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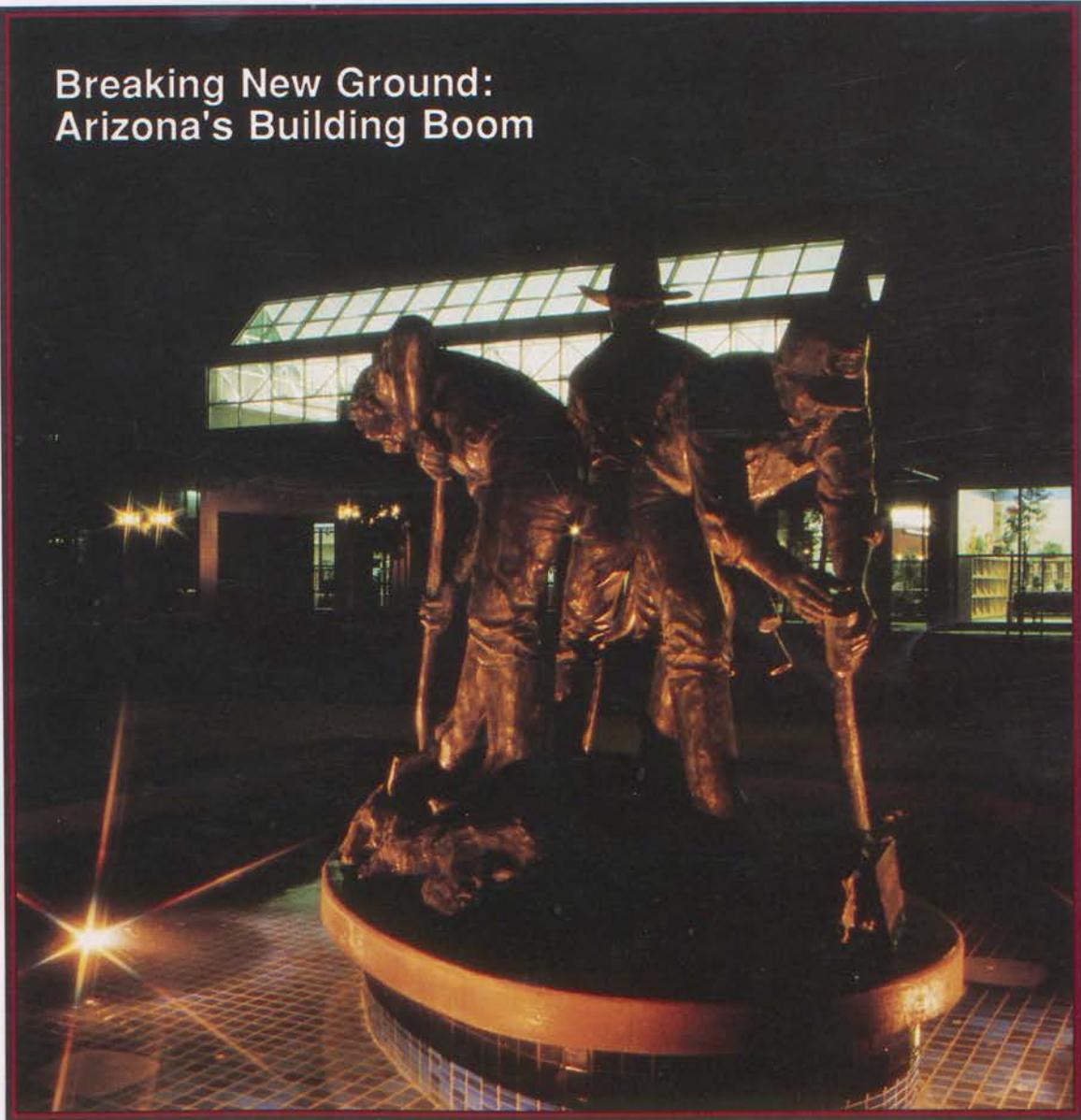
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# ARIZONA LIBRARIES

September- October 1987

Volume I, Number 1

Breaking New Ground:  
Arizona's Building Boom



PREMIERE ISSUE

70403

Robert H. Rohlf is director of the Hennepin County Library in Minnetonka, Minnesota. He has spent more than 20 years as a library building consultant, working on over 100 library buildings ranging from 2,000 square feet to nearly 2 million.

# An Open Letter

from Robert H. Rohlf

Greetings, Arizona!

It's a delight for me to be asked to comment on the state of library building in Arizona. We should all be in such a state!

It would be unusual for any state to open more than one or two major new library buildings in the same year. For a young, developing state like Arizona to open four in three months is nothing short of phenomenal. Add to those four another four, smaller community libraries opened in the past year, and you have a quantum leap in the state's library development.

Given Arizona's distinctive scenic beauty, I am particularly excited to note how well the designs of your new libraries reflect their natural settings. Use of native stone and timber suits Flagstaff's alpine locale, while the exterior colors and massing of Scottsdale's Mustang harmonize with its Sonoran desert surroundings. Even in highly urban areas, Mesa's Dobson branch has been fitted into its park site with precision, and the new Glendale building reflects the motion and growth of the city.

With three of these four facilities located in the Phoenix metropolitan area, I'm pleased to note that the smaller new facilities are scattered: in Apache Junction, Arizona City, Globe and South Tucson. Add to this the planned large new central libraries for Chandler, Phoenix, Tempe, and Tucson, and you have a picture of impressive library dynamics in your state.

Congratulations to Arizona on its emergence into the library building scene with such a stylish profile, and my admiration to all Arizonans for supporting the vigorous growth of such a vital institution.

Congratulations also, and best wishes, to Sharon Womack and Tony Miele on the emergence of their sprightly new journal, *ARIZONA LIBRARIES*.

Sincerely,



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copy 2

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ARIZONA  
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Cover: "The Irrigators," life-size sculpture in bronze by Debbie Gessner, animates the entryway to the new Glendale Public Library (story, p. 8).  
PHOTO: © 1987 BY DAVID O. WILEY.

# Librarians & Architects

*Rodeane Widom is Library Director at the Glendale (AZ) Public Library. A librarian for 18 years, she was formerly Director of the State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped in Nebraska, and also worked for the King Co. (WA) library system. She has been at Glendale for 7 years. In 1984, the Glendale library occupied 15,000 square feet; that year Rodeane Widom began work on a new main library facility of 64,100 s.f. It was her first experience with a building project. In July 1987, the month the new building opened, Rodeane Widom was a recipient of the Glendale City Manager's 1987 Good Stuff! Award, given for excellence in management.*

**AL:** What did you like most about the building process?

**Widom:** Our building process was developed as a team project with the library director and staff in a pivotal position. From the building program through the final phases of the construction drawings and the actual construction, the library staff worked directly with the consultants, designers, and construction management firm. This team approach ensured that the users of the building had control over the final product. Besides soliciting suggestions from the staff, we canvassed library users for their ideas about the new building. The process was designed to create a building which incorporates maximum input from the community and the staff.

For me personally, being able to take a project from bond issue request through building completion is the high point of my career. I took a risk, and made a strong case up-front that, because our staff and our users were going to have to live with it, I did not want others making final

## We gave highest consideration to flexibility in design

decisions about the building for us. City management supported my request to have major authority and responsibility for the project remain with library staff. I feel very fortunate to have received that level of support; it was a real vote of confidence.

**AL:** What did you like least about the process?

**Widom:** Budget limitations constrain the design process and force difficult choices. In my case, the bond allocation had to fund the main library design and construction, automation of the entire system from scratch, as well as the new building's entire collection. It's really hard to balance such disparate spending areas in a fair manner.

**AL:** Did you use the process to execute any of your favorite notions of "How libraries ought to be? How service ought to be?"

**Widom:** Absolutely! I strived to incorporate my own pet ideas about libraries as well as those of staff and users. That is what made the process so much fun. Some examples:

Since the site is part of a beautiful eighty-acre historical ranch that is now a park, I wanted to integrate the library as much as possible with its surroundings. The result is that the park is further enhanced as a focal point for community activity by the library with its auditorium and meeting rooms for public use; its gift shop which is to be a joint effort with the Glendale Historical Society; and its landscaping which restores the citrus trees and grassy expanses of the original park setting.

I believe that libraries should be visually distinctive structures. The Glendale Arts Commission assisted greatly in achieving this by providing the library with major works by Robert McCall, Howard Post, and Debbie Gessner.

The ability to reflect change is a key ingredient of a library's vitality in a community. It's almost axiomatic in libraries that today's collection and service needs will be different by tomorrow. For this reason, we gave the highest consid-

*continues on page 16*

# Architects & Librarians

*Hal M. Dean is chief designer of the Mustang Library and president of Dean/Hunt/Krueger & Associates, Inc., of Albuquerque and Scottsdale. DHKA provides full service to its clients in architecture, planning, and interiors. The firm has done six major libraries, including the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library and the award-winning Thomas Branigan Memorial Library (Las Cruces, NM), as well as a dozen or so smaller libraries done as subspaces of larger buildings. DHKA is currently working on expansion projects for the ASU Law School Library and Scottsdale's Civic Center Library.*

**AL:** Your firm seems to like libraries. Why do you find library design challenging?

**Dean:** I think it's because libraries, as spaces, must speak to the higher philosophies of design and site use. There is a limited number of those kinds of places; spaces which call up the mind's view of itself, spaces where young minds can expand infinitely. They're cerebral environments.

Libraries articulate the soul of a community; they are physical shelter for its most aware citizens. I've learned that, of all the key identifiable groups in a given community, library users will speak louder and go farther than any other core group.

**AL:** Describe how you begin the building process; what are the key elements?

**Dean:** First of all, the principals on the design team have to learn to like each other. You have to open up a genuine dialogue and define your mutual interest in wanting to learn something new. There is a beautiful

## A library building should reflect the soul of a community

chemistry between the owner and the architect; each learns from the other. This learning should continue through project completion; it's an upward spiral that carries the participants some distance from the starting point.

The real beginning of the design process, of course, is site analysis. The ultimate success of the solution hinges on the architect's ability to sensitize the owner to the possibilities of the site. It is the architect's responsibility to show the owner alternatives, to clear the palate as it were, eliminating preconceived notions. Naturally, the more history the owner has with the site, the harder that is.

Ideally, the owner and the architect learn about site resources together, using a process which can test physical options based on goals established by the design team. Often, the original thumbnail site concept turns out to be the right one. But you have to remain open to options which can help you turn site problems into benefits; that's a major part of the creative process.

The Mustang Library is a good example of the critical importance of site analysis; the solution there really evolved, and I ended up doing a one-eighty from my original site concept. I think this was a function of the remote beauty of the site, and the knowledge that it was not going to remain remote for very long. I had to rethink my solution to the site so it would retain that quality of repose when the surrounding content and scale changed.

**AL:** Librarians are sometimes skittish about getting an over-designed building where function is secondary. How often do you find form and function fighting with each other?

**Dean:** I don't know that I'd call it fighting, but I do dislike the constant conflict between designing for the delight of the spirit and the perceived paranoia which very real

*continues on page 17*

# Flagstaff Public Library

They call it, with a smile, the "ski-lodge library." Its warm, inviting atmosphere has a distinctly cozy quality, and fireplaces beckon the visitor even in summer.

There are capacious wing chairs upholstered in Scottish tartan, places of cushiony woolen comfort that seem to say "stop, curl up and stay awhile."

It is elegantly scaled; cathedral ceilings let the mountains in, while the honey tones of natural wood lend a down-to-earth, homespun air. One does not so much enter this building as put it on, like a favorite flannel shirt on the first day of Fall.



The new Flagstaff City-Conino County Library was designed by Pam Hopkins; the Colorado firm of Snowden & Hopkins previously designed the award-winning Vail (CO) library. Hopkins' eye for alpine design elements is apparent in the appealing exterior of the Flagstaff library. Local malpais rock, glass and wood combine with a hint of chalet and a pinch of post-modernism to create a spirited, eclectic harmony.

Wheeler Park, in central Flagstaff, serves as front yard to both the new library and City Hall. The park's west edge is connected to the library by a charming wooden footbridge over the Rio de Flag. Mature aspen, fir, and pine flourish, softening the dramatic mountain skyline nearby.

After the initial warm rush afforded by entry into the library, the visitor's attention is fragmented; what to admire first? Fireplaces are a rarity among Arizona libraries, yet here is not one but four. They dominate the building, they are functional, and they are stunners. In one room, a massive column of malpais juts twenty feet to the ceiling above an ox-size firebox. Another area

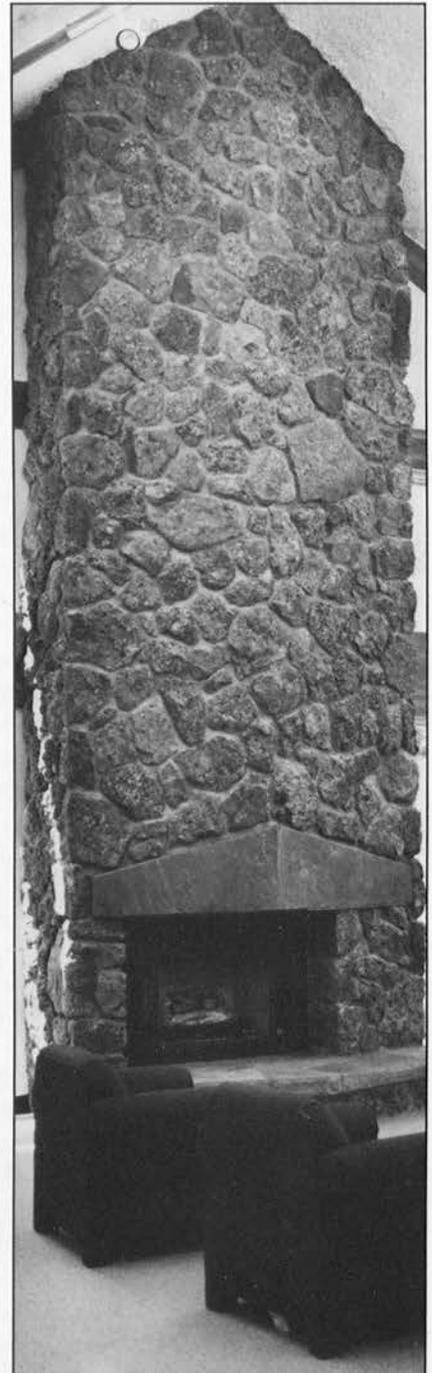
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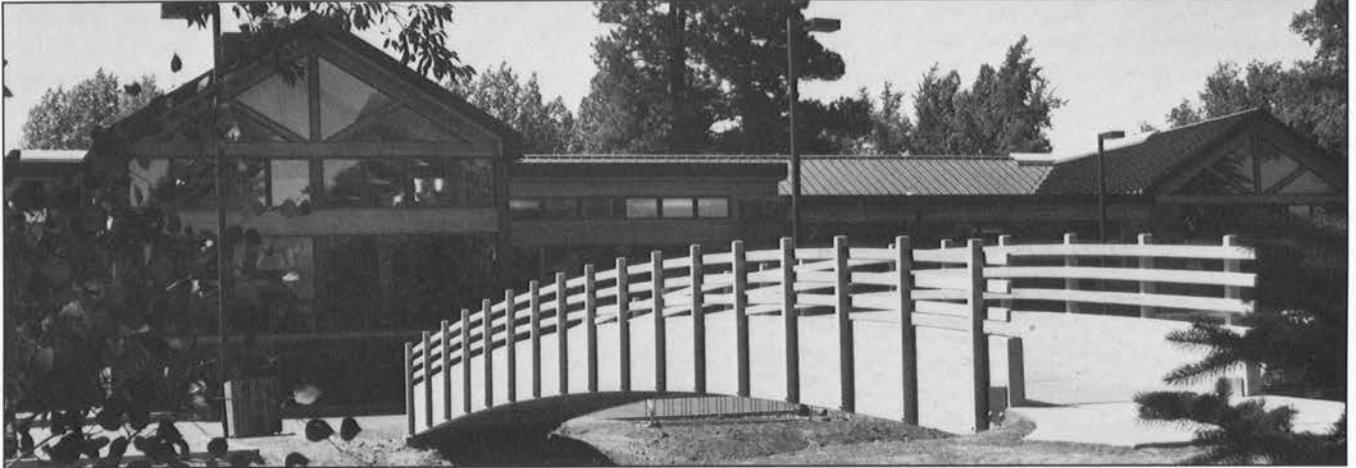
**One does not so  
much enter this  
building  
as put it on,  
like a favorite  
flannel shirt**

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features a freestanding, faintly Pueblo-esque fireplace; each side of the double-faced form sports a unique mantel: half-rounds of rough-sawn timber.

Daylighting techniques provide an inner glow to the building; the passive solar structure abounds with skylights and large windows. The north view from the Arizona Collection frames the San Francisco Peaks, highest in Arizona and a prime winter sports playground. Adjacent windows offer the comfortable aspect of a residential side street lined with matronly Victorian homes.





Natural woods are used effectively throughout the facility. Impressive custom millwork focuses attention on the circular reference and circulation islands. Huge exposed trusses of wood laminate form the cathedral ceilings; study areas and reading rooms are dotted with the droll shapes of Windsor chairs, done in natural oak.

In addition to ample office space and underground parking for staff, the new library has a two-bookmobile garage, compact storage for talking books, and a climate-controlled room for archiving of city records.

The site now occupied by the library was formerly a school. Long ago, a child got into trouble for claiming to have seen a beautiful angel in the basement. Local legend has it that the site has been haunted by a ghost since that day. Visitors agree that the library does seem to have a special spirit about it. □

Flagstaff Public Library  
300 West Aspen  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Director: Ava S. Chartz  
Opening Date: May 9, 1987

Architect: Snowden & Hopkins  
Construction: RMA  
Building Size: 34,500 sf  
Project Cost: \$ 4 million



# Glendale Public Library

No doubt about it, this is one uptown building. It has a big-city beat to it, a sense of hurry-up. It is all angles and elbows and knees.

Its rhythms and enthusiasms are contagious. Kids skip along the path while parents quicken their steps, drawn like moths to the glow of the great greenhouse roof in the dusk.

It intends to be big, bold, breath-stopping; and it succeeds. The initial response is a whistling double-take, "That's the *Library?*"



With Arizona the third-fastest growing state, Maricopa County is, happily or unhappily, the nation's second-fastest growing county, following Los Angeles, CA.

Elsewhere, a city of more than 100,000 persons might impress; but the greater Phoenix area has four of them: Glendale, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe, with several others clos-

ing on the benchmark. And they are not alone. They stand cheek by jowl with the city of Phoenix, population 1 million, sharing neighborhoods, schools, utilities, special districts and services. The comparison with

**It intends to  
be big, bold,  
breath-stopping,  
and it succeeds.**

Southern California's greater Los Angeles area grows increasingly common.

As the Valley urbanizes rapidly, its several municipal components compete in a breakneck race to establish civic identities and amenities, thereby attracting new residents and businesses to increase their respective tax bases.

Among the cities jockeying for position in this high stakes game, Glendale is perhaps the iconoclast. While wearing an aura of youthful agility and street-smart savvy in the arena of aggressive economic development, the city nonetheless moves in sure-footed fashion, with a mature eye on long-distance goals. For example, a percentage of the monies spent on a public building must be set aside for art. Quality of life is important here, as are fundamental family values.

Both these elements were clearly in evidence at the new library's dedication. This was not municipal pride, this was a city high on achieving a cultural pinnacle: not a new building, but a new *library*, a tangible symbol of what this city cares about. These were not a few families from the neighborhood, these were several *thousand* families who created a traffic jam that left officials dazed and smiling.



After speeches and unveiling of a specially commissioned sculpture (*see cover*), the crowd surged toward the striking building, designed by J. Barry Moffit, a former professor of architecture at Arizona State University. The two-story, glass-roofed central atrium rang with music, greetings and the sweet sounds of civic success.

The building shares its park site with a collection of historic structures, a sports complex and community pavilion, a mixed-used pastiche buffered by remnants of orange groves. The library reflects this lively mix inside too. Interior Architect Tom Shadoin's subtle textiles set off bold burgundy shelving, and the first thing inside the door is not a book drop but a shop.

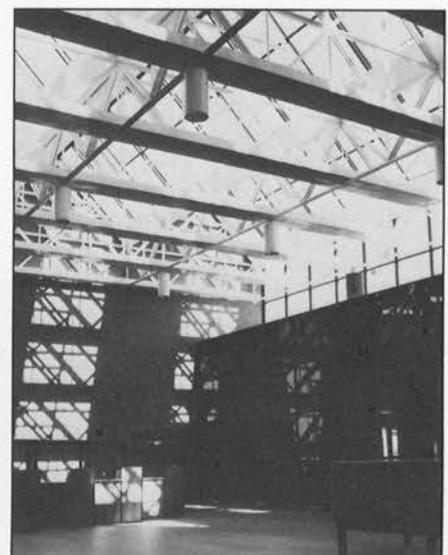
With merchandise visible through its glass walls, the attractive retail center invites attention and browsers. Other innovations are found enroute to the information desk: a broad walkway dubbed The Galleria offers user services in a self-help, store-front mode. Included is a bold presentation of the Library's federal documents depository, often an invisible operation elsewhere.

Like Flagstaff, Glendale has a new facility which aptly reflects its community. The library building is energetic and stylishly innovative, yet retains a thoughtful approach to traditional values. □



Glendale Public Library  
5959 W. Brown Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85302  
Director: Rodeane Widom  
Opening Date: July 27, 1987

Architect: J. Barry Moffit  
Interiors: Tom Shadoin  
Construction: Okland/CM: McCarthy  
Building Size: 64,100 sf  
Project Cost: \$ 5.4 million



central atrium Before, far right, and After, full of party-goers at dedication.

# Dobson Ranch Branch

Mesa Public Library

Amid urban jangle, the building somehow achieves a sense of solitude, a pleasing remoteness. It chooses not to compete with the passing hubbub, but rather to lure passers-by with tantalizing glimpses of water and green shadowy places.

A self-contained isolated fertile place, it promises refreshment and respite. It is the working definition of an oasis.

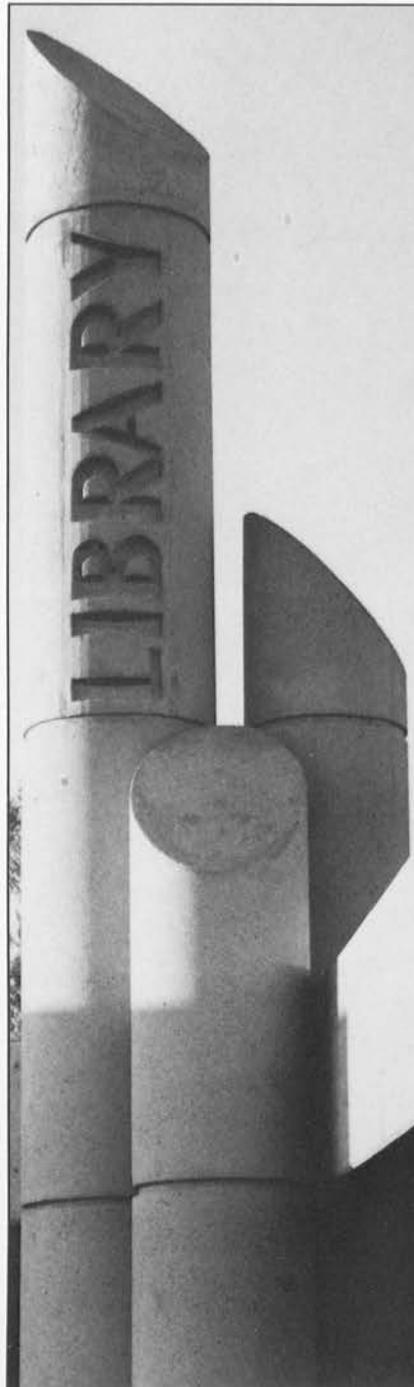


With a burgeoning population that threatens to overtake Tucson as the state's second largest city, Mesa revels in its growth yet squarely faces its accompanying responsibilities. The city takes more

## A southwest tone with a contemporary twist

of a no-frills approach than some of its municipal neighbors, at the same time taking care to meet its citizens' needs.

The new Dobson Ranch branch of the Mesa Public Library fits well into its environment, a planned up-scale development replete with lakes and lush landscaping. The building's design, done by Nelson Boren Architects, Inc., meets



strict federal regulations for blending into its surrounding park area. Set deeply into a grassy knoll and surrounded by earthwork berms, the facility scarcely interrupts the park skyline. The exterior features a copper roof and granite-colored concrete beams, offering a Southwestern tone with a subtle contemporary twist.

The overall oasis effect of the library is achieved through extensive use of energy-efficient features.

## High-tech elements are balanced by warm touches

Large trellises diffuse sunlight to keep the exterior walls cool; structural elements such as solid-grouted masonry and cast-in-place concrete beams stabilize interior temperatures.

An effort has been made to minimize artificial lighting, which generates heat. Light shelves bounce light into the library, while clerestory windows admit indirect, diffused light.

A thermal energy storage system uses air conditioning condenser units at night to make ice that is used as coolant during the day time hours. This, along with the light-measurement system, minimizes energy use during peak hours.

Although function is paramount, the library's interior is nonetheless warm and welcoming. High-tech elements—exposed ductwork, neon signs, and glass block—are balanced by warm touches: oak woodwork, lively colors, views of the building's lush environment. A geometric wall creates attractive bays which invite the visitor to pause. The creative outdoor terrace with its adjacent grassy amphitheatre offers versatile space for library programs and activities.

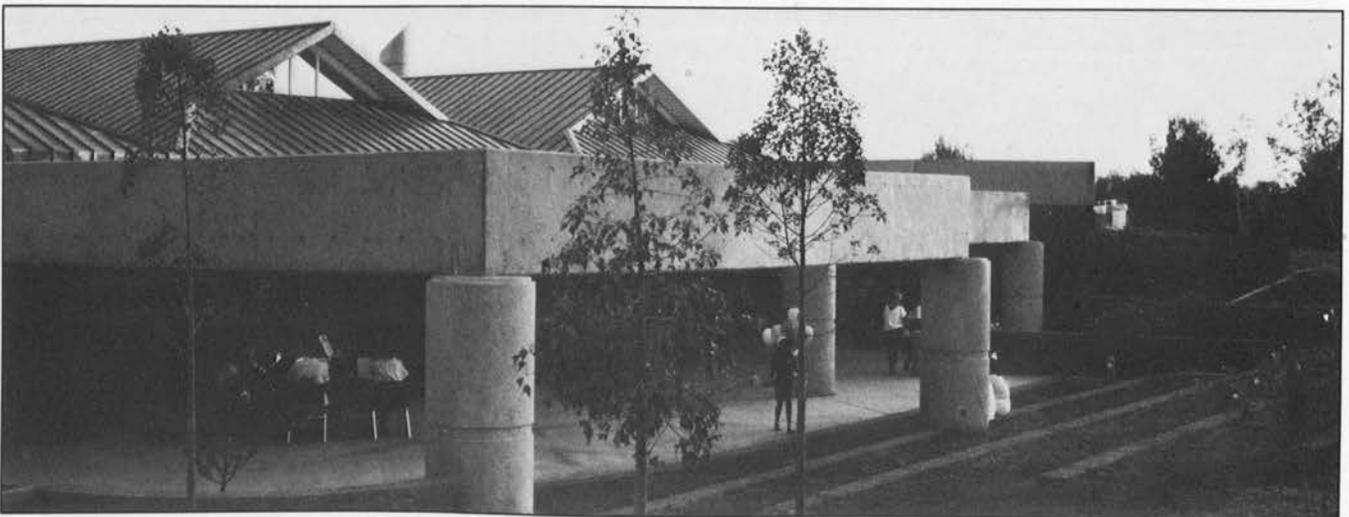
Use of the park setting, with its nearby playing fields, jogging paths, and lakeshore, neatly slips the library into the mainstream of the community's everyday activity pattern.

The City of Mesa earns high marks, not only for the environmental harmony achieved by this new facility, but also for the demonstrated perception that libraries are an integral part of its citizens' daily lives. □



**Dobson Ranch Branch  
Mesa Public Library  
2425 S. Dobson Road  
Mesa, AZ 85202  
Director: Herschel V. Anderson  
Manager: Michael Pitchford**

**Architect: Nelson Boren  
Contractor: Skidmore  
Building Size: 15,000 sf  
Project Cost: \$ 1.43 million  
Opening Date: June 18, 1987**



# Mustang Library

Scottsdale Public Library

Like the Sonoran desert from which it rises, it is deceptive. It seems small at first glance. But the visitor forgets what tricks the desert plays with distance, altering perspective and perception. The building sets deep into its site, speaking not to its approach, but rather to the distant violet mountains which seem a handspan away.

Nearer, the structure's mass asserts itself, the care with which colors blend the large building into earth is apparent. Around a corner,

## Sculpted shapes echo the essence of the environment

the looming bulk suddenly gives way to soaring arches and spires, a place of sculpted shapes which echo the essence of the environment.

It is the largest branch library in Arizona. Sleek, spirited, vibrating with energy, it is the Mustang.



The City of Scottsdale tries hard to present a world class image and, by most accounts, succeeds pretty well. Civic boosterism spotlights horsey qualities which support the city's motto, "The West's Most Western Town," with rodeos, parades, and a bewhiskered mayor who routinely sports a Stetson and

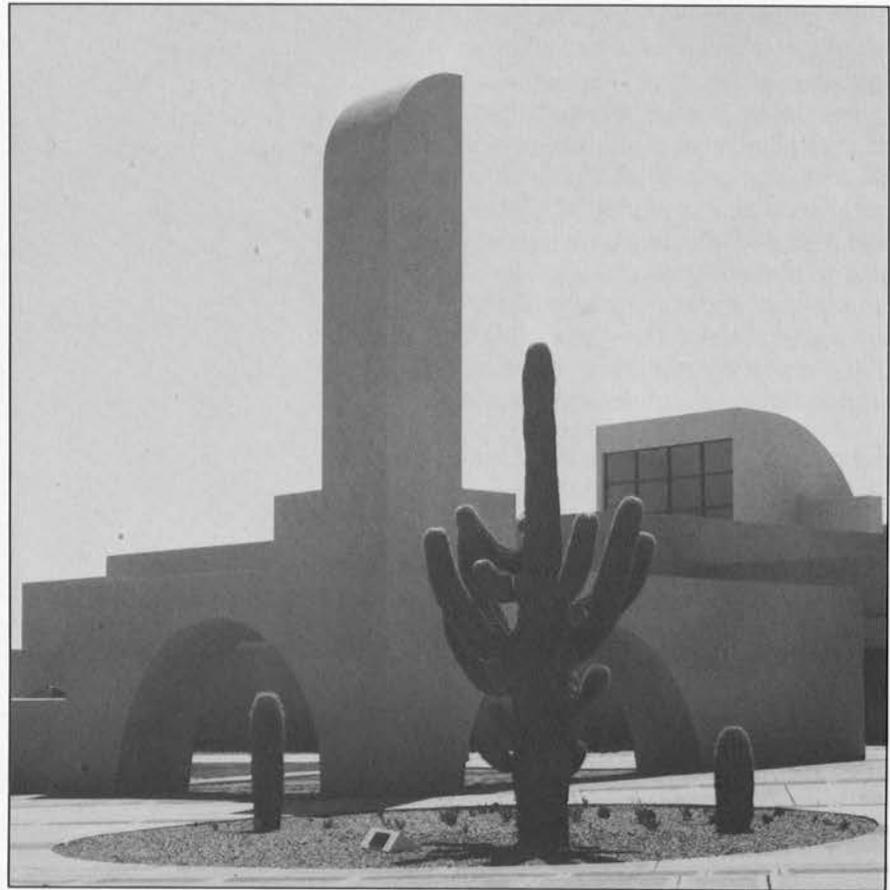


PHOTO © 1987 DAVID O. WILEY

high-heeled cowboy boots. But out of the limelight, diligent officials and citizens work hard to achieve their goal of a supercity, studded with amenities such as numerous high-end destination resorts, tournament-level sports facilities, and a first-rate quality of life for residents and visitors.

Not surprisingly, the city's approach to building its first branch library was consistent with its other efforts, and the results are predictably out of the ordinary. In addition to size, design quality was crucial.

Environmental issues get top priority in Scottsdale, and the library site lay adjacent to undeveloped land, the subtly beautiful and highly fragile ecosystem that is the upper Sonoran desert.

The city awarded the library design contract to an out-of-state firm, Dean/Hunt/Krueger & Associates, Inc., of Albuquerque, NM. The firm had previously designed several libraries in New Mexico, and was known for strong Southwestern designs which complement natural surroundings.

Along with its unobstructed view of the McDowell Mountains, the site offered another unique feature; the Camelback Walk traverses one corner of the property. The Walk is a meandering, landscaped trail, which cuts under existing roadways and through neighborhoods, allowing trans-city access for residents afoot or on horseback. The stepped design of the completed library follows the path, affording views not only of the mountains but also of the attractive desert growth along the Walk.

Interiors at Mustang echo the strong exterior elements; the stepped, geometric design appears in glass block at the circulation desk, and is mirrored in the glass curtain which divides the adult and children's areas. Soft, subtle desert colors deepen from front to back, emphasizing the sense of journey from the busy entrance to the quiet reading area with its mountain view.

In the high Scottsdale desert between the library and the mountains, herds of wild mustangs used to run free. Some say they still do, that children hear them in the night, nearby. Older residents say Pshaw, there's no mustang out there, it's nothing but your imagination.

But then, libraries are like that, designed to spur young imaginations to run wild, and free. □

**Mustang Library**  
**Scottsdale Public Library**  
 10101 N. 90th Street  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Director: Linda Saferite  
 Manager: Judy Register

Architect: Dean/Hunt/Krueger  
 Construction: Westbrook  
 Building Size: 31,850 sf  
 Project Cost: \$ 4.5 million  
 Opening Date: June 13, 1987



PHOTOS © 1987 DAVID Q. WILEY



Portfolio

# Apache Junction Arizona City



PHOTO COURTESY APACHE JUNCTION PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Apache Junction Public Library**  
1177 N. Idaho Road  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220  
Director: Pamela Loui

Located at the eastern edge of the Phoenix metro area, Apache Junction has a year-round population of about 15,000, which increases with many winter residents. The library is independently operated by the municipality, which also funded building construction.

The new facility has a collection of 20,000 items, with 83 reader seats and a meeting room seating 60. Designed by Larry Enyart, the eye-catching building features a domed entry with an all-glass rear wall, framing a spectacular view of the Superstition Mountains. The library was dedicated in July 1986.



**Arizona City Public Library**  
Sunland Gin Road, P. O. Box 118  
Arizona City, AZ 85223

Librarian: Charlotte Kelly

Situated in a broad, fertile valley midway between Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona City is a community of about 2,000 people. The new library building is the result of a strong grass-roots effort; it was built primarily with local funds, augmented with a Title II LSCA grant. Designed by Lloyd Johns Associated Architects, the 1,800 square foot library includes a multi-purpose room for community use.

With a collection of about 4,000 items, the new library offers full service. Part of the Pinal County Library system, the Arizona City Public Library was dedicated in July 1987.



PHOTO: LEANNA SHABERLY

# Globe South Tucson

**Globe Public Library**  
339 S. Broad Street  
Globe, AZ 85501  
Director: Terry McGovern

Two hours east of Phoenix, Globe reflects its turn-of-the-century heyday with its historic buildings, erected when the boom-town was home to one of the largest copper mines in the world. Now a quiet county seat, the town of 7,000 is part of the Gila County Library system.

The previously occupied building was extensively refitted and refurbished for its use as a library; the project was funded partially by LSCA. Visitors to the festive dedication ceremonies in early June 1987, were especially impressed with the new interiors. The library houses 12,000 items.

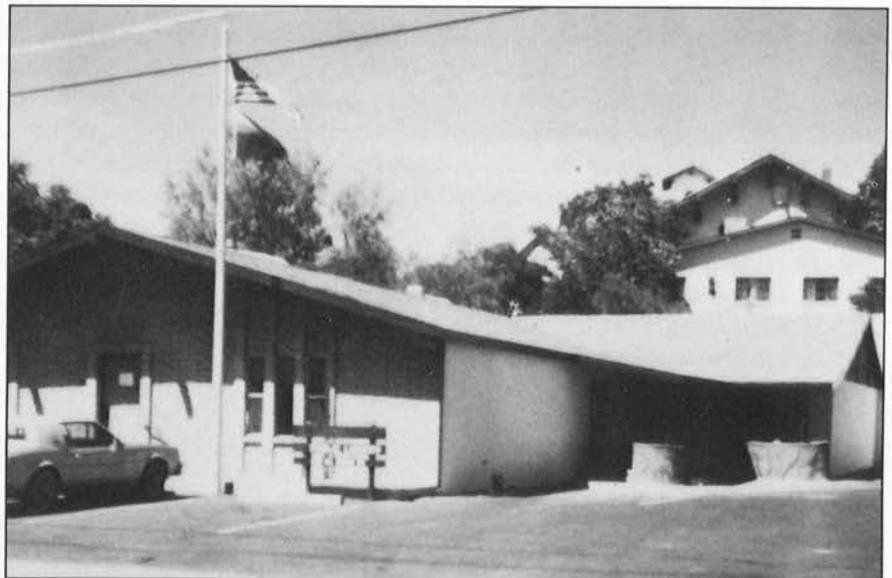
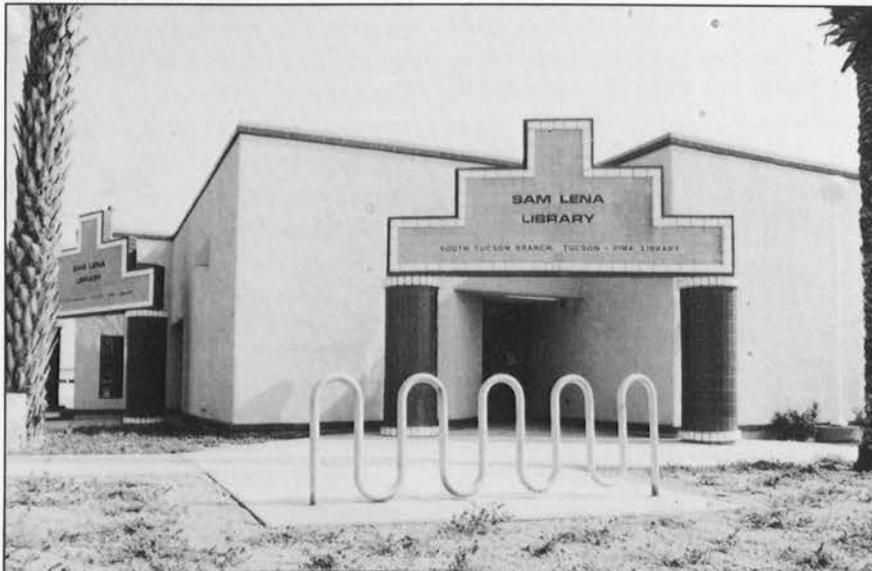


PHOTO COURTESY GLOBE PUBLIC LIBRARY



PHOTO COURTESY TUCSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Sam Lena Library**  
1601 S. 6th Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85713  
TPL Director: Marcia King  
Librarian: Amarilda Teschan

Although part of the Tucson metro area, and surrounded by that city on all sides, South Tucson is separately governed and maintains its distinct identity. The library is operated by the Tucson Public Library through an intergovernmental agreement.

The new building was designed by the firm of Posedly Lugo; the exterior features handsome blue tile archways and copper lettering. The library opened in August 1986, with 6,000 items; a meeting room seats 40. The facility is the first of several buildings on the site, a planned civic complex.

## Librarians & Architects

AL interviews Rodeane Widom

eration to flexibility in design. It's reflected in the use of modular furniture for all service desks, offices, study carrels, and workrooms. Everything is interchangeable, from pencil drawers to executive office casework. The use of carpet squares and flat wire cable allows for changes in electrical configurations; we included lots of storage for future collection building or service area expansion.

It was especially important to me that we create a comfortable and inviting place for children. They have a very separate area with a special story room/theater.

**AL:** Were there areas of conflict between you and your architect?

**Widom:** Of course. We're human. I learned that many architects want to do everything: design the building, create the interiors, and function as construction manager. We chose to split these three functions; that guarantees several point of conflict. For example, during the design process, some architects have difficulty allowing a construction management firm to evaluate the plans in terms of construction feasibility and cost. Also, an architect may be upset when a construction manager attributes a construction problem to a design flaw, as opposed to the contractor's performance. Similarly, the differing perspectives of an interior architect may not please the building architect.

For the owner, however, the conflicting views offered by the assorted principals provide for a choice among several valid, professionally based alternatives. While no one enjoys dissension, I can't overstate the advantage of having additional points of view.

**AL:** If you could change just one thing about your building process, what would it be?

**Widom:** I would allow much more time than I had for review of the final construction documents. I would sit down with the entire building team and go over every room one last time with a hard look toward actual operation and maintenance.

**AL:** What important message do you have for librarians who are thinking about a new building?

**Widom:** Well, let me say first that I appreciate the soapbox, because I feel that I do have an important message.

It is this: employ the services of a construction management firm. This service pays for itself many times over. It buys review for construction feasibility, cost, and alternative construction methods. It provides for review of the entire project before construction bid to determine if the building will be within budget (thereby, as much as possible saving the time and disappointment of bids which exceed

your budget). And then, during actual construction, the construction manager serves as your right hand in notifying you of problems quickly and finding remedies.

**AL:** One of the most controversial library buildings of our time is the Michael Graves design at San Juan Capistrano, CA. What is your reaction to that building?

**Widom:** That was one of the buildings we visited before we began preliminary design. Aesthetically, architecturally, it's very appealing. And, it certainly did a good job of getting attention, raising the profile of libraries.

I think I'd like to go there as a user, but I wouldn't want to run it or work there. Aside from the national attention generated by the design, the success or failure of the process there depends on the answer to one question: as a library serving its community's needs, does the building work? □

## Architects & Librarians

AL interviews Hal Dean

book control problems can create. Sullivan was right, form does follow function, but the key is knowing that it can follow in more than one way.

Harmony comes from recognizing the best solution, or the correct solution. You can't stop with one approach, there is never a "one-and-only" solution to design.

**AL:** Have you ever had to abandon a design you liked to satisfy the client's concept of function?

**Dean:** Abandon? No. On one occasion, and this was not a library, the design process broke down because the client and the architect quit listening to each other. In other words, they quit learning together. Fortunately, most librarians aren't like that.

**AL:** What are librarians like as clients?

**Dean:** They're better than most. They tend to be very well prepared, and their functional requirements are very specific. Librarians are receptive to opening up a dialogue, and they listen easily to new options. I find that librarians are very appreciative of a thoughtful design process. And when you're appreciated for what you do, you tend to do more, to go out of your way.

One thing I've run into is that librarians have a highly developed sense of responsibility to their authorities. Carried to an extreme, this

can translate into a closed mind. On the other hand, many librarians consider the citizens to be their ultimate bosses. That's one reason why the architect must listen to them, because librarians generally have a better handle on the community than most people.

### Librarians have a better handle on the community than most people

**AL:** In your opinion, what is the role of a library building consultant?

**Dean:** Consultants have the unique opportunity to creatively open up the experience level of other members of the design team. It is their responsibility to bring the big-pic-

ture options to the group. In this area, they function in much the same way as a good designer, analyzing all potential solutions and recommending the best one. A consultant can significantly help the librarian understand how to work through the process.

It's important that the librarian define expectations of the consultant. The consultant has broad-

scope responsibilities; inventorying of design, for example, is not a consultant's function. The best library consultants are very sensitive to the basic triangle of Owner/Architect/Solution; they know that, to be effective, they must not create a fourth corner, but blend into the triangle. Good consultants are always conscious that theirs is not the ultimate responsibility; that remains with the owner and the architect.

**AL:** One of the most controversial library buildings of our time is the Michael Graves design at San Juan Capistrano, CA. What is your reaction to that building?

**Dean:** It's a personal stereotype. Walking through the building, I could appreciate as a designer that Graves had a great deal of fun with it. But, aside from some passing fame, I'm not sure what that does for the community.

Libraries are timeless, and they shouldn't align themselves with the cliches of our times. A library building should reflect the soul of the community. □

## New Home for the State Law Library?

By Zena Friedman

If you were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Research Library, you would see that behind every closed door there are books: books in the closets, books under the stairs, books stored off-site at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The Research Library's need for more space has reached crisis proportions.

Hopefully, a solution is on the horizon. When the new State Courts building is complete, it

### The need for more space has reached crisis proportions

will house a modern 27,000 square foot law library. The law collection of approximately 110,000 volumes, now housed in the Research Library, will be moved to the new facility which will become the State Law Library. It will have the potential to expand to over 39,000 s.f. by the year 2020. The proposed site of the new building is Jefferson

Street and 15th Avenue in Phoenix, part of the state Capitol complex.

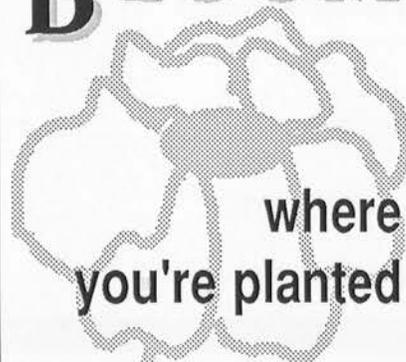
The library design incorporates both standard shelving and compact shelving for lesser used materials. There will be a separate room for the microform collection, an audio-visual room, and a small conference room for the use of our patrons. In addition to lounge seating, there will be a study area, including a few closed carrels.

The move of our law collection to new quarters will allow us to adequately house and expand our other collections at the Research Library. It is planned that both the Research Library and the Law Library will be integral parts of the state's resource sharing network. We will continue to help public libraries with legal reference and technical services problems. The law library will be open to the public.

The establishment of a State Law Library in an attractive, new building will benefit all libraries in Arizona. □

*Zena Friedman, a librarian and a lawyer, is Director of the Research Division of the Arizona Department of Library, Archives & Public Records.*

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◆BF

# Who would you like to hear from?

***ARIZONA LIBRARIES* is inviting  
key figures in the library world  
to share their views.**

**Who would you like us  
to interview?**

**Who should we ask  
to submit an article?**

**On what topic?**

## We'd like to hear from you.

Also, if you have an article prepared, or are thinking about one, give us a call at the *AL* editorial office.

You can find out what topics *AL* will address in the coming year, and we'll fill you in about deadlines and editorial guidelines.

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Where we've been; where we're going  
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