

## Indigenous Design Collaborative (IDC)

Arizona State University

The Indigenous Design Collaborative is a socially-embedded design-and-build program that creates physical solutions for tribal communities. Projects tackle issues of housing, place-keeping, storytelling, and recreation. Participants draw on historical research, indigenous design thinking, technology and innovation, and community engagement to create tailored solutions to community-driven challenges.



### Dancing Earth Between Underground and Skyworld Rulan Tangen

IDC was given the privilege to work alongside Rulan Tangen and create a structure piece that will be featured at her performance at Gammage Auditorium in January 2020. Tangen's performance is intended to honor the genius of local indigenous culture, particularly the Akimel O'otham and PeePosh peoples of Arizona. The installation will welcome attendees, amplifying Tangen's idea of indigenous-centered futurity, ancestral lifeways and value systems, all the while enabling a contemporary expression, expressing the notion, that we are still here.

The installation will move from the Gammage site on ASU's Tempe campus, to a permanent location at the Sun Devil Stadium in 2020. The intent of the structure, is to welcome guests with a site-immersive experience. The three poles express past, present and future, offering a moment of pause around the circle of life, a place to sit and connect. The piece, and its gesture upward, aims to honor connections with mother earth, the underground and the sky world. The four rings honor four generations and four seasons. Local materials, such as ocotillo and arrow weed, contextualize the histories and territorial knowledge of this place. Solar led lighting will be used to amplify the eco-technological potential of Indigenous futurity, celebrating earth's gifts. In recognition of the 22 tribes, there are 22 marks of acknowledgement on the outer ring.



### Colorado River Indian Tribe Justice Center

The IDC design team had visited the Colorado River Indian Tribe in Parker, Arizona, the team had toured the site for the Justice Centre and learned extensively about the tribes of CRIT (Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo). CRIT is unique in terms of respectively representing each tribe equally and working as one, while also honoring Mohave as the original territorial ancestors of the region.

The first motivation to represent CRIT into the project came directly from the tribe's seal, which symbolizes the surrounding agriculture, river and all four tribes. The Colorado River is an important resource and presence to the tribe, it has been represented in the Mohave creation story and provides the means for agriculture. The design intent incorporates basic elements that make CRIT unique, such as the ones depicted in its flag: the land, the Arizona sun, the water and the tribal feathers abstracted as four equal towers —which later become distinctive markers to characterize the building from the distance with the four tribes (Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo).



### Indigenous Placemaking at ASU Hayden Library

Twenty-one panels at various sizes and thicknesses will share welcome sayings and hellos in the tribal languages of the 22 Arizona tribes to create a dynamic welcome wall on the concourse level of the newly renovated Hayden Library. Rectangular translucent resin/ fiberglass panels embedded with laser cut wood veneers ranging in depth. Indigenous artists Thomas "Breeze" Marcus (Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Hopi, Ponca, and Otoe), Douglas Miles (Apache, Akimel O'odham), and Vyal Reyes (Zuni, Yaqui and Rarámuri) share a rare interpretation their unique graffiti style handwriting fixed within the resin panels.



### Upper Fruitland Cemetery

Upper Fruitland is located in the four corners region of New Mexico on the Navajo Nation Reservation. The project was to assist Upper Fruitland Chapter to co-create a design of a cemetery guided by Chapter Officials and the community. The design was derived from respectively incorporating traditional culture and the surrounding landscape. The cemetery is to span across 40.6 acres to accommodate approximately 9,000 burial plots, reception building, and maintenance building. The design inspiration is taken from the traditional Navajo Hogan. The ASU design team has done multiple studies of the tectonics of the Hogan, materiality, and the cultural representation of direction. The final design reflects the Hogan throughout the project, as well as the traditional beliefs of the importance of directionality.