

## New Mexico Best of 2006

## Tricentennial Towers

## Steel Project

**The Tricentennial Towers** were commissioned as part of Albuquerque's 300th Birthday celebration. This public art project at Rio Grande Blvd. and I-40 represents the largest of its kind in the state of New Mexico and provides an iconic gateway to Albuquerque's Old Town.

Each tower is 65-ft. tall and weighs 14 tons, and was fabricated from one-in. and 1/2-in. steel plate with stainless steel adornments and painted copper highlights.

The design uses shapes and symbols unique to New Mexico to introduce visitors to our culture. The Nature Tower represents the environmental features of the area including clouds, rain and the four cardinal directions. The Craft Tower was designed to replicate the traditional punched tin technique. Paint colors were chosen to compliment both of the structures and the existing site palette.

Installation was timed with a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Albuquerque, Spain and was televised on local television stations. Only five hours per tower



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HIGH DESERT FORGE

were allowed for lane closures on the interstate during installation.

A system of animated, computer-controlled LED lights and incandescent bulbs provides a soft internal glow and colored light that revolves continuously through the spectrum.

**Submitted by:** High Desert Forge

**Owner:** City of Albuquerque

**Design:** High Desert Forge

**Contractor:** FacilityBuild

**Engineer:** Engineering Associates

**Other Design:** Marshall Monroe Magic;  
The Corr Group