

Artesia Gates

The small town of Artesia, New Mexico is undergoing a renaissance as a result of the Artesia Mainstreet organization's community spirit, pride and initiative. The Artesia Gates project builds on Artesia's effort to reconstruct their main street and bring new economic opportunity to downtown.

The design committee of Artesia Main Street wanted to increase visibility of their city by welcoming travelers on Interstate 285 to their town and by connecting their downtown to the economic vitality of I-285. This connection to the traveler needed to be something more than a traditional gateway. A signature piece, whose scale rivaled the surrounding industrial landscape surroundings, was necessary. The gateway needed to serve as a welcome to the traveler and embody Artesia's past and future.

Design Context and the Expression of Local Characteristics

The core idea expresses the different strata of the community. Depending on your perspective, the strata can be subject to multiple interpretations, such as:

- Layers of sun, sky, air, plants and soil
- Layers of community talent and structure
- Deposits of the economy and its resources
- Layers of Artesian history
- Real geological layers
- Real natural resources- Artesian wells, oil and gas, or rich topsoil

The gateway structures respond to the hard-working community of Artesia by memorializing its environment and its resources. The symbol can either be interpreted very literally, metaphorically, or as an abstraction of elements. The Artesia gate design steps out of the traditional medium of a gateway and reflects the future vision of a changing community. As such, the symbol expresses the industry and foresight of Artesia's citizens.



Location: Artesia, NM.

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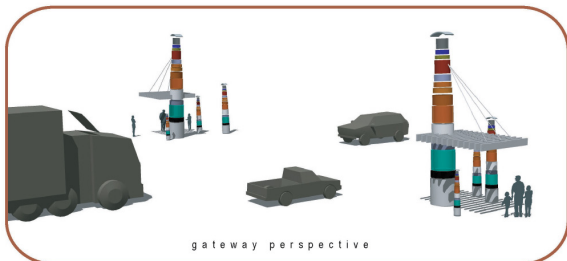
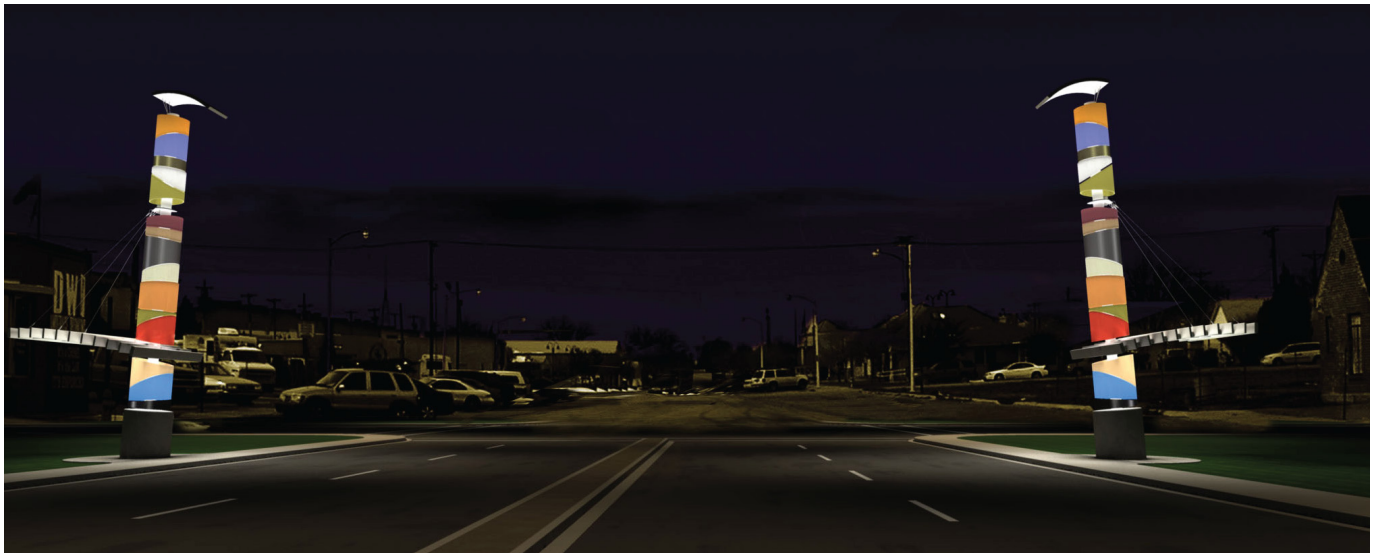
7601 Jefferson NE, Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505.761.9700 tel - 505.761.4222 fax

LAS VEGAS

6860 Bermuda Drive, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89119
702.436.1006 tel - 702.436.1050 fax

AMARILLO

500 S. Taylor, Suite 750
Amarillo, TX 79101
806.376.8199 tel - 806.376.8189 fax



artesia gateway project
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO

Concept: the conceptual form was derived from the geology and industries of Artesia and is a metaphor or geological core structure

Structure: each structure is steel and hollow to accommodate lighting

Materials: the materials will consist of stone, granite, copper, tin, aluminum, brass, wood, steel, plexiglass and stainless steel coating

Function: the pillars act as throughpoles to Artesia's city center along the major arteries. the monument is lit from within and symbolically represents the different geologic strata that defines the livelihoods of Artesia's citizens. the plexiglass elements represent the Acceptor of aridism wells, the sunlight. the metals and stone represent the industry and soils of Artesia. the monument is clustered with other monument outcrops, growing like crystals.

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