

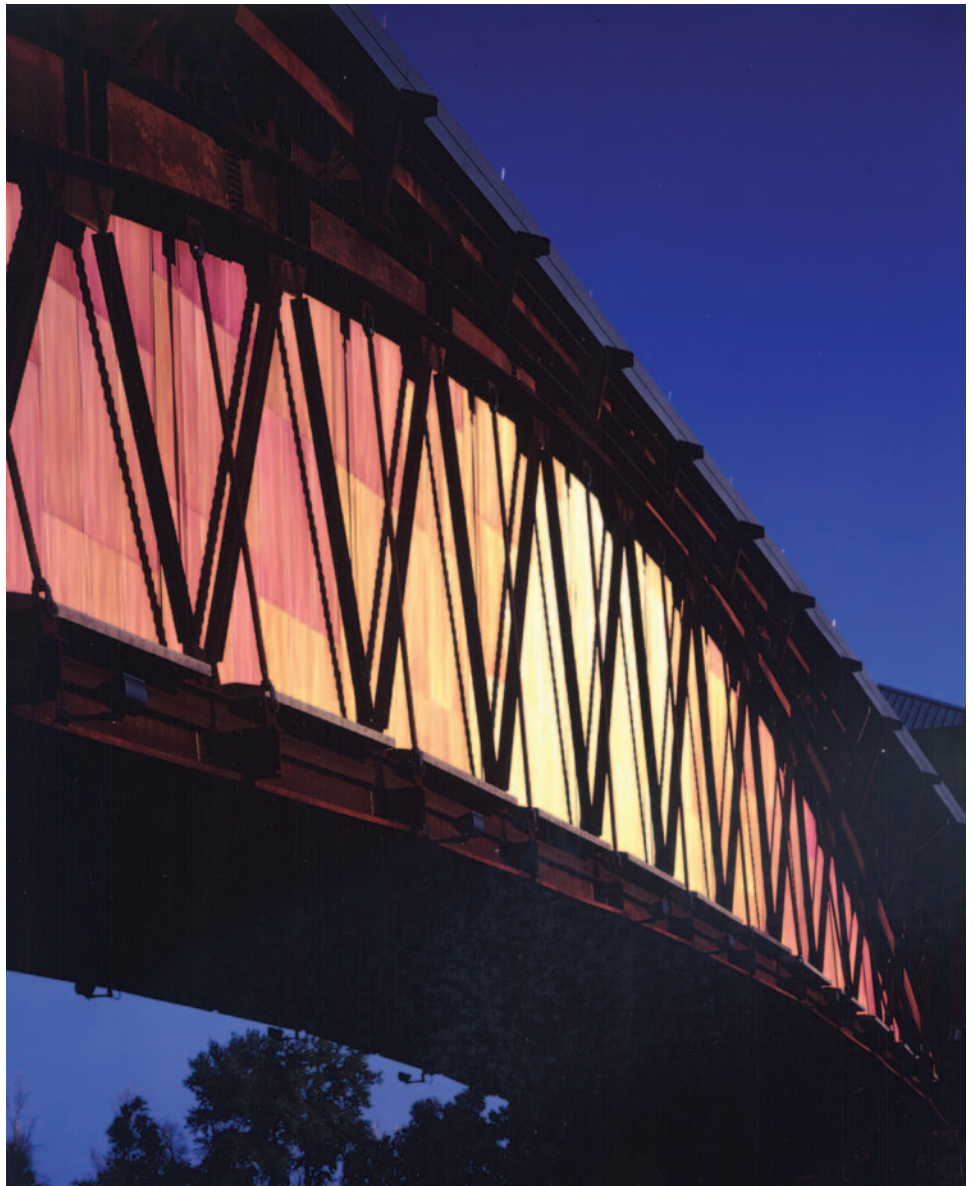
Great Platte River Road Archway Monument

Former Governor Frank Morrison, three-time Governor of Nebraska, challenged the existing Nebraska political delegation to develop a monument that recognized the series of trails along the Platte River from which the major mid-18th century migrations crossed to the West. This simple concept recognized the largest migration in U.S. history along the Mormon, Oregon, and California Trails, which linked the East and West Coasts and forged the most powerful nation on earth.

In addition to these early trails, the Great Platte River Road is also the route of the Pony Express, the first telegraph line, the first trans-continental railroad, the first continental interstate (I-80, also known as the mid-continent express), and at the dawn of the 21st Century, the fiber optic highway. Ten trails in all testify to the courage and foresight of the American Pioneer and demonstrate the role that communication and transportation played in America's progress.

It is significant that a non-profit foundation was formed to lead the project. Sixty million U.S. dollars in revenue bonds were generated to finance the project. The City of Kearney, Nebraska purchased the site along the Platte River and master planned and zoned the adjacent land to control future development. The Federal Highway Department agreed to the first-ever construction over the interstate system utilizing an 'air rights agreement' with severe restrictions.

Kent Bloomer was selected as the sculptor for the Monument's icons that top the bridge pavilions. Christopher Chadbourne and Associates, along with Dayton Duncan and Dennis Earle Moore, were selected to develop the stories and exhibit design within the Archway.



Great Platte River Road Archway Monument

location: Kearney, Nebraska
total square feet: 53,000 sq ft
total budget: \$21 million
completion date: 2000
client reference: Jim Thompson (Owner's Rep.)
Boyken International
308.237.1585

awards:
National Merit Award for Innovative Design & Excellence in
Architecture Using Structural Steel in the U.S.
(\$25-\$100M category) - I.D.E.A.S.
THEA Award for Outstanding Achievement - Themed
Hospitality Entertainment Association

publications:
The New York Times, January 2003
The Denver Post, October 2003
Behind the Themes, Fall 2001

