BUILDINGS

More than a century of better building and operations strategies

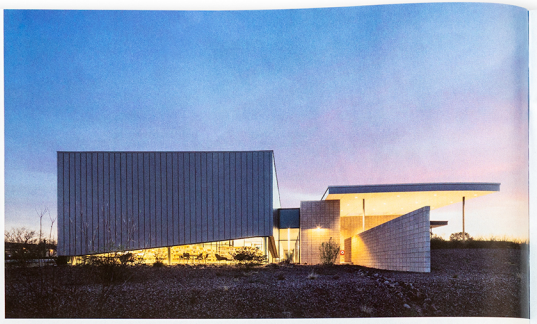
Second Quarter 2026



Excellence in the Built Environment

Here's how the 2026 honorees of the Elevo Design Awards are raising the bar.

Plus: AI deepfakes, resilience strategies, and more



SAHUARITA REGIONAL LIBRARY
SAHUARITA, ARIZONA

Over the past decade, the town of Sahuarita has experienced rapid population growth while lacking access to a modern, full-service public library. The former library, housed in a modular structure, no longer met the needs of the expanding community. The new 17,000-square-foot facility provides the amenities of a modern library—including collection areas for children, teens, and adults, supported by study and meeting rooms, a maker space, gaming center, and a business development area—while serving as a civic landmark and cultural anchor for the Sahuarita.

The design embraces the project's desert landscape, with building mass and orientation that respond to solar exposure, prevailing winds, and pedestrian movement across the site. A continuous low-ribbon window frames earth berms and bioswales planted with native vegetation and irrigated using harvested rainwater. These berms also buffer noise from the adjacent street, reinforcing a calm interior environment.

Shaded entry areas, reading patios, and shaded outdoor gathering spaces create a gradual transition between interior and exterior. A large multipurpose room opens directly to an outdoor patio, allowing presentations, performances, and community events to extend beyond the building.

JURY CITATION — GRAND AWARD: NEW CONSTRUCTION

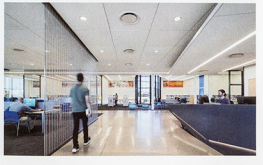
SUBMITTING FIRM: Line and Space, LLC
CLIENT: Pima County, Arizona
AREA: 17,000 square feet
TOTAL COST: $5.7 million
COMPLETION DATE: November 2021
COST PER SQUARE FOOT: $329.41
CATEGORY: Civic/ Public











JURY COMMENTARY

"This project succeeds because it understands people first. It balances performance, flexibility, and belonging in a way that feels responsible and forward-thinking."

"A standout civic project with a thoughtful response to its desert environment. Berming, ribbon windows, and water harvesting strategies are both practical and poetic."

