Rey Features

Student Union Memorial Center



The structure of the Student Union
Memorial Center (SUMC) represents
the U.S.S. Arizona Battleship. An
outdoor walkway known as "The
Canyon" runs between the east
and west sides of the new building. The east wall of the canyon is
curved to replicate the silhouette
of the U.S.S. Arizona. Enclosing a
grand stairway and culminating in a
canted circular lid, the cylindrical drum
is intended to be an allusion to the shape of
the U.S.S. Arizona's main gun turret. The bell tower represents a
mast and sail. Access walks on the battleship's bridge are abstracted

in the form of three curving elevator balconies.

U.S.S. ARIZONA ISIG

The preservation of the U.S.S. Arizona Bell is dedicated to the memory of the men who lost their lives on the battleship "Arizona" in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It is one of the two original bells salvaged from the U.S.S. Arizona. In 1944, Wilbur L. "Bill" Bowers, UA alum, saved the bell from destruction and was instrumental in the University of Arizona's acquisition of the bell in 1946. The bell is rung on special occasions and seven times on the third Wednesday of every month at 12:07 pm to honor the achievements of the University of Arizona and its community.

Susan Gamble's sculpture, on the north side of the canyon, honors the 1,511 individuals assigned to the U.S.S. Arizona battleship on the day Pearl Harbor was bombed. The sculpture resembles an 18foot ship's mast and the military dog tags allude to the rigging of the ship. The tags with the names of the 1,177 fallen men are in the diamond shape of an Ojo de Dios (God's eye) and the tags of the 334 survivors are above the tiled portion of the mast. It was the artist's intention to show the vast difference in the number of dead compared to the number of survivors.





Heritage Lounge Arizona's traditions.

The Alumni Heritage Lounge is the new home for the display of traditions and artifacts created by alumni. The lounge features treasured photographs of people who have been honored for outstanding service over the years. The lounge also showcases the University of Arizona's traditions

In the SUMC Canyon there is a multi-story cylindrical drum, which represents the U.S.S. Arizona's main gun turret. A water feature animates this grand space with the sound of falling water. Designed to be ecologically sensitive to its desert environment, the fountain's pools will be subtly reminiscent of the waters covering the U.S.S. Arizona. Battleship anchor chains and rusting steel plates that abstract the pieces of the ship's hull are incorporated in the design.

Water Feature

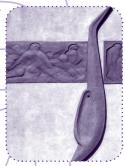


Arizona Memorial Display

The U.S.S. Arizona Collection was started in 1950 with two photographs and has since grown to over 1,200 photographs, 900 documents and almost 100 three-dimensional objects. Photographs range in age and subject from the launching and christening of the U.S.S. Arizona in 1915, to the Memorial built astride the sunken battleship in 1962. The Student Union Memorial Center displays duplicates of many of the original photographs and several of the original objects in the U.S.S. Arizona Lounge.

Sanderson Relief

The relief on the front of the south side of the building, created by R. Phillips Sanderson, professor of art, symbolizes the turmoil and disillusionment of war and the desire for peace. The left side depicts the turmoil and chaos of war, and the right side represents the fatigue and futility of war. A dove, strategically placed in the center dominates the piece.



WWII Bas Reliefs

Located in the Rotunda are the four original bas-relief sculptures (representing each branch of the Armed Services) as first installed in the 1951

Memorial Student Union Building. The four reliefs are the seals of the Army, Navy, Marines and Army Air Corp (which is now known as the Air Force). The reliefs are a tribute to the UA Alumni who gave their lives for their country during World War II. There are also cast bronze memorial plaques listing the names of those who gave their lives in World War I and II, as well as in the Korean and Vietnam wars on the lower level of the Rotunda.









Art Collection

The Arizona Student Unions showcase a permanent art collection of over 500 unique pieces, on display throughout the SUMC.