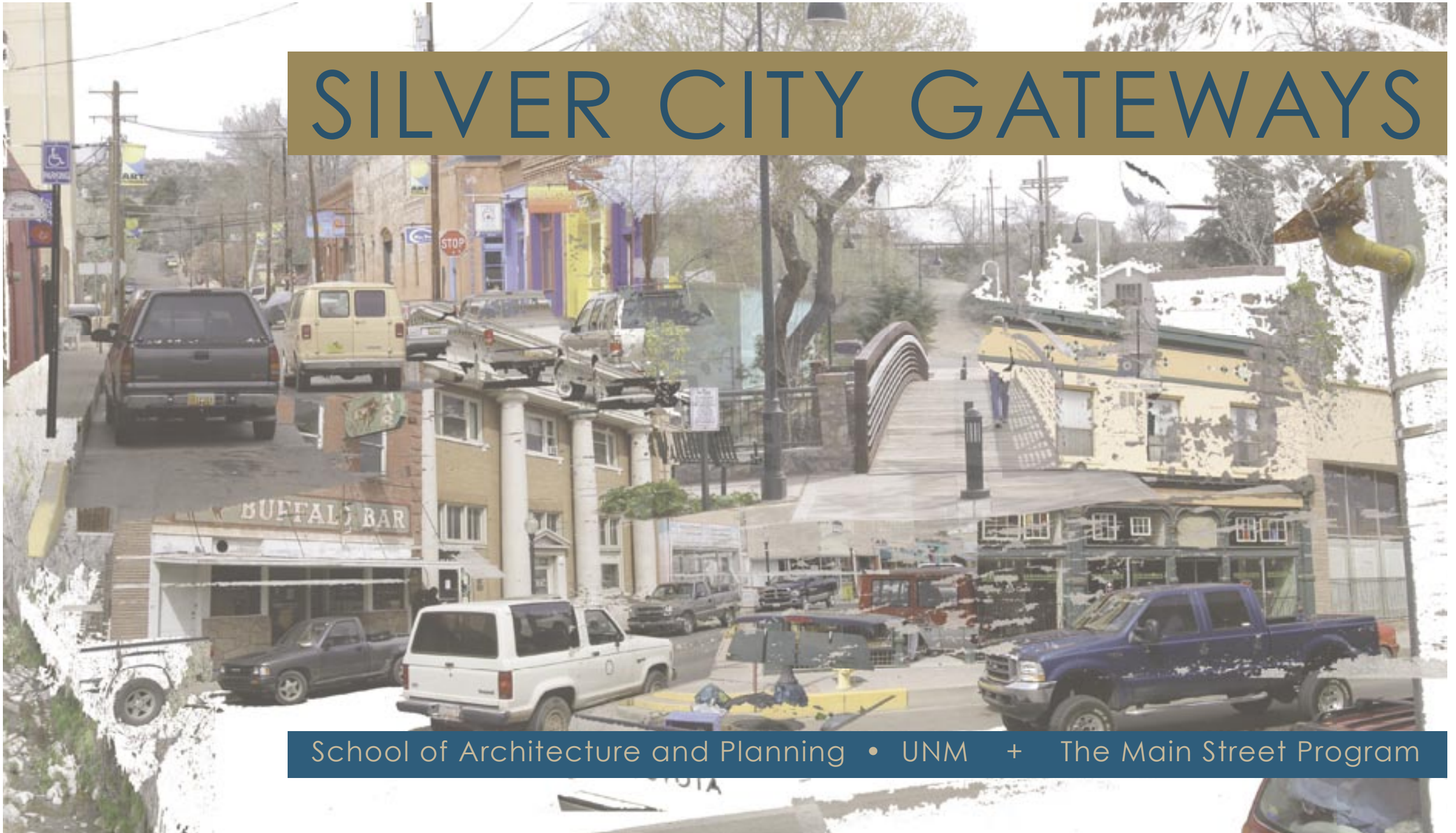


SILVER CITY GATEWAYS



School of Architecture and Planning • UNM + The Main Street Program

Silver City

Historic Downtown Gateway Concepts

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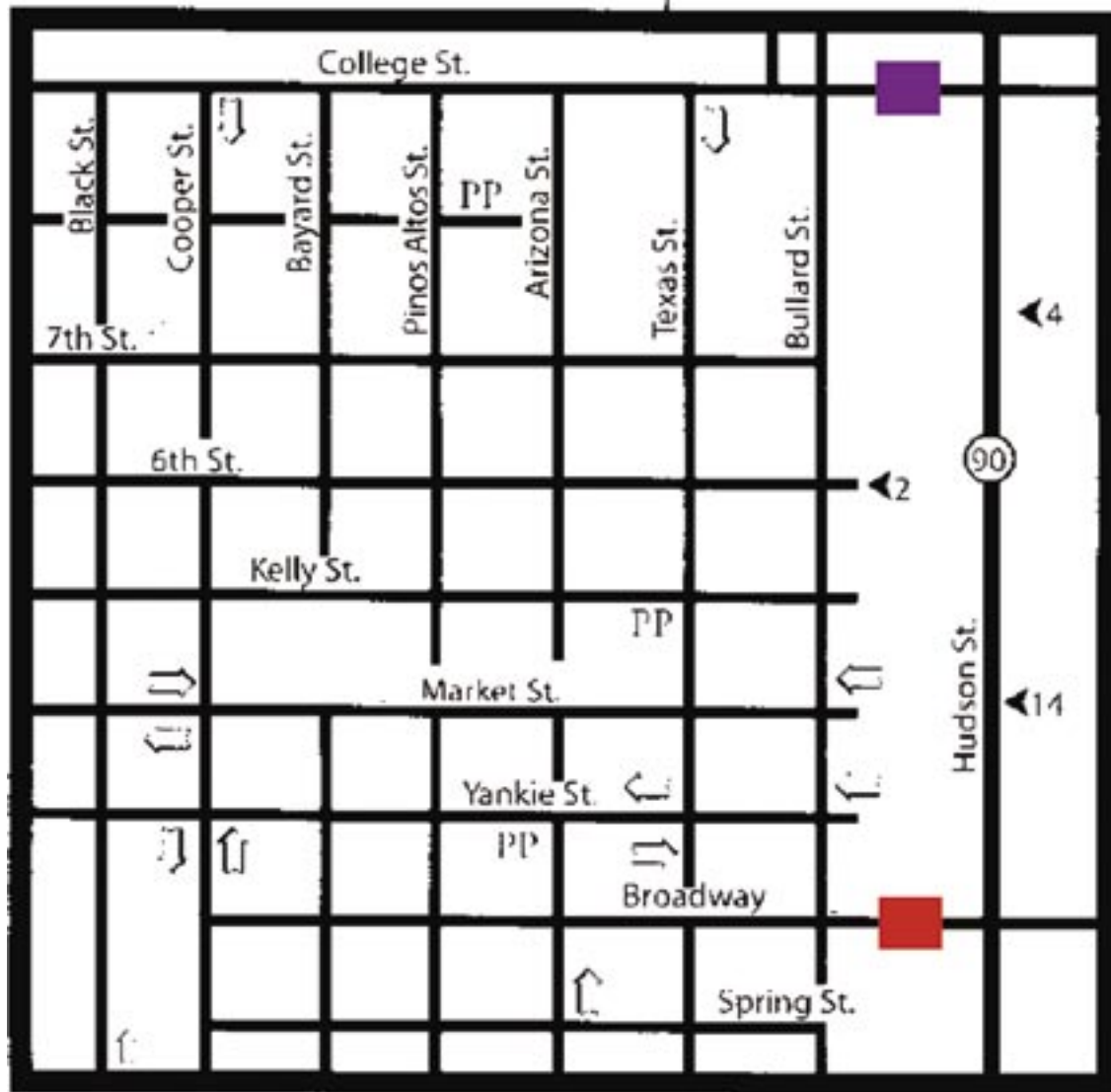
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INTRODUCTION



Historic downtown Silver City is an appealing area of period buildings, adaptive reuse projects and a rich variety of shops, galleries, restaurants and services. The downtown is a destination for tourists - a pleasant place to walk, shop and browse.

Most of the downtown is in a twelve square block area from Bullard street west to Arizona street, and from Broadway north to College. The main north-south route through Silver City is Hudson Street, or Route 90. This north-south axis is separated from the downtown by the Silva River gorge. The beautiful, deeply incised river channel can be crossed to reach the downtown area over vehicular bridges located on Broadway and College and by a pedestrian bridge at 7th street. Entering the downtown in this way is an interesting experience, but for the tourist it is somewhat confusing and can be difficult to find.

The *Your Town Final Report* of 2001 recommended that 'gateways' be developed at Broadway/Hudson and at College/Hudson to mark and emphasize the entry points to downtown. This study offers some alternative proposals for these gateways. The designs were developed in consultation with the Silver City Main Street Program and were based on the design team's observations of the sites and of the downtown character.

The map to the left shows the two gateway sites, with the College bridge entry marked in purple and the Broadway bridge entry marked in red.

MATERIALS

The materials and architectural elements of Silver City are rich and varied. Through observation the design team identified four prevalent materials and two notable architectural elements that could inform the design of the gateways.

BRICK



STONE



TILE



METAL



ARCHES



COLUMNS





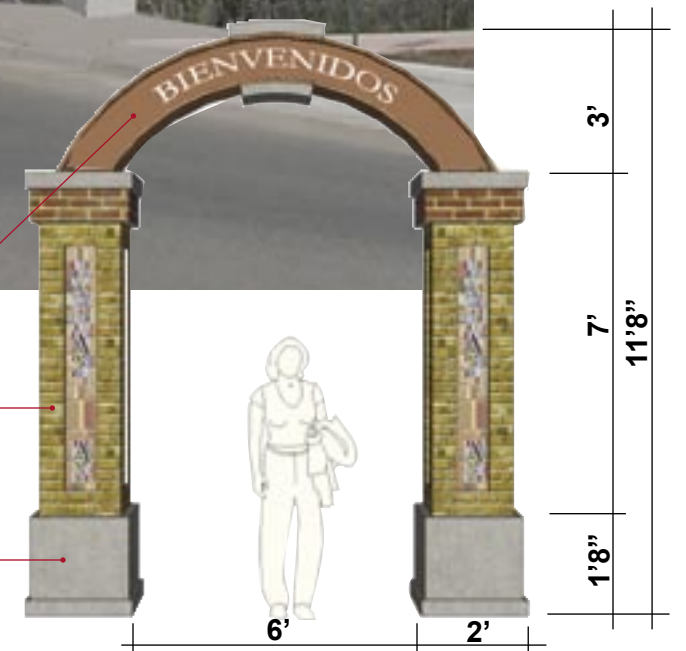
This gateway option provides arched entry portals for pedestrians that also serve as gateposts for the vehicular entry. The elements are noticeable without being overpowering. Brick, tile and metal used in the construction of the portals reference repetitive materials in the downtown. The option is shown here at the Broadway entry but could also be used for the College entry.

OPTION 1

Metal arch with copper facing

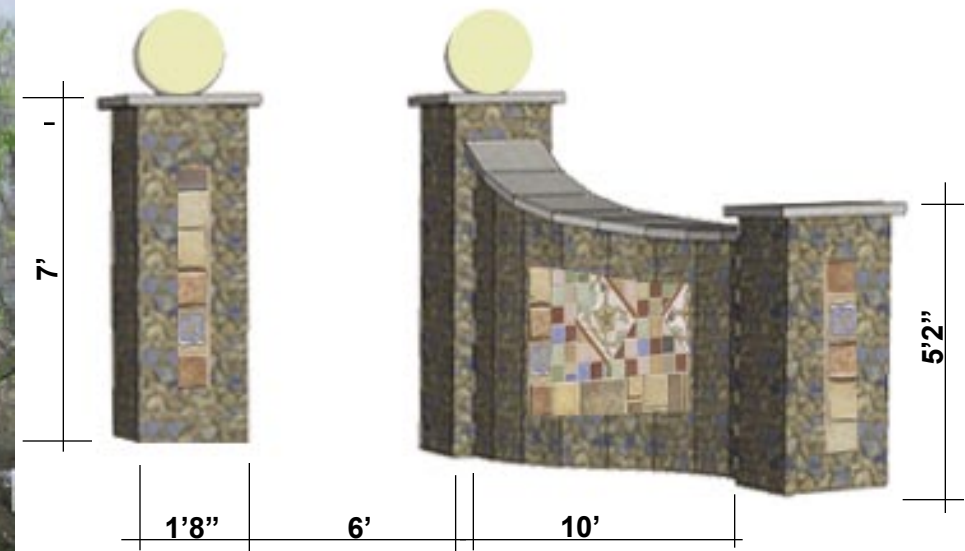
Brick with tile inset

Concrete base and cap

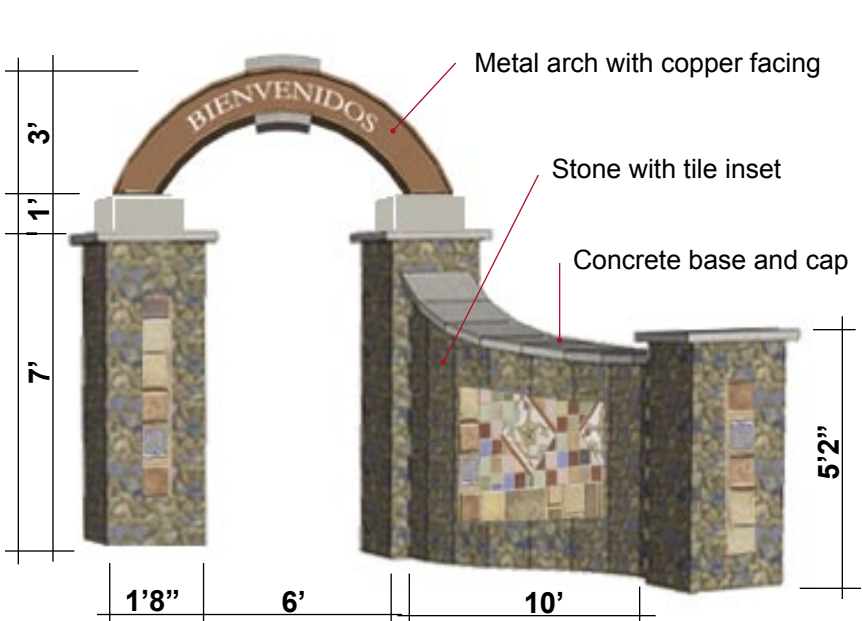




OPTIONS 2A + 2B



These two variations on a gateway utilize a curving wall to extend the welcoming image of the entry for both pedestrians and vehicles. Primary materials suggested are stone, tile and metal. This option is best suited for the Broadway entry because of the space that it takes.



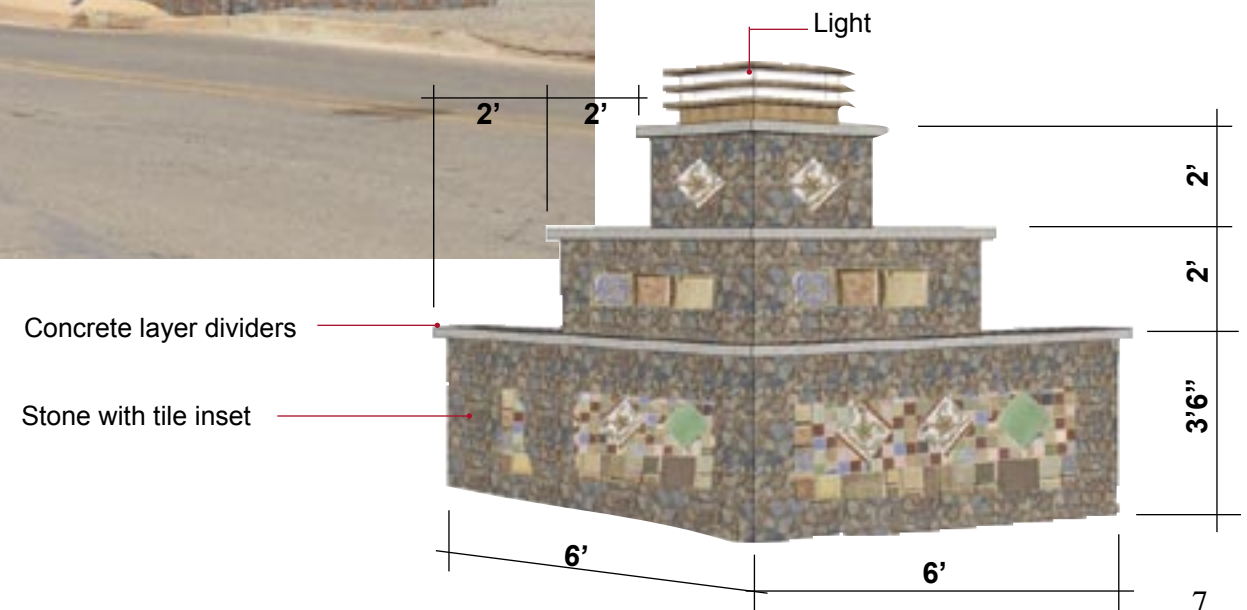


This option shows a large arch spanning the street providing an entry portal for the vehicle and two brick columns creating the pedestrian portal. While this is the grandest of the options it is also the most expensive. It is shown here on Broadway but at a smaller scale this idea could also work for College.

OPTION 3



This option was designed specifically for College Avenue, taking into consideration the scale of the bridge and the available space. The form is inspired by the pueblo deco architectural style found on Bullard street. Stone and tile have been chosen over stucco because of the need for durability in this location, as well as the material connection to the riverwalk.



OPTION 4