

KOLL ANAHEIM CENTER: ART FOR PUBLIC PLACES

Koll Anaheim Center, Anaheim, California 1990-1992

Commissioner: Anaheim Redevelopment Agency

Consultants: David Berkson, Landscape Architect, SWA Group, Mary Miss, Artist, Mark Pally, Artist

Artist Team: Daniel Martinez, Nobuho Nagasawa, Buster Simpson

Budget: \$ 350,000

Award: Art in Public Places Award



The Koll Anaheim Center is a three block long urban complex, across from Anaheim City Hall, in downtown Anaheim, California. The project consisted of a series of public artworks for the \$200 million retail and business development of Anaheim Center.

The artist team conceived of the overall streetscape concept together, but each produced artwork individually. The site-specific components, including street furniture and free standing sculpture, recall the agricultural, historical, industrial, cultural, and natural heritage of Anaheim.

The project received an "Art in Public Places Award" from the Architecture Foundation of Orange County.



Sinking Canoe

steel, light projector

The first known humans to live in the Anaheim region were present at least twenty thousand years ago but little evidence of their life remains. More recently, in approximately 2,000 B.C.E., the Gabrielinos and Juanenos tribes settled in the coastal plains of the area. The Gabrielinos were the only native North Americans to use planks in constructing their canoes. *Sinking Canoe* evokes this early form of transportation. The light forms projected from the canoe onto the ceiling above are based on Gabrielino symbols and iconography. Caught sinking into the parking stall, the viewer encounters the canoe unexpectedly, in a meeting that is at once absurd, comical, and meaningful.



Planters

cast concrete, pigment
2.4 x 4 x 4'

The patterns and symbols of the three cast concrete planters are adapted from Gabrielino motifs frequently seen in their extremely sophisticated baskets. Plants native to Southern California grow in the planters.



Coyote Bench

cast concrete, boulders
1.6 x 13 x 3'

The coyote is one of the most tenacious animals living in Southern California. It has adapted well to the intrusion of man, easily surviving on discarded food instead of hunting in the wild. Native Americans in earlier times gave coyotes great respect, commemorating them in a story revealed in *Coyote Bench*. YTUR is the approximate phonetic pronunciation of the Gabrielino word for coyote. The bench itself is rough, closer to raw and natural materials than those usually encountered in urban settings. Its exposed rocks come directly from the earth, but are also embedded in concrete, a material used widely in city and building construction. Therefore the bench is also a reminder of the complex relationship between civilization and the natural world. Coyote's footprint is sandblasted in the sidewalk.



Anvil and Nails and Sidewalk Text

stainless steel, sandblasted text
1.6 x 5 x 1'

In the nineteenth century, Pressel's General Blacksmithing & Horse Shoeing business was located in downtown Anaheim. *Anvil and Nails* pays homage to that era, with sculpture and an adjacent quote from a San Francisco newspaper (dated 1858) that reports a visitor's impression of Anaheim as a highly industrious place. Downtown Anaheim has been a site of labor since its earliest days. The agricultural businesses have been replaced with white-collar jobs, but the area's dedication to work remains.

Orange Crates

recycled redwood,
porcelain enamel



Orange Crates is situated in a grove, with individual boxes scattered about the ground in a casual manner. Not too many years ago, real orange crates were filled with Anaheim's agricultural bounty and shipped to destinations all across the country. Authentic labels, including the "Pride of Anaheim," have been accurately reproduced and demonstrate the beauty of an art form no longer practiced.

Tree Grate

cast aluminum
2' x 6 x 6'



The tree grate design is based on a map of the original city boundaries, as divided by the North, South, East, and West Streets. A patch below the north arrow shows the location of the last orange grove of Anaheim, no longer in existence. As the trees grow, nature invades the urban landscape again.