

KEVIN S. BERRY / SOUTH MOUNTAIN STUDIOS

6212 South Eighth Place

Phoenix, AZ 85042

ph. 602-243-6494

e mail: kevinberrysmtn@aol.com

ARTIST STATEMENT FOR SILVERBELL ROAD ARTWORK

The artwork concept that I have developed for the Silverbell Road corridor is in large part inspired by the formation of geology over time that has shaped the surrounding Sonoran Desert landscape. Conceptually, the alluvial layers of strata serve as a metaphor for the layers of history and imagery that exist and define this majestic desert terrain, hence the design term I have coined, “stratascape” a combination of the words strata and landscape.

Some of the areas in which the artwork will be integrated into the project include the soil nail walls, the pedestrian pathways, and roadway medians. The artwork consists of a series of four roadway monuments with benches that serve as functional pedestrian nodes offering shady respite for those using the pedestrian pathways. These monuments mark several different points of interest including the Anza Trail, Greasewood Wash, Painted Hills Wash, and the site of the historic Silverbell Guest Ranch and are inspired by the indigenous desert flora, geology, and local history that exists along Silverbell Road. The gabion monuments will be constructed out of woven wire mesh, steel plate, recycled rock sifted and salvaged from the removed roadway hillsides, and historic rubble and artifacts collected from the site of the old historic Silverbell Guest Ranch. The monuments feature bold graphic patterns cut out of steel plate representing magnified views of local desert flora found in the adjacent washes as well as the names of the respective points of interest. A magnified desert flora pattern is also included in the seating surface of the precast concrete bench.

The geology inspired “stratascape” design will also be integrated into the soil nail walls and expressed through layered bands of colored rock and concrete that reflect the local desert color palette and abstractly mimic the bands of strata that can be seen in the distant mountain range backdrops along both sides of Silverbell Road. Some of the rock used in the soil nail walls will be salvaged and recycled rock collected from the removed hillsides along the roadway as well as rock from the historic Silverbell Mine. In addition, the colored rock strata pattern will also be integrated into the ground plane of the raised roadway medians further reinforcing the cohesive design concept.

Working in collaboration with the design team project engineers and landscape architect, it has been my intention to design artwork for this project that creates a sense of place, both celebrating and existing in harmony with the roadway’s unique history and natural desert environment. This has been accomplished through a cohesive design approach that integrates the artwork into many different areas of the overall roadway project.



SILVERBELL ROAD - GORET ROAD TO GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

anza trail monument



PUBLIC ART

SILVERBELL ROAD - GORET ROAD TO GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



greasewood wash monument



PUBLIC ART

SILVERBELL ROAD - GORET ROAD TO GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



painted hills wash monument



PUBLIC ART

SILVERBELL ROAD - GORET ROAD TO GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



silverbell road monument



PUBLIC ART

SILVERBELL ROAD - GORET ROAD TO GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

