



State Hardware Addition (now Arizona Party Rental)

Architect: William Wilde

Location: 4826 E. Speedway Boulevard
Date: 1963

William Wilde's design for the addition to State Hardware was a radical departure from Modern architecture in Tucson in 1963. Embracing the flexible nature of glue-laminated beam construction, Wilde created a spectacular, sculpted S-shaped undulating roof. Wilde expressed the structural system on the interior and exterior as the primary character-defining feature. The large aluminum framed window wall allows for the appreciation of the structural aesthetic. This dynamic example of structural exhibitionism marked a move away from the utilitarian character of earlier Modern design.



The State Hardware addition is significant as an early and exceptional example of the expressionist phase of Modern architecture in Tucson. It is also significant as the work of a master, William Wilde.

William Wilde (1904-1984)

Wilde was one of the pioneers of Modern architecture in Tucson. Although Wilde's work closely followed national trends, he was usually at the forefront of design trends locally. All of his work sought significance through scale, drama or intensity. His earliest design work was often characterized by elegant solutions and exquisite construction detailing; his later work was usually more exuberant and characterized by dramatic gestures. Throughout his career, Wilde's attention to detail was exceptional.