the roads.



The contrast between the colors can vary creating different visual expressions; high contrast creates a more graphic look.



Colored rock aggregate creates a texturally dynamic surface that softens the slope paving making it pleasant looking.



The field of stone relates the ground plane back to the local natural geology enhancing the sense of place.



Phoenix's Black Canyon freeway uses slope paving much like that on the I-10 corridor creating a barren un-welcoming experience.



Another solution involves using gabion wire mattresses filled with local rocks and placed directly on top of the slope paving.



Gabions require less maintenance than rock aggregate and have easier access once built; giving a clean controlled look.



However, removing and replacing it with landscaping and rock aggregate creates a better, more inviting sense of place.

# LANDSCAPING

## PRECEDENTS

Local and hardy trees and plants create a sustainable landscape along the I-10 corridor once the slope paving gets cut to allow for the planting of landscaping.



Trees create a sense of verticality that in concert with shrubs, walls and rocks add a dramatic improvement to a site.



Large rocks and boulders add a geologic weight to a site and work to anchor the landscaping.



Even spread across a field of rock aggregate, trees, large rocks and shrubs give a powerful effect.



El Paso has a beautiful array of native plants and a natural approach to landscaping creates a connection to place.



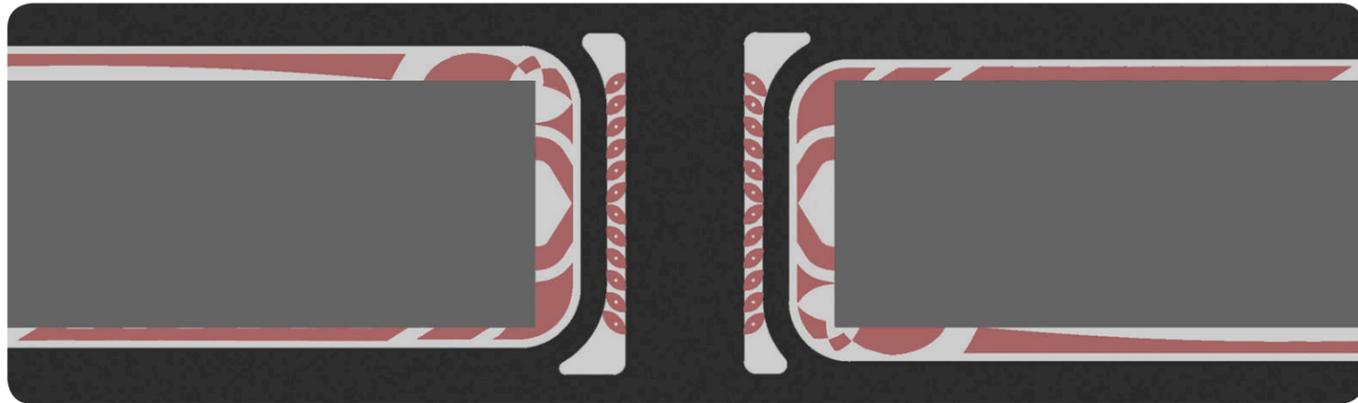
Dramatic lines of landscaping add powerful gestures to the site that requires a specific focus.



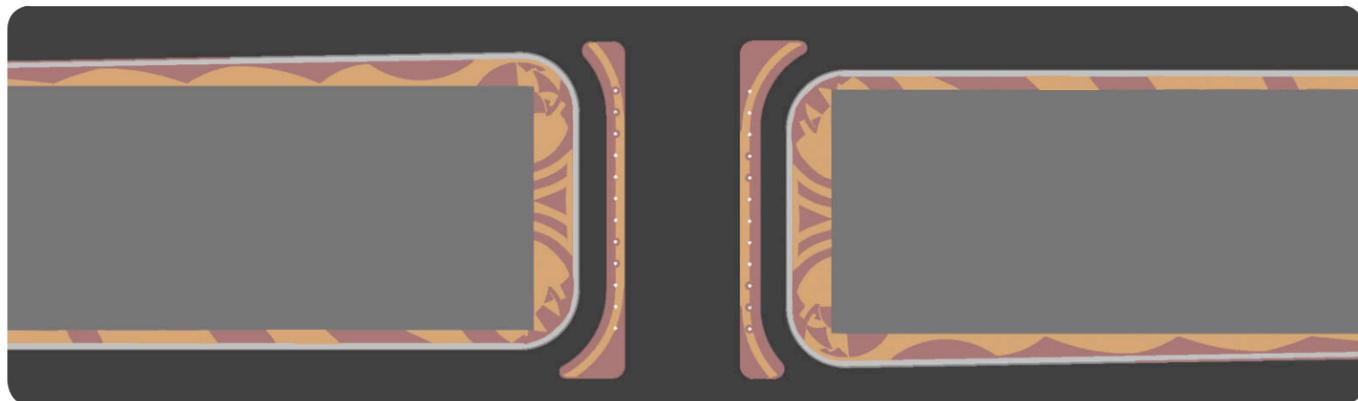
Clustering similar landscape elements together creates masses of plants that help to define space.

# SLOPE PAVING

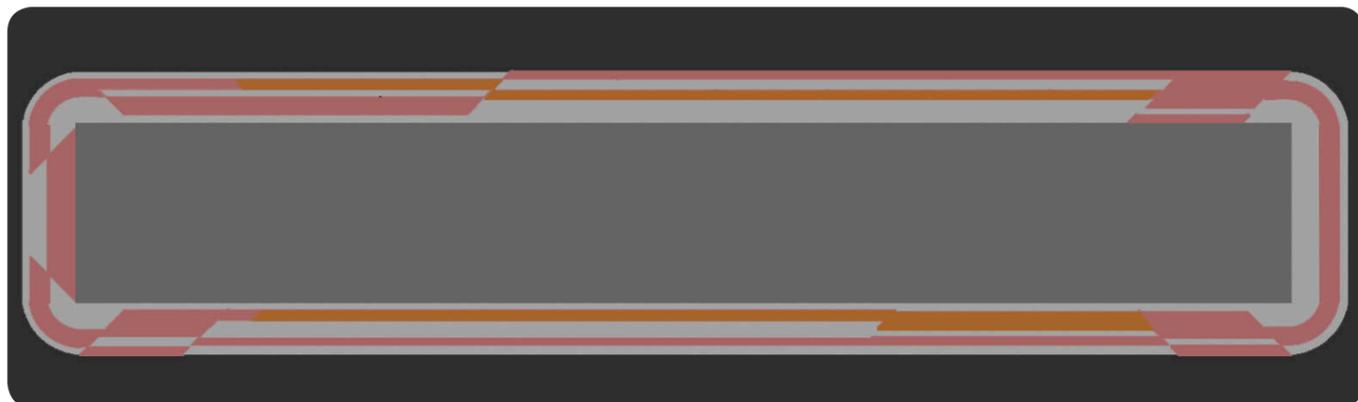
## VARIATIONS



A larger pattern made from rock aggregate, based on radial geometry and local influences, creates a sense of rhythm in the ground plane.



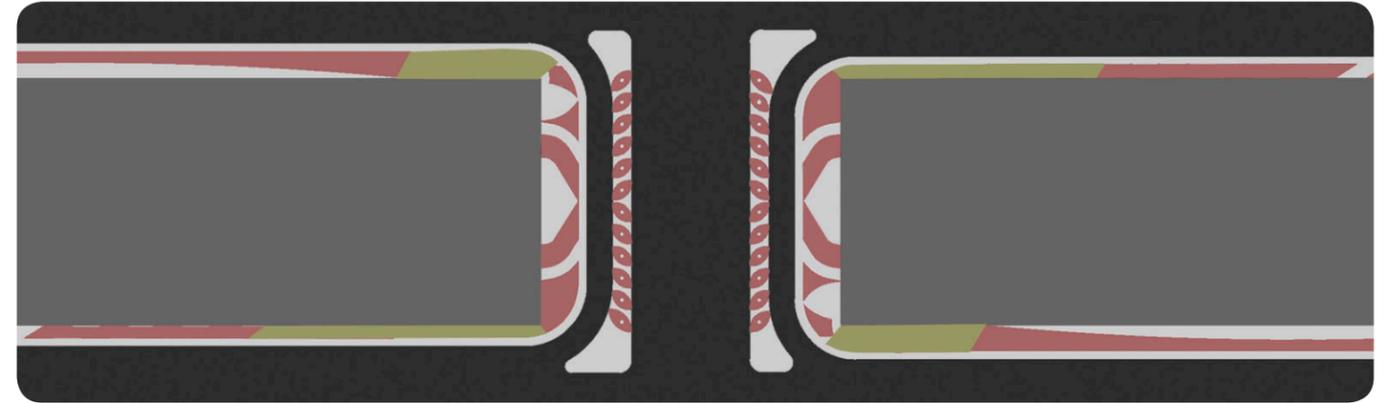
A more intricate pattern of painted slopes adds a level of sophistication to the design and focuses attention to the intersection.



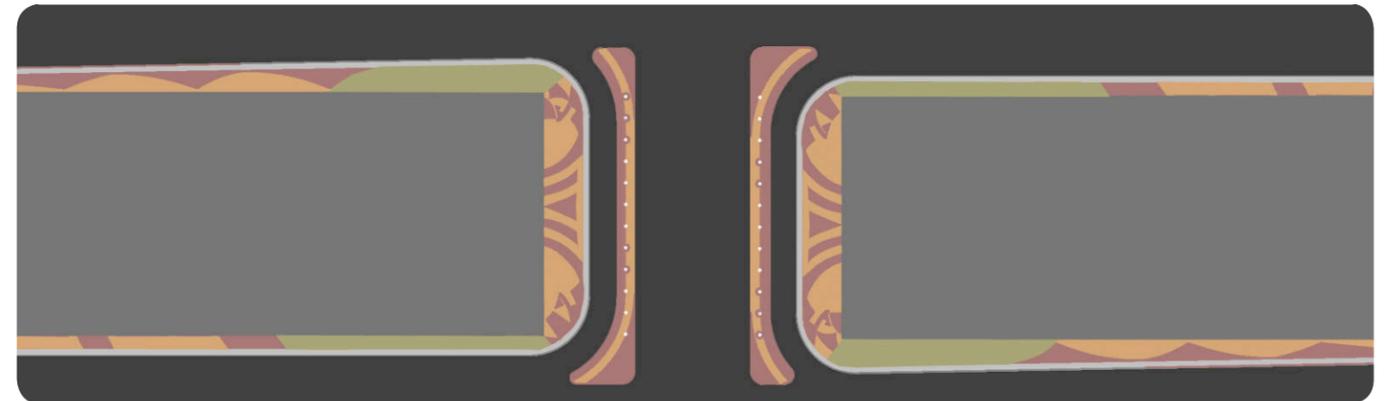
A scheme of long horizontal banding has a powerful geologic reference to the layers of rock in the surrounding mountains.

# LANDSCAPING

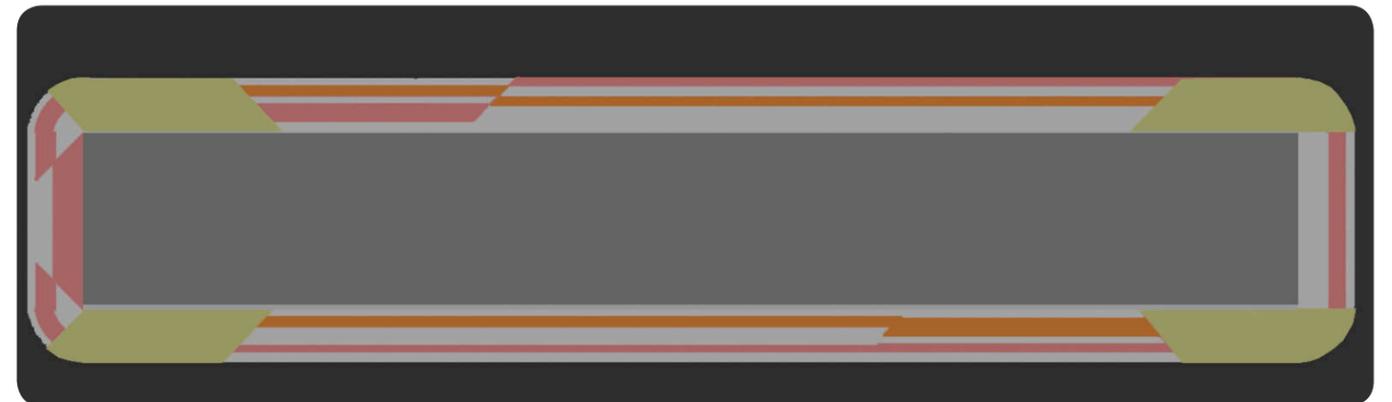
## VARIATIONS



Putting in large swaths of landscaping into the slope paving introduces a natural element to the pattern, as shown in green.



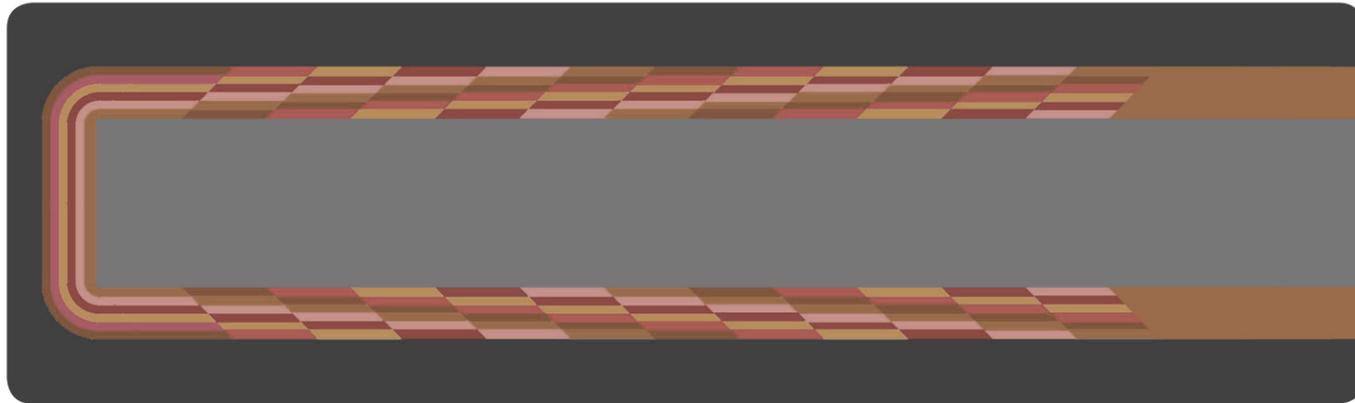
The strategic placement of landscaping near the bridges makes them more visible and expressive to those on the highway and around it.



Landscape elements both soften the hard lines of the patterning and extend the design into the vertical space.

# SLOPE PAVING

## VARIATIONS



Patterns in paint on the existing slope paving easily create a large impact.



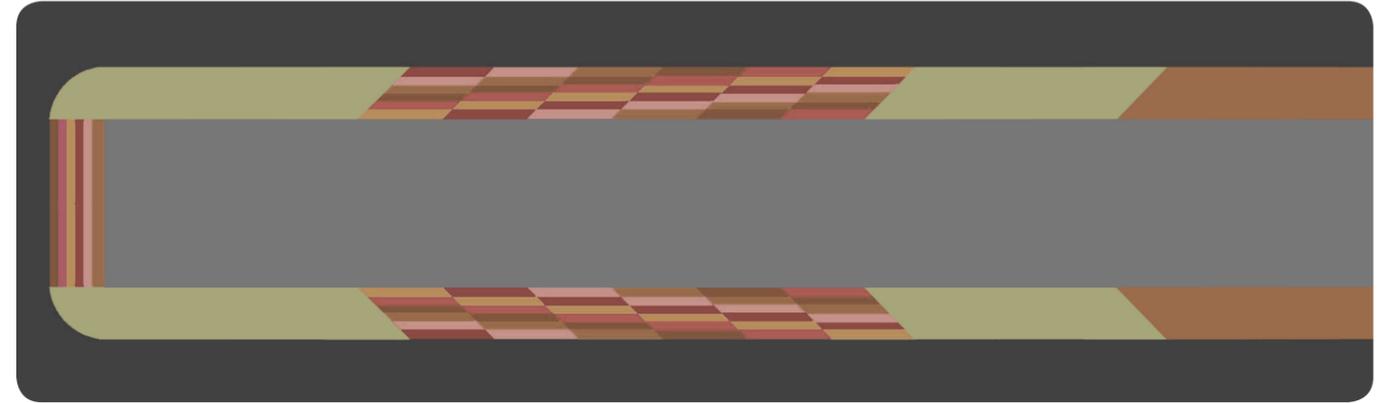
These painted patterns range in detail and complexity depending on the nature of the neighborhood they run through.



Combining sandblasting and painting expresses complex pattern work.

# LANDSCAPING

## VARIATIONS



Landscape at key areas, as shown in green, augments these painted patterns.



The landscaping serves to highlight the intersections and helps mediate the long expanses of slope paving in between them.



Putting taller more full landscape at the intersection makes them focal areas, whereas lower plants and ground cover fill the areas in the middle stretches.

# MEDIANS



Simple gestures create powerful effects as seen here by simply contrasting the size and color of rock aggregate.



Using both trees and shrubs in a median creates two levels of interest that, even in winter, fill the space.



Clustering evergreen and deciduous trees in alternating groups creates patterning along the length of the median, pulling the eye along.

# PRECEDENTS

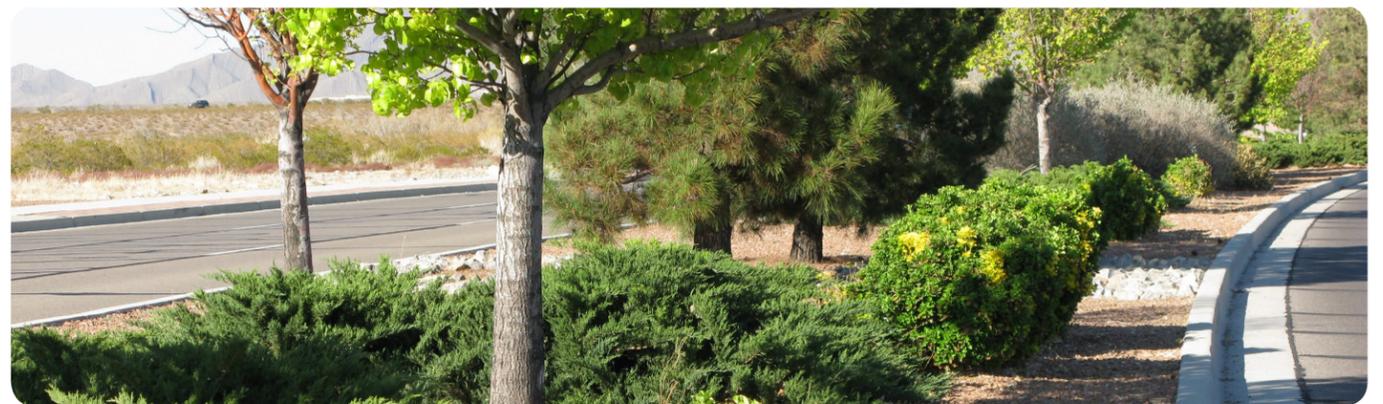
The medians adjacent to the bridges and their intersections require repair and pose an opportunity for landscape elements to improve the experience for those driving by them.



Medians full of landscaping at different levels, tall trees, low natives and bold large stones create visual interest.



Variety in the plant selection and in the rocks on the ground plane creates a dynamic textural interest broken up by large rocks and feature walls.

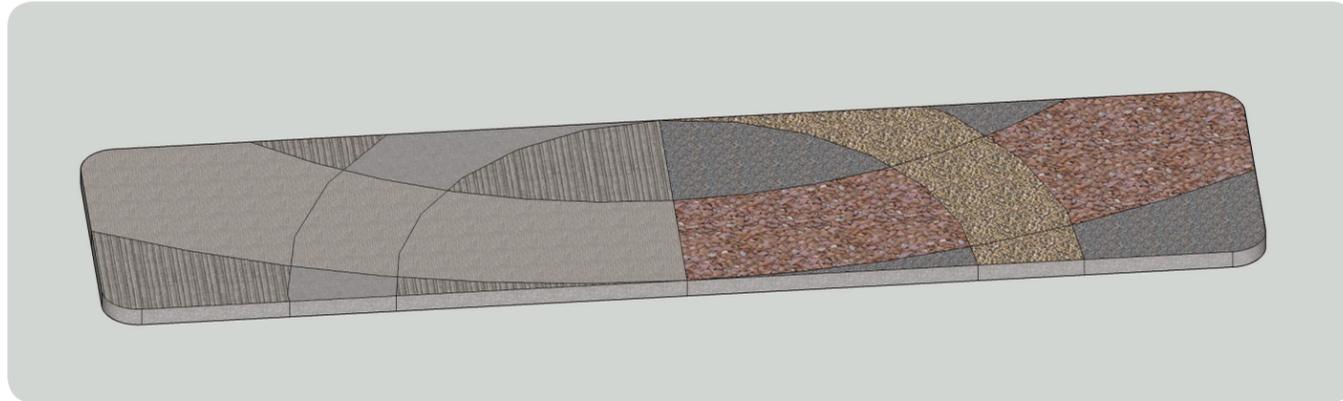


Density of layers in the medians creates a full visual and textural palette.

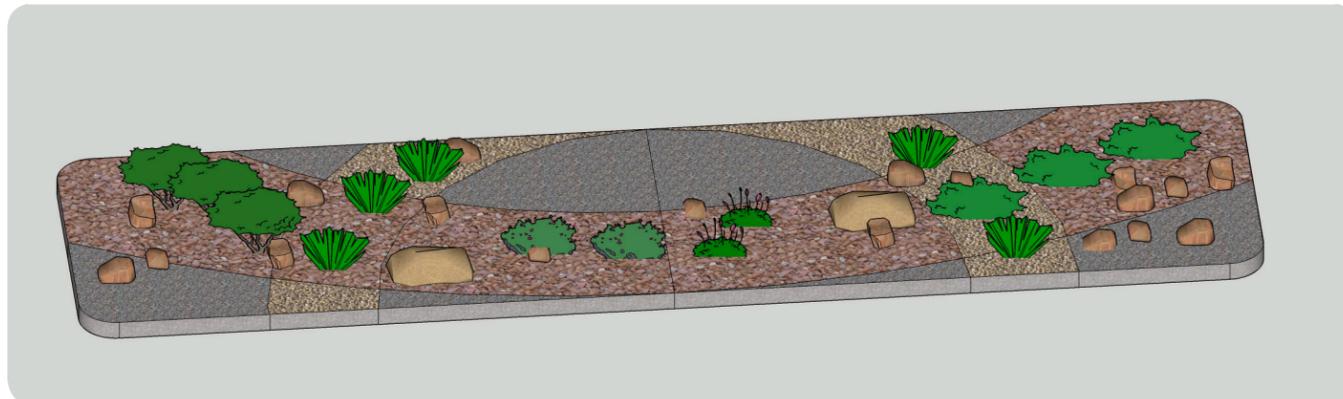
# MEDIANS

## VARIATIONS

## COMPOSITE



Where the medians must remain flat the best choice becomes either replacing the worn out cracked concrete with new stamped concrete or with colored rock aggregate.



If possible, landscaping dramatically improves the median. Even an assortment of low plants helps to soften the surface and scattered large stones add contrast.



Adding landscaping at a variety of scales, colors, and textures, to gain visual interest and create space with rocks, shrubs, stones, and trees represents the best way to improve the medians.



The old worn median adds nothing aesthetically to the experience remaining flat and uninviting.



A full and natural landscape scheme creates visual interest and improves the roadway.



El Paso's natural landscape offers an abundant source for plant compositions.



The effective variety of textures in the ground plane and in the plant palette already exists in El Paso.

# IDENTITY

## PRECEDENTS



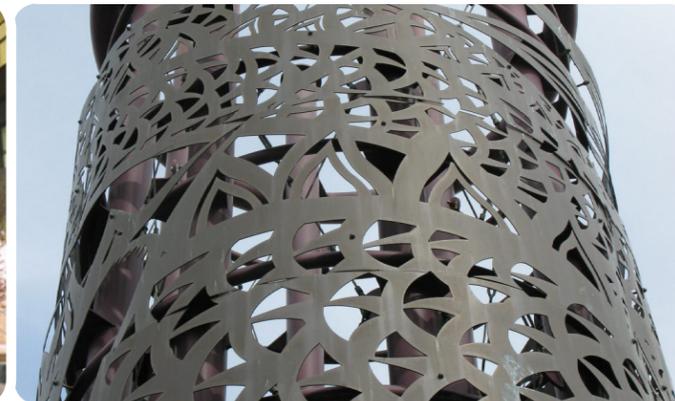
Murals showing the history of an area work together with landscaping and sculpture to enhance the area.



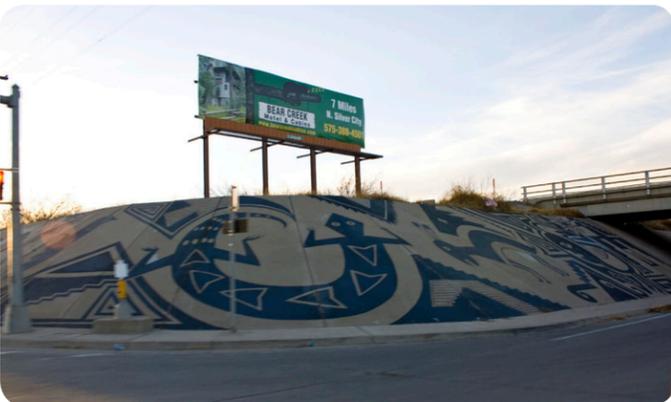
Colorful cut metal banners serve as way finding devices and as a way to introduce pattern into the site.



Sculptures, especially those that use light create a sense of space.



Incorporating local patterns into an artwork offers another way to represent identity.



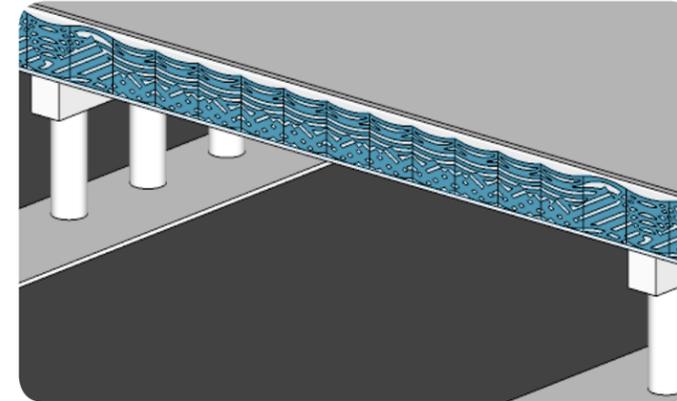
Not all murals stay on walls, here slope paving provides a location for local patterns and motifs.



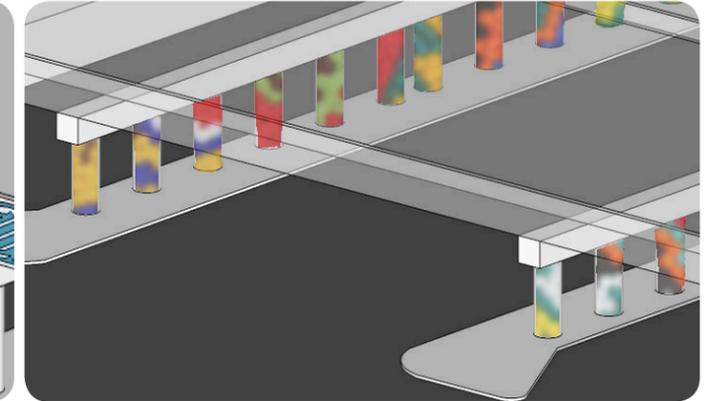
Introducing patterns into small details at a pedestrian scale creates a cohesive sense of place.

Each bridge runs through a unique neighborhood. Understanding these specific identities and then applying them to each bridge with artistic elements ties the bridges back to a sense of place.

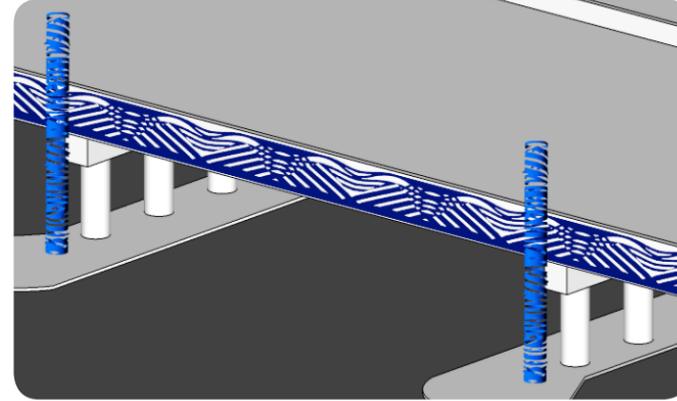
## ELEMENTS



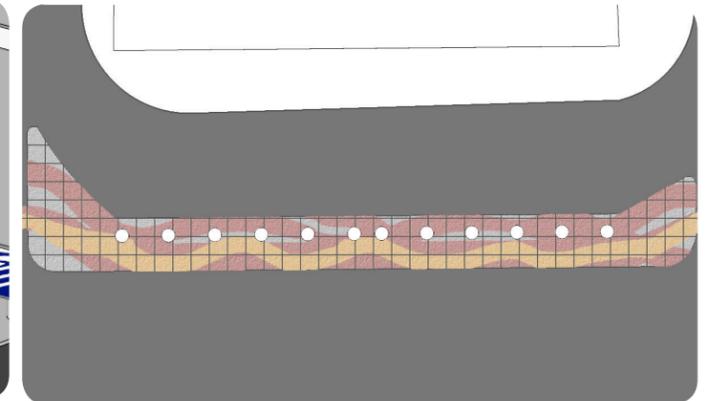
The bridge span facades present a useful location to create neighborhood identity.



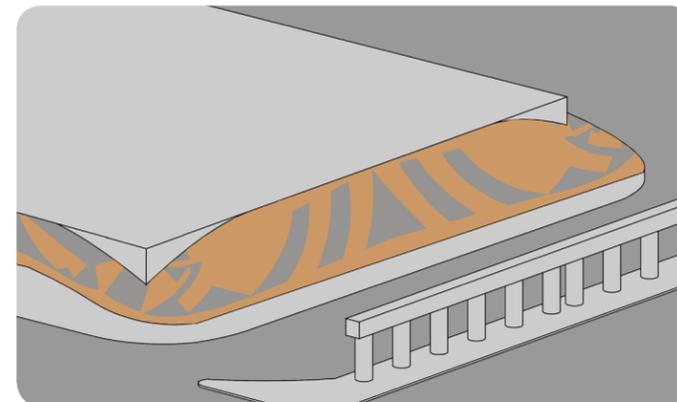
The columns under the bridge offer a great location for pedestrian scaled identity features.



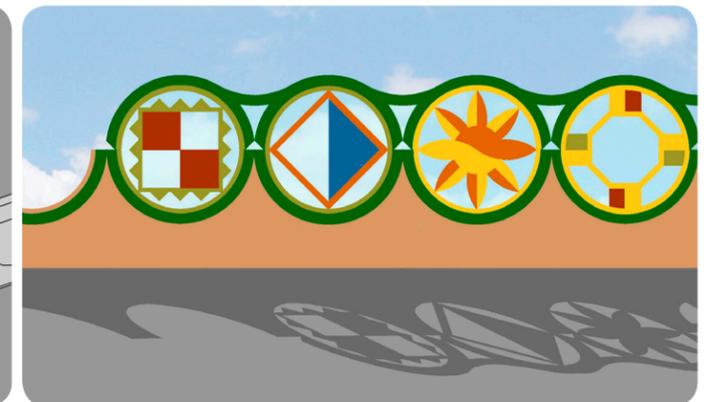
Patterned screen light towers at the bridges signal their locations to a wide radius.



The pedestrian walkways require enhancements to better define the path and create a sense of safety and motion.



The abutments under the bridge serve as location for strong identity elements.



The railings on the downtown bridges must begin to take on the character of the neighborhoods they link.

# COLUMNS



A field of columns painted many colors defines the space under this bridge.



El Paso gives the precedent of painting columns. However, the light colors get washed out by the sun and lose intensity in shadow.



Colorful columns with graphic designs create a sense of character under this freeway.

# PRECEDENTS

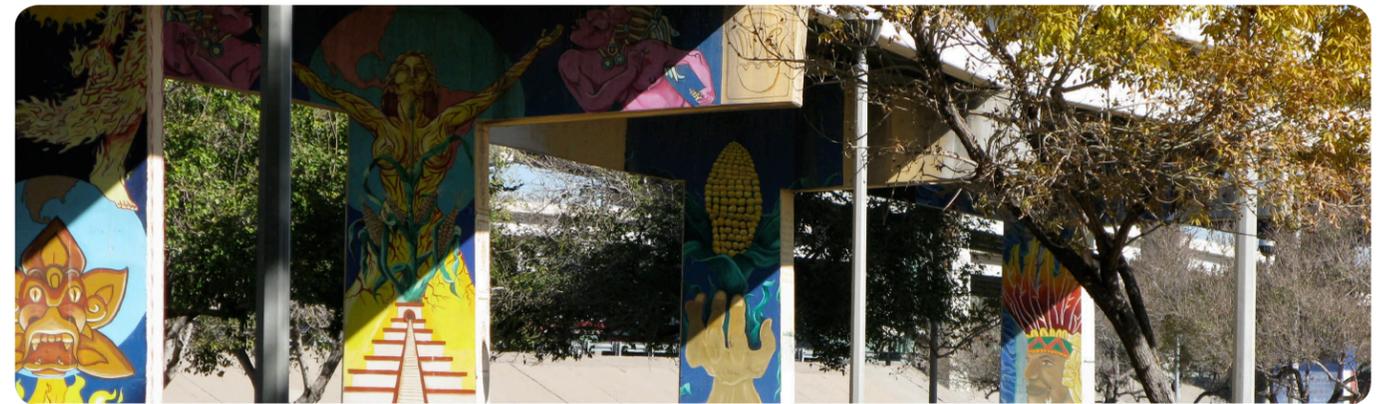
The columns under the bridges offer ways to add artistic elements that relate to the local identity of their neighborhoods tying them back to their communities, putting them into a specific context.



Colorful murals in analogous colors liven up the heavy columns.



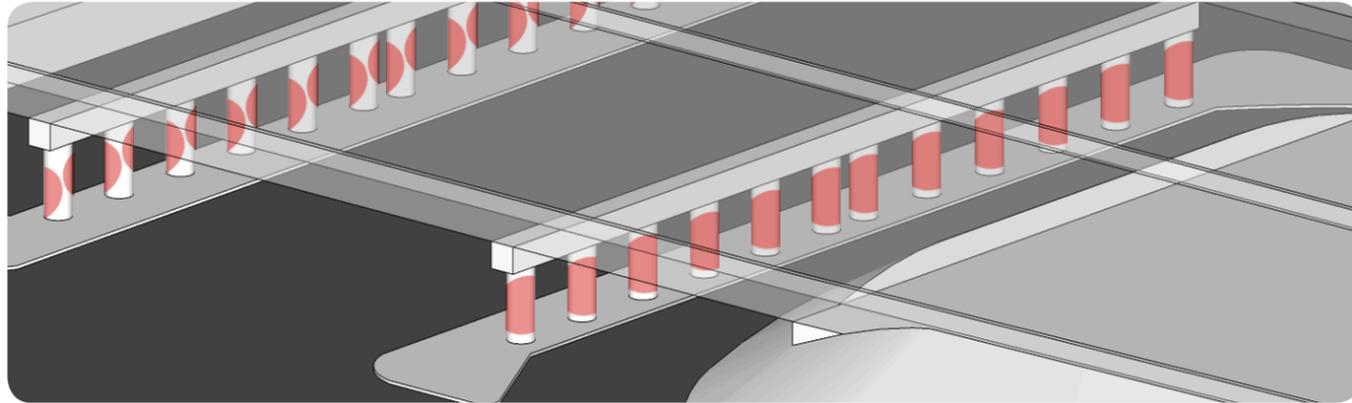
Simple shapes painted on the columns present an effective way to define space.



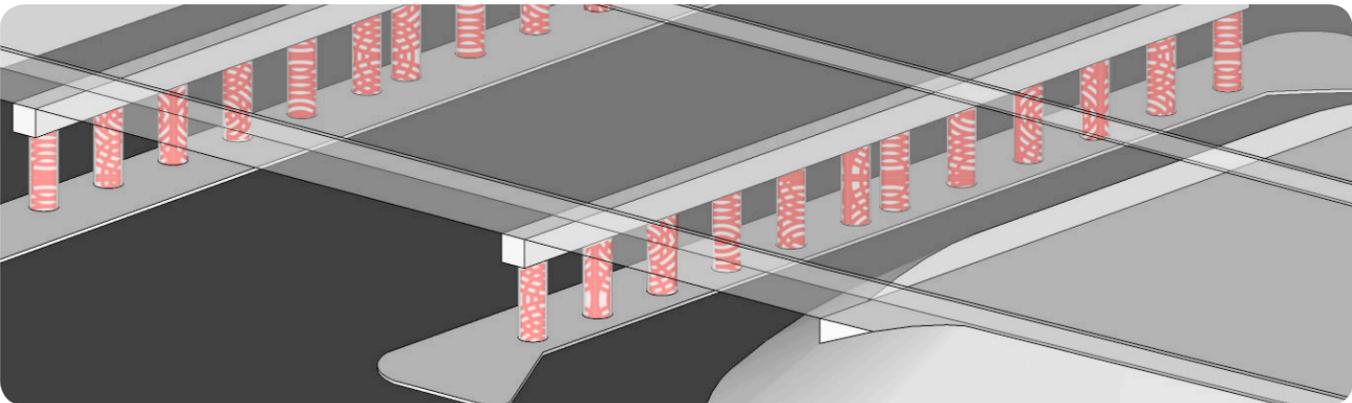
El Paso's own Chicano Park demonstrates an example of how adding artistic elements to columns can transform a space.

# COLUMNS

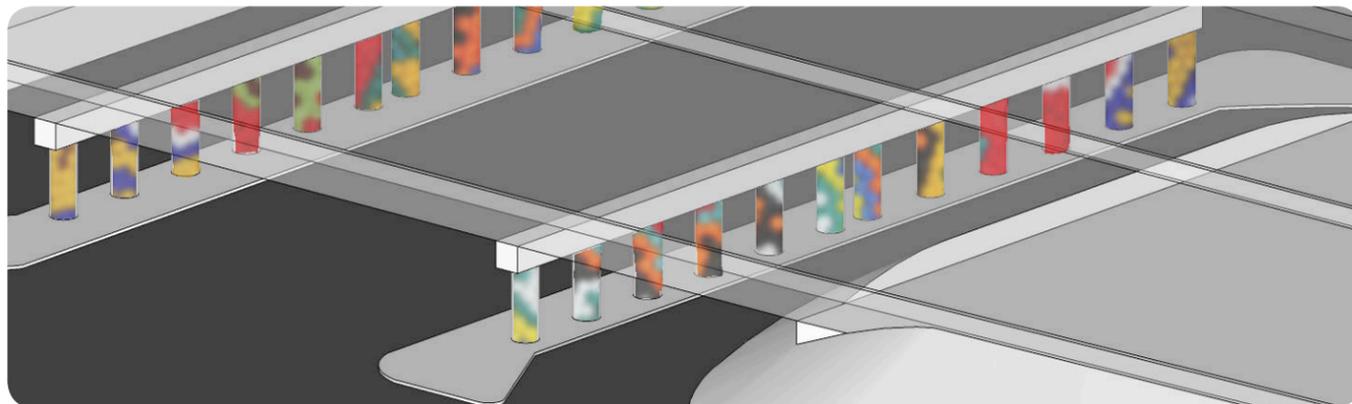
## VARIATIONS



Simple shapes on each column create a graphic pattern and create visual hierarchy.



Patterns wrapped around each column in cut metal or paint relate to local identity.



Murals on all or some of the columns enliven the space and reflect local motifs.

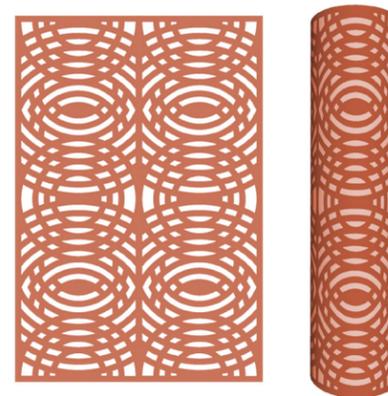
## COMPOSITE



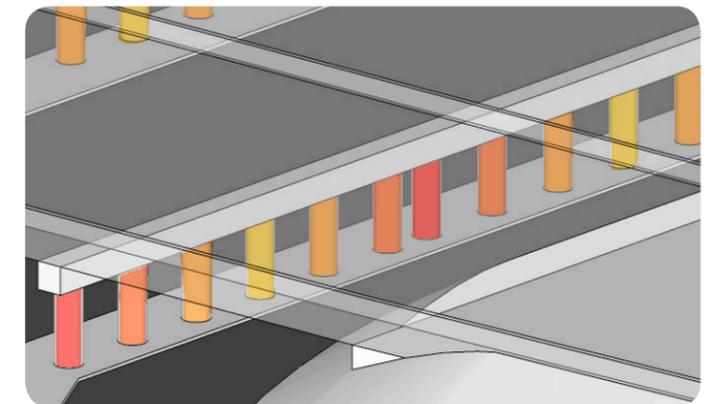
The dingy grey environment of the underside of the bridge feels stark and uninviting. Adding color and patterns to the columns brightens this mood.



Patterns inspired by local influences wrapped around the columns add visual interest and help to enliven the under bridge experience.



Wrapping patterns around the columns creates a three dimensional effect that changes as one moves around it.



The columns, while being a part of a larger family, could vary from each other, alternating in a pattern.

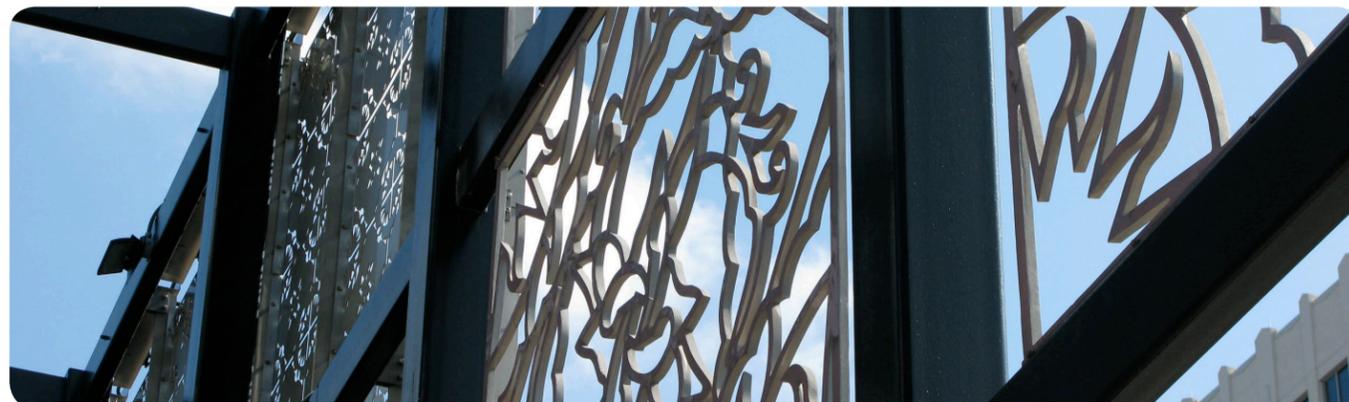
# FACADES



Introducing an art elements makes a simple bridge facade more interesting.



Intricate pattern work achieved in cut metal strongly reflects the local identity.



The airy feeling of this metal work reads as both subtle and powerful.

# PRECEDENTS

The bridge facades offer opportunities to add artistic elements that relate to the local identity of the neighborhood tying the bridge back to the community and putting it into a specific context.



Cut metal screens feel elegant and dramatic, especially when lighted at night.



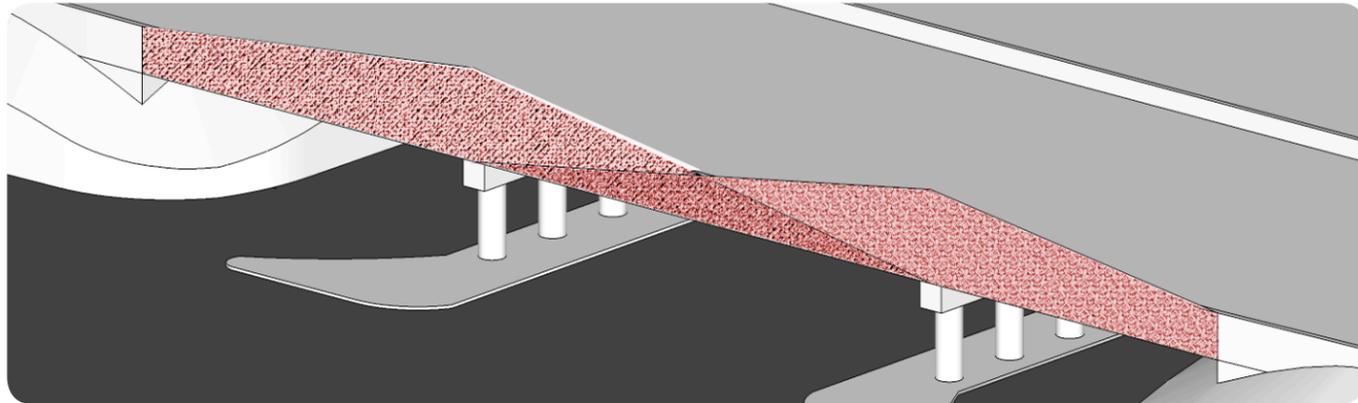
Even simple gestures redefine the expression of a bridge.



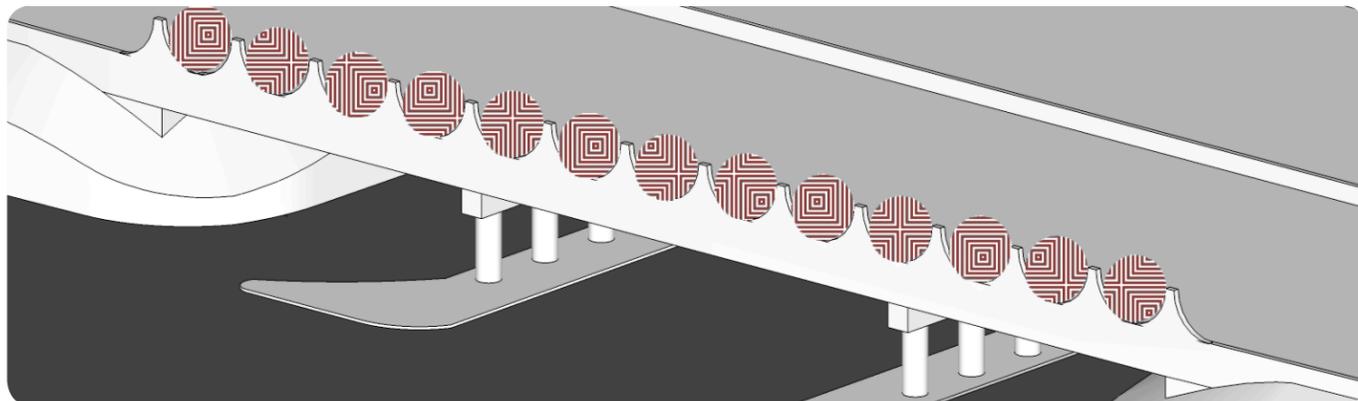
Simple painted gestures serve to obscure unsightly infrastructure and enhance the sense of place.

# FACADES

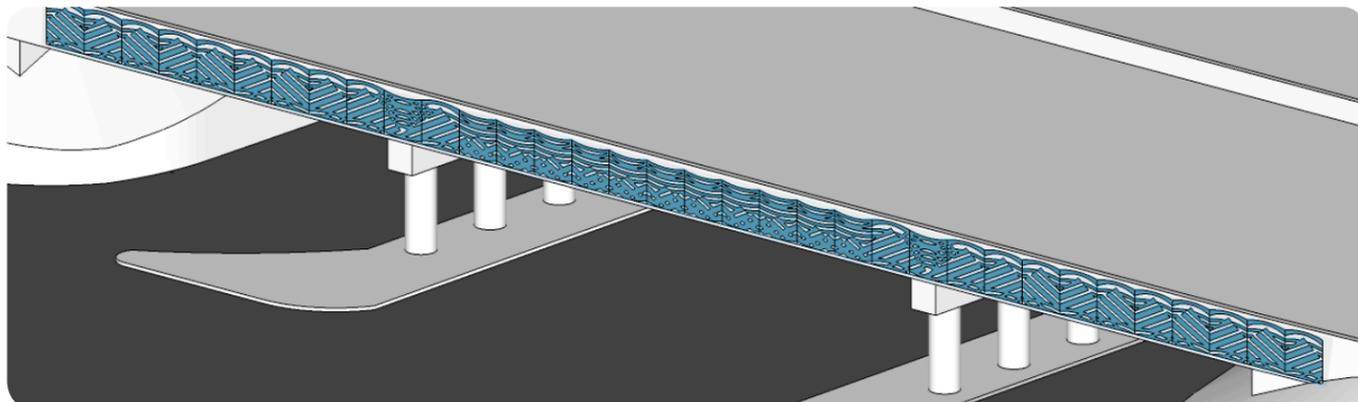
## VARIATIONS



Mesh screens placed on the bridge facade change the silhouette of the span and create a sense of depth through layering of texture and shadow.



Pouring a new barrier with shapes taken from local context gives the bridge a strong graphic form and could provide locations for more art elements such as medallions.



Keeping the existing profile but adding paint, mesh, or as shown a cut metal pattern screen represents the simplest way to add interest to the bridge facade.

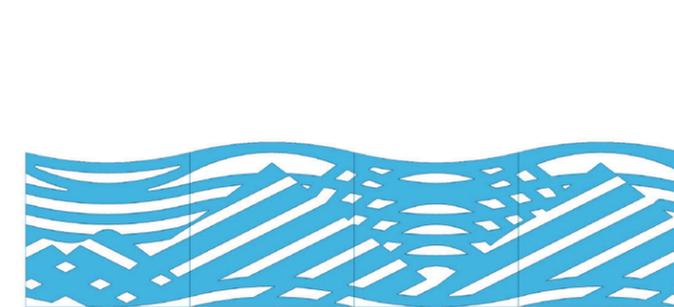
## COMPOSITE



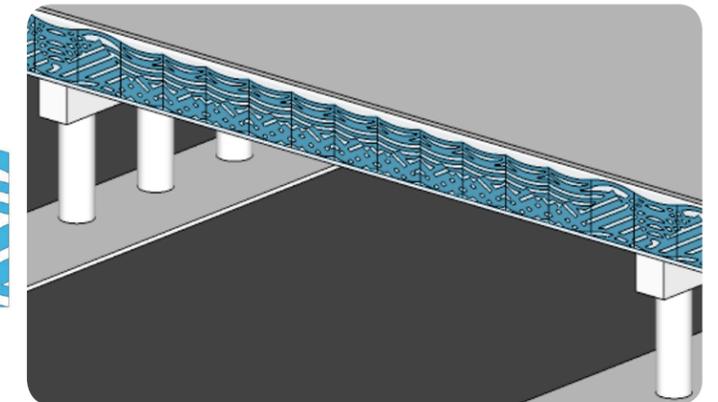
The existing bridge facade feels dull and cluttered with conduit; it had no distinguishing characteristics.



A metal cut screen in a pattern adds textural interest while unifying the bridge facade.



A pattern must relate back to the local identity of the bridge's neighborhood



The perception of the bridge span changes with the application of a simple gesture.

# PAINTING

## OPPORTUNITIES



The MSE walls represent a large blank canvas for a subtle painting approach in earth tones that ground the otherwise oppressive walls to the site.



Painting under the bridge lightens the mood of the space and highlights the area over the pedestrian path.



Painting the entire underside of the bridge and patterning the columns dramatically improves the feeling of the space.

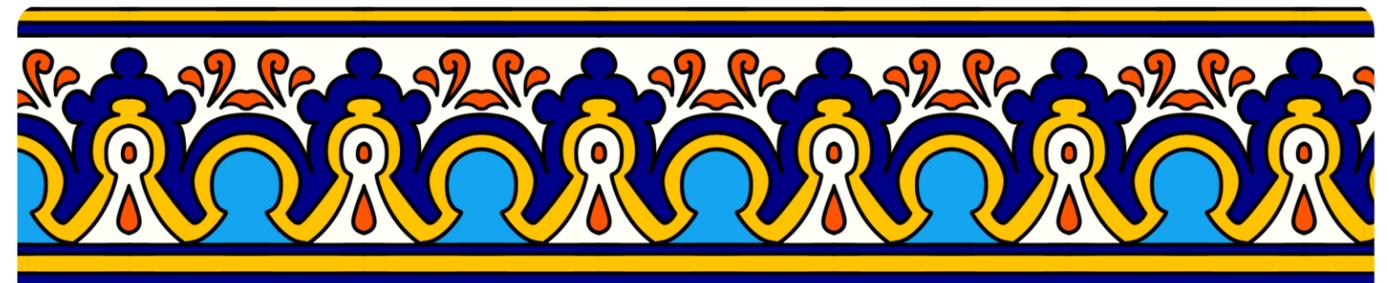
## OPPORTUNITIES



Mineral Life concrete finishes come in a wide range of color choices.



Regional slope paving shows a precedent for painting highway scaled, large graphic images with a local resonance.



This pattern represents an example of possible patterning with regional themes.

# LIGHTING



A lighting scheme that lights the whole space creating a general glow with specific emphasis on the walkway makes the underside a bridge feel safer.



Lighting up towards the ceiling establishes a specific mood.



Mesh elements that catch the light provide a dramatic overhead element.

## PRECEDENTS

The lighting plays a large role in redefining the feel of the space under the bridge, especially at night. A thorough lighting strategy improves the experience under each bridge for drivers and pedestrians alike.



LED lighting creates a dramatic visual experience that provides interest to infrastructure elements.



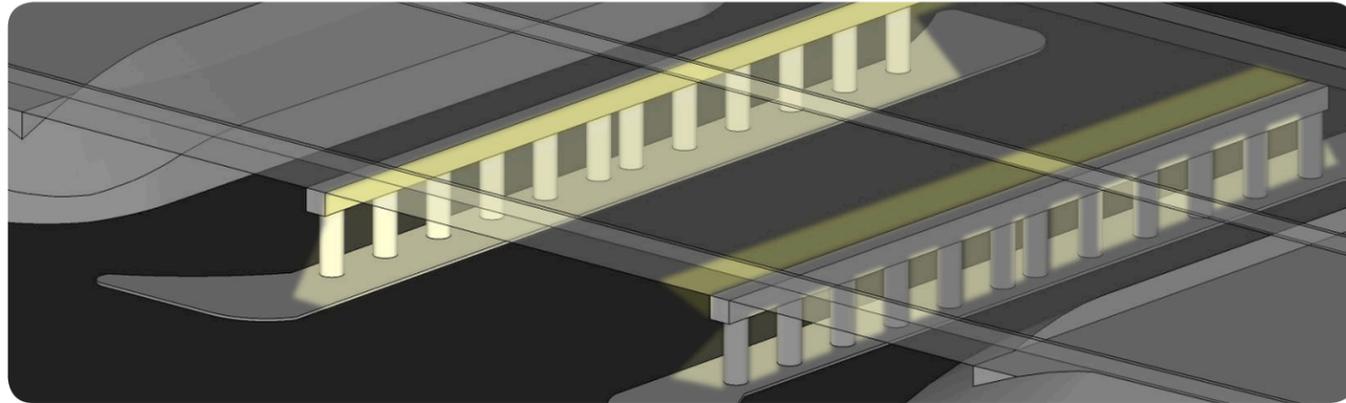
Colored lighting on columns helps to evoke a sense of identity.



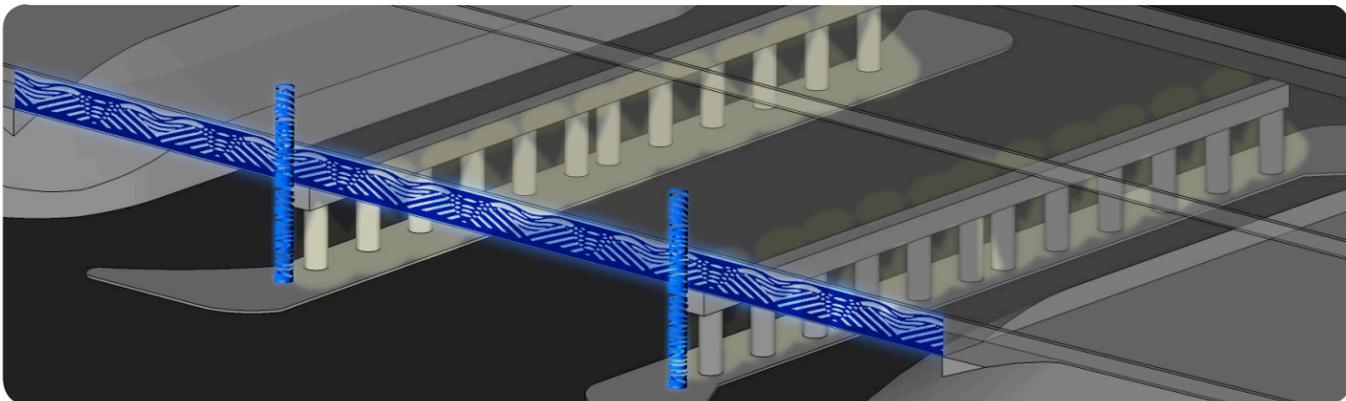
General safety lighting coupled with a combination of colored mood lighting and artistic lighting elements transforms the underside of a bridge into a welcoming place.

# LIGHTING

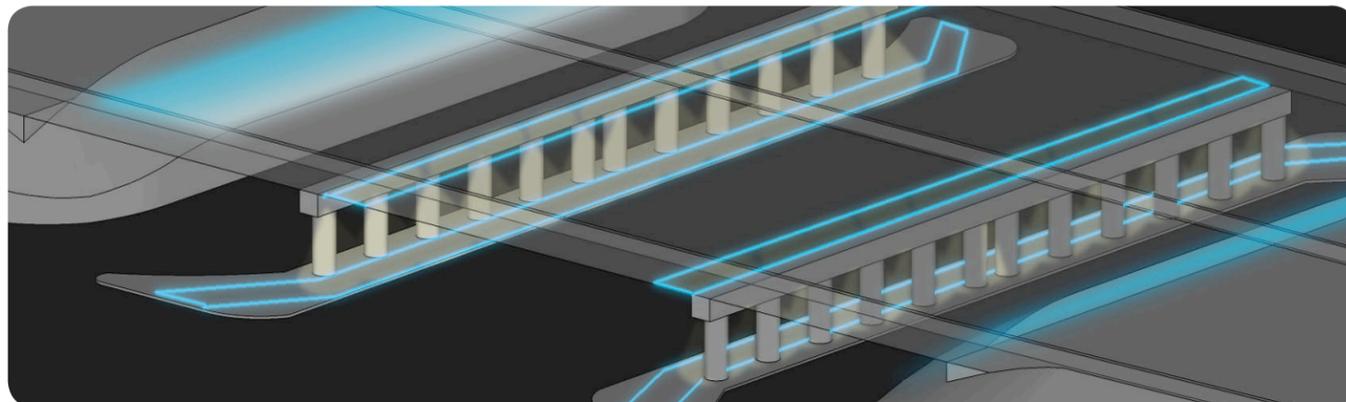
## VARIATIONS



Lines of light along the infrastructure enhance and define the pedestrian area. Any lighting scheme must take into account the vertical clearance under the bridge, which restricts additional elements at many locations.



Light towers create markers at the bridges that are identity beacons, visible from a distance in the night's sky.



Lining the pedestrian area with LED stripes defines the space and create a contemporary feeling and washing the slope paving under the bridge in colored light creates a sense of drama.

## COMPOSITE



The existing lighting creates a dim poorly defined space under the bridge at night.



A lighting scheme with more pedestrian lighting and a focal element improves the safety and desirability of the space.



LED lighting linear fixtures allow for a range of color choices and even programmable color changing options.

# WALKWAYS



Large bands of color not only create patterns on the ground plane but also direct the flow of movement across the space.



Interesting textures and patterns add a sense of history to the ground plane and serve as safety elements letting pedestrians know about edge changes.



Artistic elements embedded into the walking surface make even simple sidewalks whimsical experiences.

## PRECEDENTS

The walkways surrounding the bridges and their intersections need repairing and pose an opportunity to add human scaled elements to improve the pedestrian experience for those using the sidewalks.



Stamped and colored concrete adds pattern and interest to the ground plane without the effort of placing real brick or pavers.



Simple forms, when carefully considered and elegantly arranged, create powerful spaces.

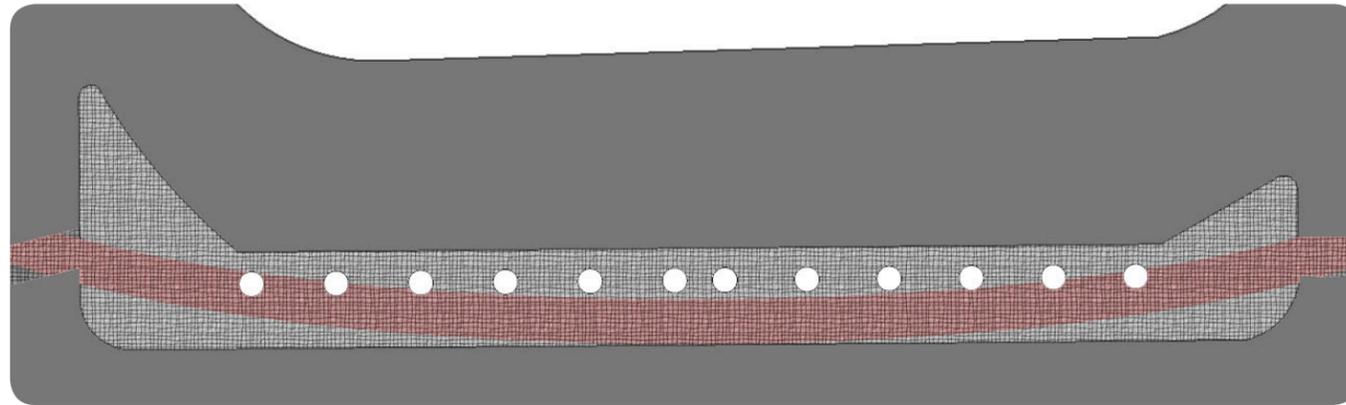


Larger pattern elements formed into the walking surface help to establish local identity on the ground plane.

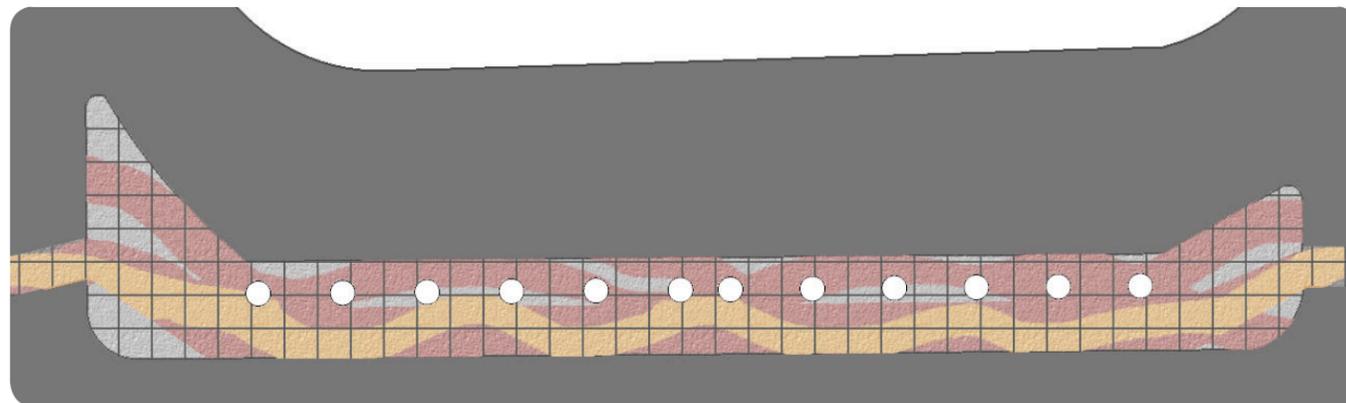
# WALKWAYS

## VARIATIONS

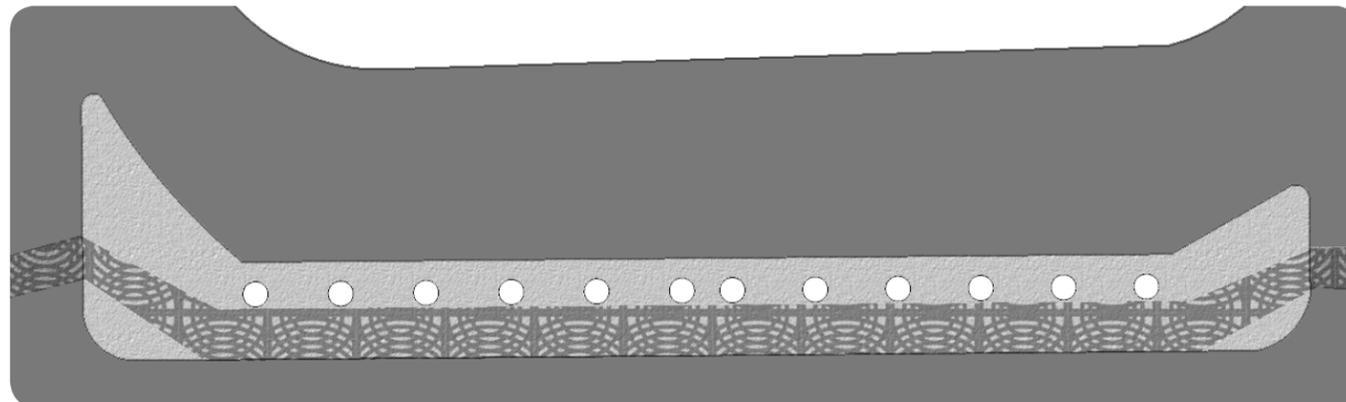
## COMPOSITE



Patterns in the ground plane made from brick remain durable and easy to maintain.



Patterns made from poured concrete make larger gestures and reform the cracked walkways.



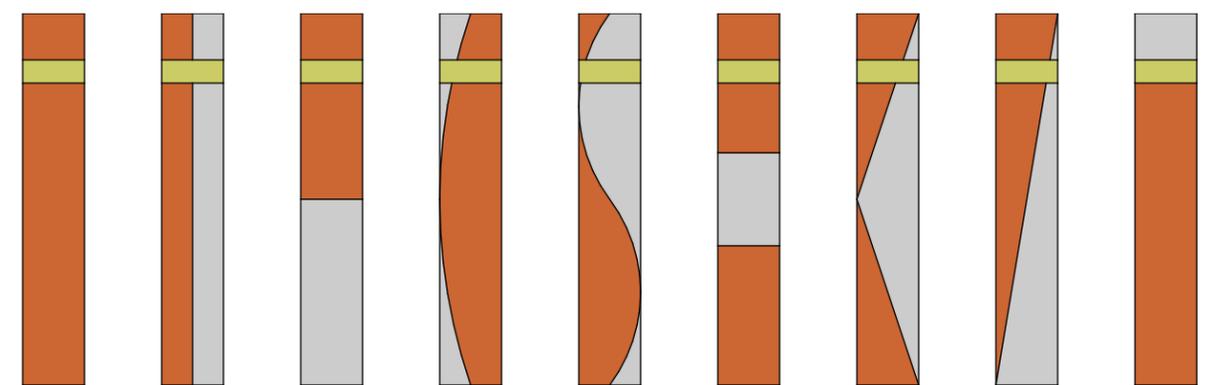
Design patterns add a more graphic punch to the ground plane under the bridge.



The existing pedestrian experience feels unsafe and uninviting with an ill-defined walkway and the cars seeming too close to pedestrians.



Incorporating patterning into the ground plane clearly defining the pedestrian area and adding lighted bollards increases the sense of safety.

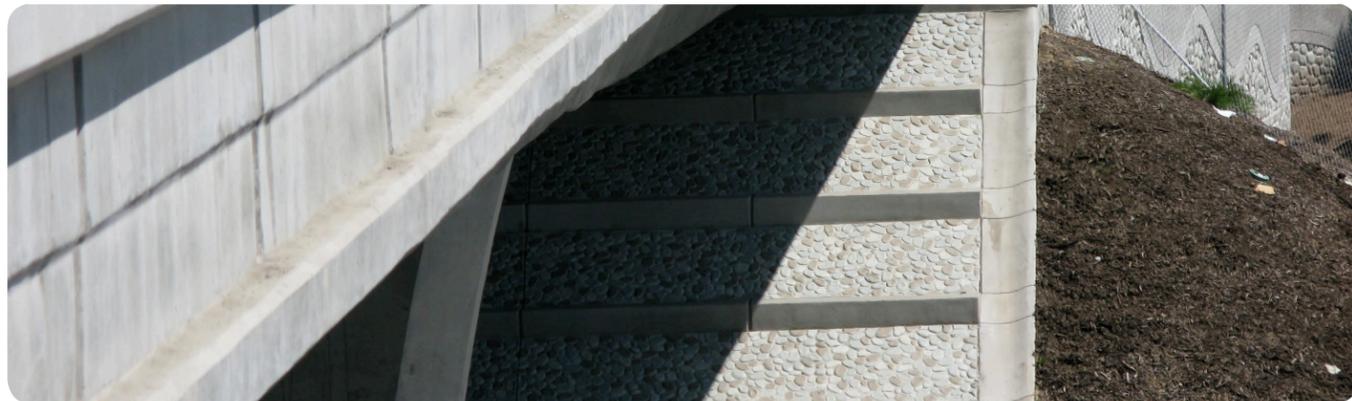


The lighted bollards create a sense of safety while defining the pedestrian area and they can also be painted many colors or painted in different patterns.

# ABUTMENTS



Simply painting high contrast patterns on the abutments walls represents a good way to add interest.



A strong composition of stones creates a smooth refined effect that pulls the abutment together and adds a sense of scale.



Large graphic identity elements take the sun and add a strong textural interest.

## PRECEDENTS

The abutments, whether left intact or replaced with cast in place in new construction, offer locations to place aesthetic elements adding interest to the underside of the bridge.



The painted abutment reads as just a flat surface that does not play with light, shadow or texture.



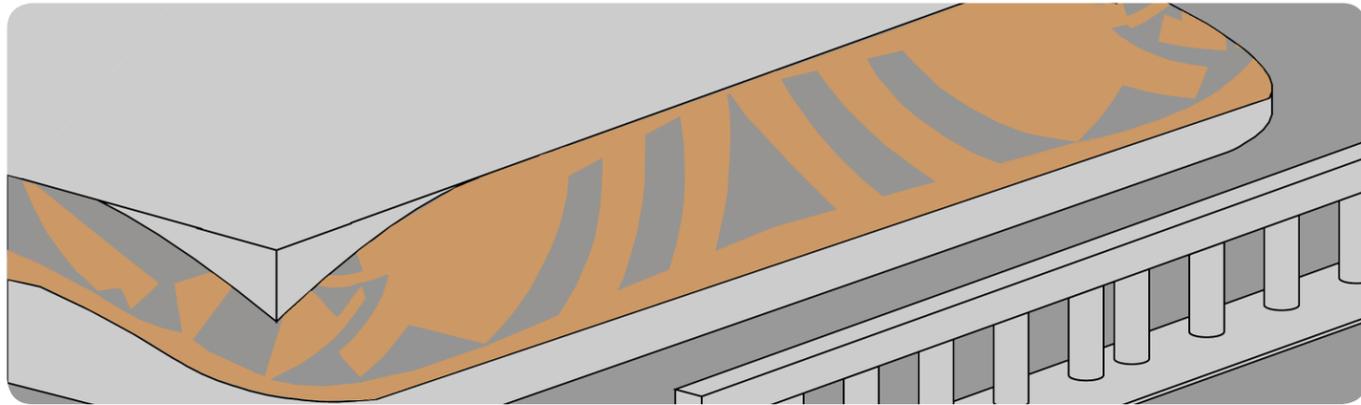
Patterning abutment walls adds visual interest under the bridge opening it up.



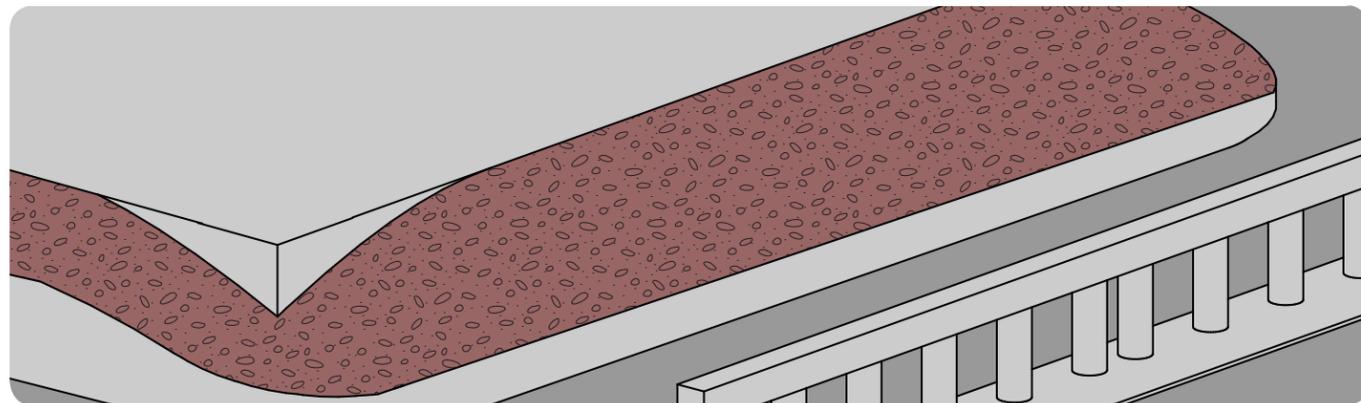
Concrete patterning on the wall surface unites the length of an abutment wall.

# ABUTMENTS

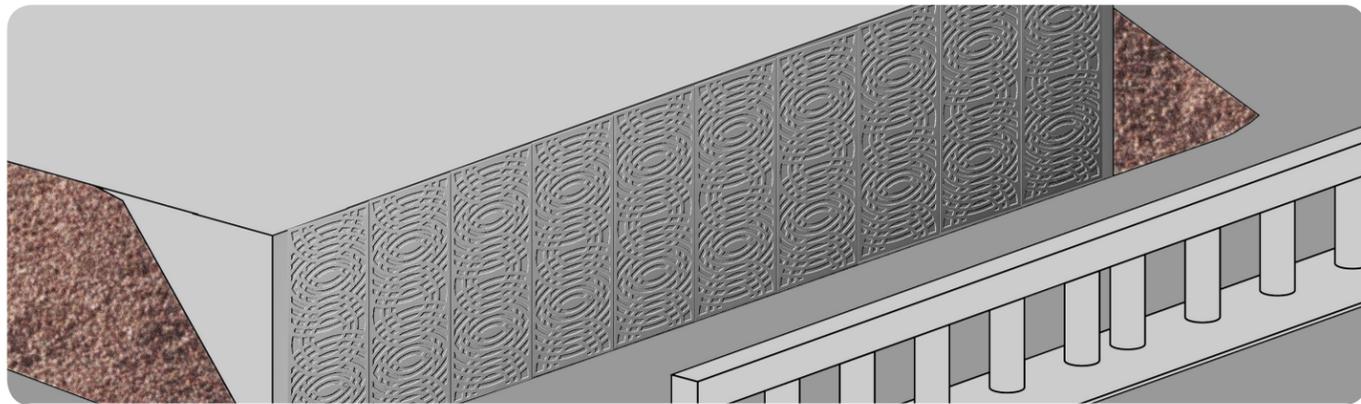
## VARIATIONS



Painting the existing slope paving with a graphic pattern inspired by local geometries helps to liven the underside of the bridge while relating it back to a sense of place.



Covering the slope paving with colored rock aggregate ties it into the larger landscaping scheme and add textural interest to the underside of the bridge.



At locations where new bridges are necessary building a cast in place wall adds more space and, with patterned walls, adds artistic interest to the underside of the bridge.

## COMPOSITE



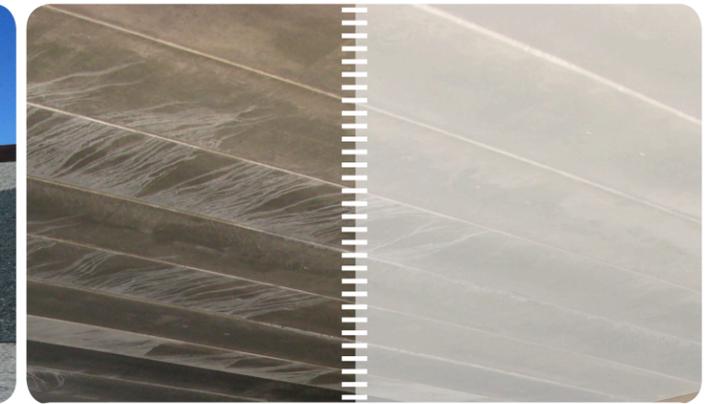
The underside of the bridge with wide barren abutments feels dark and gloomy.



Livening up the abutments with patterns in paint or rock aggregate improves the experience under the bridge for both drivers and pedestrians.



Colored rock aggregate creates clean controlled high contrast patterns.



Regardless if the abutments get painted, covered in rock or replaced; the underside of the bridge receives a lighter paint color.

# WALLS

Walls are highly visible surfaces for aesthetic improvements. However, whatever is done to them must not be overwhelming or tiring over long expanses.

## PRECEDENTS



Incorporating local textures, materials and pattern elements into walls can help establish an unmistakable sense of place.



Concrete pattern relief is enhanced by landscape with the play of light and shadow.



More abstract pattern work can also create a specific aesthetic feel for an otherwise plain stretch of wall.



VS SiteWorks has a long and successful history of using form liners to create patterns in concrete walls, demonstrated by this MSE wall in Shoreline, WA.



Environmentally scaled artwork provides a sense of scale and drama for viewing at a variety of speeds and distances.



Walls are a perfect location to present the work of local young artists who may draw influence both from the fine arts and a street art aesthetic.