



Neighborhood Art



Tempe Gardens Artistic Seats

Jason Griffiths

Powder coated 1/8-inch perforated sheet steel

2011

Location: Tempe Gardens Neighborhood
College Avenue and La Jolla Drive

Artist Website: www.ginogriffiths.com

Description: The idea for these pieces was to use a simple chair, almost the iconic chair, to describe types of body language. Its eventual form was derived from looking at how two people might sit together and their relationship with one another (i.e. one leaning on the other, facing slightly away from each other, and so on). These relationships also were formed by the immediate environment like views toward the street, local bus routes and shade. Starting with the simple chair form in mind, Griffiths met with neighborhood members (aided by neighborhood member Katie Zeiders) to agree upon the negotiable design aspects of the chairs, such as color. The design concepts were digitally created with the assistance of Greg Brockman (Magnum Steel) for production and installation. The final design was a range of furniture pieces that all look like they belong together but are specific individually. The chairs were tailored to fit the specific environment and community needs while offering an overarching sense of continuity in Tempe.

Artist biography: Griffiths is a partner in Gino Griffiths Architects and works in the American Southwest. His practice is based on a multidisciplinary approach to architecture working through competitions, buildings, furniture, writing and photography. He has won numerous international awards and has exhibited and published widely. He is the author of *Manifest Destiny - A Guide to the Essential Indifference of American Housing* which offers an account of a six-month tour of North American suburbs. Following its publication in 2011 Jason Griffiths received the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) book award at the Frankfurt Book Fair and was listed as one of 10 recipients for “2011 year in review: Best in architecture” by the *LA Times*. As an assistant professor at Arizona State University’s Design School, his work explores architecture of popular culture and digital making. His built work includes The Lowest House in the Mojave Desert, Siouxland Transit Bus Stops, K-Zell Metalworks, The Political Ply Shade Canopy and Scottsdale Arts Camera Obscura. He has lectured widely throughout Europe, the United State and Mexico and has taught at the Bartlett, Westminster, the AA and the Tech de Monterrey.

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