



## **DESIGN AND THE ARTS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

### **TEMPE RIO SALADO PROJECT COLLECTION**

**Collection #: MS MSS 34**

**Location: DESIGN AND THE ARTS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS and HIGH DENSITY COLLECTION**

**Drawings and Papers: 1960s-1990s**

**No. of Items: 122 oversize folders and 7 boxes, c. 21 ln. ft.**

#### **Historical Note**

In 1966, James Elmore, Dean of the Arizona State University College of Architecture, worked with a group of students to develop a plan to reclaim and transform the dry Salt River bed running through the city of Tempe. Named Rio Salado, Salt River in Spanish, the students' plan called for turning the riverbed into an asset by creating a mixed-use development centered around an urban greenbelt.

The project attracted great interest in the riverfront cities of Tempe, Mesa and Phoenix. The students presented their proposals to local business and civic leaders in 1967 and the following year a new group of design students revisited the project. In 1970, civic leaders formed Valley Forward, a group that included James Elmore as a member. This new organization assumed responsibility for coordinating studies and obtaining support for the Rio Salado Project.

Valley Forward, along with the Maricopa Association of Governments, sponsored three major studies between 1972 and 1974, resulting in a master plan for the entire forty-mile length of the riverbed in the project area. In 1974, the Arizona

legislature appropriated \$100,000 in matching funds for municipalities to acquire land in the project area. Three years later the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a study evaluating the need for flood control in the area and suggesting potential recreational uses that could result, such as water and trail activities.

In 1980, the state legislature created the Rio Salado Development District to determine feasibility, prepare a final master plan, and recommend a funding mechanism. The development district estimated land acquisition costs to be \$1.5 billion and operating costs \$544 million over a twenty-five year period. The district submitted a financing proposal to the voters of Maricopa County that would levy a property tax and establish provisions for managing sales and leases of land.

The county-wide referendum failed by a two to one margin but the City of Tempe continued to pursue the Rio Salado Project, forming the Tempe Rio Salado Commission in 1987. City planners also established a partnership with the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State University. In 1987 and 1988 professors Edward Cook and Kevin Hinders directed a team of graduate students in working with the Tempe Rio Salado Commission to produce a conceptual plan for the entire project and a specific proposal for the area between Mill Avenue and Rural Road. The Tempe City Council adopted an amended version of the plan in 1990, featuring an urban lake with water from the Central Arizona Project that would become Tempe Town Lake, completed in 1999.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of drawings, presentation boards, and reports generated during the planning process for the Rio Salado Project, from the 1960s through the 1990s.

Series 1, ASU Studio Project, consists of presentation boards resulting from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design partnerships with the City of Tempe in developing plans for the Rio Salado area.

Series 2, City of Tempe Rio Salado Project, consists of presentation boards and drawings resulting from the City of Tempe's work in developing plans in the project area.

Series 3, Reports, Prints, Overheads, Negatives, consists of these types of materials

generated during the planning process.

Series 4, Oversize Materials, consists of large presentation boards and other oversize materials generated during the planning process.

## **Provenance**

This collection was donated to Arizona State University by the City of Tempe, 1994-1996.

## **Related Material**

Interested researchers may wish to consult MS MSS 12, James W. Elmore Collection, containing materials on the Rio Salado Project, (guide available at [http://www.azarchivesonline.org/xtf/view?docId=ead/asu/elmore\\_dl.xml](http://www.azarchivesonline.org/xtf/view?docId=ead/asu/elmore_dl.xml)) and MSS 359, James W. Elmore Papers Papers, 1947-2007, for more information regarding Elmore's life and work (guide available at <http://www.azarchivesonline.org/xtf/view?docId=ead/asu/elmore.xml>).

## **Container List**

### **Series 1: ASU Studio Project**

Folder 1 Rio Salado Metropolitan Development 2000 A.D., Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 2 Topical Map with Land Use Layout, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 3 Valley Development, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 4 Combined Resources, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 5 Water System and Parks, Section aa, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 6 Transportation and Ownership, Section bb, Undated (Housed in Map Case

153G R3 D10)

Folder 7 The Waterworks, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 8 The Boardwalk and Hayden's Ferry, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folders 9-10 Zona Recreation Rio Salado, 1967 March 17 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D10)

Folder 11 Longitudinal/Park Commercial/Character Sketches, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D11)

Folder 12 Character Sketch/Perspective, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D11)

Folder 13 Perspective of Quay in Waterway, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D11)

Folder 14 Rio Salado Phase 3a, 1977 March (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 D11)

## **Series 2: City of Tempe Rio Salado Project**

Folders 1-2 Moderate Water Development, 1978 January (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D5)

Folder 3 Rio Salado Parkway Plan and Profile, Parsons Brinkerhoff, 1986 December 19 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D5)

Folder 4 University Plaza, U.H.B. Plaza Limited Partnership, 1986 December 31 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D5)

Folder 5 Recommended Rapid Transit Alignment, 1988 February 2 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D6)

Folder 6 Diablo Stadium II, Tempe Sports Authority, 1988 March 14 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D6)

Folder 7 Wildlife Habitat, 1988 May 23 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D6)

Folder 8 Tempe Rio Salado Park Site, Play Ball America, Inc., 1988 July 20 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D6)

Folders 9-10 Proposal for BLM Parcel, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D7)

Folder 11 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Rio Salado Task Force, 1989 March 6 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D7)

Folder 12 Rio Salado Project Schedule and Stadium and Commercial Development, 1989 July 15 and October 12 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D7)

Folder 13 Ownership Map and Proposed Professional Ballpark Master Plan, 1989 October 20 and December 8 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D7)

Folder 14 Character Study, Champlin Fighter Museum and Site Study, Rio Salado/BLM, 1990 February 21 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D7)

Folder 15 Rio Salado North Levee Park Concept, 1990 May 11 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D7)

Folder 16 Rio Salado Circulation, Hohokam to Priest, 1990 July 31 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D8)

Folder 17 Rio Salado Circulation, Priest to Mill Avenue, 1990 August 21 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D8)

Folder 18 Rio Salado Circulation, Farmer to Rural Road, 1990 August 28 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D8)

Folder 19 Rio Salado Circulation, Rural to Hayden, 1990 September 11 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D8)

Folder 20 Rio Salado Circulation, McClintock to Price, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D8)

Folder 21 Rio Salado Circulation, Salt River north to McKellips, Indian Bend Wash, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D8)

Folders 22-23, Baseball Stadium, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D9)

Folder 24 Downtown Tempe/Rio Salado/ASU: Partial Site Plan, Scenario 1: Short Range, 1990 July 25 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D9)

Folders 25-26 Downtown Tempe/ Rio Salado/ASU: Partial Site Plan, Baseball, 1990 February 5 and 16 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D9)

Folder 27 Downtown Tempe/ Rio Salado/ASU: Partial Site Plan, Scenario 3: Long Range, 1990 June 27 and July 25 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D9)

Folder 28 Downtown Tempe/Rio Salado/ASU: Partial Site Plan Scenario 3: Long Range (Hockey), City of Tempe, 1990 June 27, 1991 January 18 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D1)

Folder 29 Wildlife Habitat Master Plan, Median Treatment, 1990 February 15 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D1)

Folder 30 Wildlife Habitat Master Plan, Proposed Mitigation Zone, 1990 March 12 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D1)

Folders 31-32 Wildlife Habitat Master Plan, Rio Salado Parkway, 1990 May 17 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D1)

Folder 33 Conceptual Drawings, Rio Salado Development, 1990 October 15 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D1)

Folders 34-35 BLM Site, Hilltop VOR, Recreation, 1990 November 28 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D2)

Folders 36-37 Tempe Rio Salado Park, 1993 Recommended and Fully Funded, 1990 May 3 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D2)

Folders 38-39 Land Use Map, Tempe Rio Salado Park, 1991 February 11 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D2)

Folder 40 Land Use Map, Tempe Rio Salado Park, 1991 February 13 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D3)

Folders 41-42 Community Connections and Land Use, Arizona State University Master Plan, Wallace, Roberts & Todd, 1991 March 19 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D3)

Folder 43 Arizona State University, Concentrated Core Development Plan, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D3)

Folder 44 Underpass, New Mill Avenue Bridge, 1991 March 25 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D3)

Folder 45 Land Use Map, Tempe Rio Salado Park, 1991 April 11 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D3)

Folder 46 Rio Salado Environmental Education Workshop, 1991 October 18-19 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D3)

Folder 47 Proposed Artists School, Tempe Site Plan, 1992 January 20 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folder 48 Arts Concept Plan, Tempe Beach Park, 1992 January 30 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folder 49 Arts Concept Plan, Master Plan Buildout, Tempe Beach Park, 1992 March 18 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folder 50 Arts Concept Plan, Master Plan Phase 1, Tempe Beach Park, 1992 March 18 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folder 51 Arts Concept Plan, Master Plan Buildout, Tempe Beach Park, 1992 April 7 (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folder 52 Papago Freeway Landscape Concept, Major Views from Freeway, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folders 53-54 Papago Freeway Landscape Concept, Sections A-E, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D4)

Folders 55-56 Papago Freeway Landscape Concept Irrigation and Planting Diagrams, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D5)

Folder 57, Nearby Cultural Facilities, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D5)

Folders 58-59 Demonstration Project, Tempe Rio Salado, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D10)

Folders 60-61 Rio Salado Channel Design, CRSS, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D10)

Folder 62 Tempe Butte, Tempe Beach Park Master Plan, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D10)

Folder 63 Tempe Beach Park, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D10)

Folder 64 Downtown, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D10)

Folder 65 Aerial photo of Rio Salado Area, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D10)

Folder 66 Tempe Rio Salado Master Plan, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D11)

Folder 67 Land layout, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D6)

Folders 68-71 Papago Park, Cella Barr Associates, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D11)

Folders 72-74 Water Aspects, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R1 D11)

Folders 75-76 Water Aspects, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R5 D5)

Folders 77-80 Rio Salado renderings, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R2 D1)

Folder 81 Hub of Active Research, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R2 D1)

Folder 82 Tempe Rio Salado, City of Tempe, Community Development Department, Rio Salado Task Force, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R2 D1)

Folder 83 Tempe Rio Salado, City of Tempe, Community Development Department, Rio Salado Advisory Commission, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R2 D1)



Folder 84 Overhead drawing of river bed, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R2 D1)

Folder 85 Thomas/Gateway Rio Salado Core, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153H R2 D1)

Folder 86 1991-95 Fully Funded, Tempe Rio Salado Park, Rio Salado Task Force, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R5 D5)

Folder 87 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Rio Salado Task Force, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R5 D5)

Folder 88 Tempe Rio Salado Planning Office Sign, Undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R5 D5)

Folder 89 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Kenney Aerials, 1970-1989 (Housed in Map Case 153G R5 D5)

### **Series 3: Reports, Prints, Overheads, Negatives**

#### **Box 1**

Folder 1 Tempe Rio Salado, City of Tempe, Community Development Department, Undated

Folder 2 Ash Avenue Bridge Analysis, Read, Jones, Christoffersen, Undated

Folder 3 Tempo Properties Presents the Most Exciting Property in Arizona, Rio Salado Development, Tempe, Arizona, Undated

Folder 4 Project Wildseed Workbook, Undated

Folder 5 An Introduction to Community Facilities Districts (2nd Edition), Richard E. Mitchell, Michael Cafiso, Undated

Folder 6 City of Tempe Planning Department, Rio Salado Design Study, 16 August 1977

Folder 7 Tempe Rio Salado Pilot Projects, Tempe Planning Department, 30 March 1979

Folder 8 Addendum Cost/Revenue Projections for: Tempe Rio Salado Pilot Projects, 23 July 1979

Folder 9 City of Tempe Rio Salado Plan, 20 May 1982

Folder 10 Rio Salado Master Plan Final Draft, Carr, Lynch Associates, 1985 January

Folder 11 Rio Salado Channel Improvement, Mill Avenue to Hayden Road, Final Report, Simons, Li & Associates, Inc., 1988 August, 1989 March

Folder 12 Tempe Rio Salado, City of Tempe, Community Development Department, 1989 August

## **Box 2**

Folder 13 RFP Request for Proposals, Site #1, 1990, 1990 June

Folder 14 Metropolitan Canals: A Regional Design Framework, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, 1990 June

Folder 15 Major League Baseball in the Tempe Rio Salado, Bay State/Benton Partnership with the City of Tempe, 1990 July

Folder 16 Beach Volleyball: A Response to City of Tempe Rio Salado Site #3, 1990 October 15

Folder 17 Tempe International Ice Arena Conceptual Outline, 1990 October

Folder 18 Wildlife Habitat Master Plan, HNTB, 1990 October 2

Folder 19 Tempe Rio Salado, Play Ball America Proposal Site No. 1, 1990 October

Folder 20 RFP Site No. 1 & No. 2, Play Ball America Presentation Package, 1990 November 8

### **Box 3**

Folder 21 Rio Salado Environmental Education Workshop Draft, 1990 October 18-19

Folder 22 City of Tempe Rio Salado Proposal Package, 1992 March 6

Folder 23 Rio Salado Town Lake Feasibility Study Technical Memorandum 8, CH2M HILL, Inc., 1992 April

Folder 24 Rio Salado Engineering Report, CH2M HILL, Inc., 1992 August

Folder 25 Tempe Rio Salado Corrientes Newsletter, 1991-1994

Folder 26 Red Mountain Freeway Landscape Concept Report, Final, For City of Tempe by HNTB Corporation, 1993 May

### **Box 4**

Folder 27 City of Tempe Request for Proposals for Development of Portions of the Rio Salado Project Area, 1994 March

Folder 28 Arizona Collegiate Hockey Foundation Proposal for City of Tempe Rio Salado Project Iceplex Facility, 1994 March 14

Folder 29 The Economic Impact of the Proposed Rio Salado Development, Delotte & Touche, 1994 April

Folder 30 Tempe Rio Salado Capital Improvements Draft Finance Strategy, City of Tempe, Community Development Department, 1994 August

Folder 31 Two Decades of Development, Tempe Downtown Redevelopment Guide, 1994 September

Folder 32 The Arizona Aquarium Draft Conceptual Study, IDEA/Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc., 1994 November

Folder 33 City of Tempe Rio Salado Town Lake, Value Engineering Proposals Response Document, CH2MHILL Inc., 1994 December

Folder 34 Tempe Rio Salado Development Plan, City of Tempe, Community Development Department, 1995 January

Folder 35 Arizona: Good for Business, Prepared for Belz Enterprises by National Marketing Division, Arizona Department of Commerce, 1995 May 3

Folder 36 Request for Qualifications for Preferred Developer, Rio East/Boardwalk West/Boardwalk East, City of Tempe Economic Development Department, 1995 August 2

Folder 37 Statement of Qualifications for Development of Portions of the Rio Salado Project Area, New Era Development Company, Mitsui Real Estate USA, Kajima Engineering and Construction, 1995 November 1

Folder 38 Qualifications of the Ciudad Del Lago Team to Provide Developmental Services for the Tempe Rio Salado District, 1995 November 1

## **Box 5**

Folder 39 Miscellaneous prints, 1973-1990s

Folder 40 Rio Salado Phase 2 Planning Study, Valley Forward Association and Maricopa Association of Governments, 1974 July

Folder 41 Tempe Rio Salado Project, City of Tempe Planning Division, 1979 December 7

Folder 42 Rio Beach: A Proposal for the Rio Salado Development District, Main St. & Main, Inc., 1990 October 15

## **Box 6**

Folder 43 City of Tempe Rio Salado Townlake Design Report CH2MHILL Inc., 1995 March

Folder 44 Overheads/negatives, Tempe Rio Salado Project, Tempe Planning Department, 1988

Folder 45 Overheads/negatives, Tempe Rio Salado Project, Tempe Planning Department, 1989

### **Box 7**

Folder 46 Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway (photocopy), Phoenix-Tempe Highway, 1930s

Folder 47 Maricopa County Highway Department, Plans for the Construction of Scottsdale Road Bridge over Salt River, Project No. 00101 (photocopy), 1980

Folder 48 Plans of the Tempe Bridge Across the Salt River at Tempe (photocopy), 1911

### **Series 4: Oversize Materials**

Folder 1 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Prints, 1970s-1980s (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 2 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Transportation, 1970s-1980s (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 3 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Miscellaneous Drawings, 1970s-1980s (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 4 Tempe Rio Salado Park, ASU Architecture and Planning, 1970s-1980s (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 5 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Current Base Maps, 1970s-1980s (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 6 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Base Maps and Base Maps of Landscape, 1970s-1980s (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 7 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Proposed Master Plans, 1970s-1980s (Housed in

Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 8 Tempe Rio Salado Park, General Area and Overlay, 14 May 1990  
(Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 9 Rio Salado Project, Proposed Land Use, Freeway Sections, Riparian  
Habitat, Ownership, 1987-1988 (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 10 Rio Salado Project, Masterplan, Ownership, Stadium and Commercial  
Development, Proposed Land Use, Transportation, 1987-1989, undated (Housed in  
Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 11 Miscellaneous Drawings, 1977-1979 (Housed in Map Case 153G R4  
Oversize)

Folder 12 Aerials, 1983, 1988-1989, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G R4  
Oversize)

Folder 13 Land Usage, Tempe Rio Salado Park, Tempe Rio Salado Task Force,  
1988 April 13 (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 14 Tempe Rio Salado Park, Tempe Rio Salado Task Force, Undated  
(Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 15 Final Conceptual Plan, Moderate Water Development, Tempe Rio  
Salado Project, 1978 July (Housed in Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 16 Price to 48th Street, University to Van Buren, Undated (Housed in Map  
Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 17 East Papago and Hohokam Freeways Location Study, Arizona  
Department of Transportation, 1988 February 23 (Housed in Map Case 153G R4  
Oversize)

Folder 18 City of Tempe, Cooper Aerial Survey Co., 1988 February 5 (Housed in  
Map Case 153G R4 Oversize)

Folder 19 Alternate Alignments for Rio Salado Parkway between 48th St. and  
Priest Drive, Rio Salado Task Force, 1988 August 4 (Housed in Map Case 153G  
R4 Oversize)

**Finding aid by Harold Housley (June 2018, updated June 2023)**