

# 10 beautiful buildings in the West Valley

## 10 BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS IN THE WEST VALLEY

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A few months ago, we featured some of the worst eye sores in the West Valley. Now take a look at the other end of the spectrum. Here are 10 pieces of architectural eye candy in the West Valley.

Kaila White - The Republic



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(Photo: The Republic)

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### First National Bank of Glendale



First National Bank of Glendale. (Photo: Kaila White/The Republic)

Built in 1909 as a pool hall and converted to a bank in 1918, this is the only unchanged commercial building left in downtown Glendale. It was built in the Beaux-Arts style, which is known for decorative stone features influenced by classical architecture from ancient Greece. The building is one of 12 Glendale properties on the National Register of Historic Places, and it now is the law office of Richard Coffinger.

**Details:** 6838 N. 58th Drive, Glendale.

### Sahuaro Ranch Historic Area



**Sahuaro Ranch Park**(Photo: *The Republic*)

This 17-acre property is home to 13 original buildings, a rose garden, a barnyard and historic orchards. Citrus, figs, date palms, olives, apricots, peaches, pecans, and grapes grow on the grounds, and peacocks, chickens and other small animals sometimes roam the area. It's listed on the National Register of Historical Places and offers activities, exhibits, guided tours and more.

**Details:** 9802 N. 59th Ave., Glendale. 623-930-4200, [glendaleaz.com/SRPHA](http://glendaleaz.com/SRPHA).

## **Buckeye Fire House No. 3**



**Buckeye Fire Station**(Photo: *Kaila White/The Republic*)

The most beautiful of Buckeye's six fire stations, this 15,000-square-foot location was built in 2012 for \$4.15 million and designed by Perlman Architects of Arizona. It features traditional firehouse colors and style, prominent arches, four drive-through bays, period lighting and window casings, and a brick tower that stands out as a steeple among the surrounding residential area. Also, it's LEED-Gold registered and has a classic brass fire pole inside.

**Details:** 2582 North Verrado Way, Buckeye. 623-349-6700, [buckeyeaz.gov](http://buckeyeaz.gov).

## **Wigwam Resort**



**Wigwam Resort**(Photo: Wigwam Resort)

In 1929, the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company opened "The Wigwam" as a guest ranch where company executives would stay; one of the one-room houses still has an original fireplace made out of mud and horse hair. Today, the resort is home to a series of casitas, and has maintained its traditional Santa Fe style, with original wood beams and 8,000 rose bushes on its 440 acres.

"It has maintained its original charm and character from that time," said Tom O'Malley, the resort's chief operating officer. "We want you to go out and feel like you're staying somewhere that's 1929, 1930 Arizona but with all the modern amenities."

**Details:** 300 E. Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park. 623-935-3811, wigwamarizona.com.

## Challenger Space Center Arizona



**Challenger Space Center**(Photo: The Republic)

This public museum is home to a life-size Iridium satellite model, a ten-foot Shuttle Atlantis display, a real tire from Space Shuttle Discovery STS-121 and more. The building's exterior is spacey and futuristic, too — it features a giant, reflective panel that's most beautiful at sunset.

**Details:** 21170 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria. 623-322-2001, azchallenger.org.

## First Presbyterian Church of Peoria



First Presbyterian Church of Peoria(Photo: First Presbyterian Church of Peoria)

The church is the oldest building in Peoria's original town site — it was built in 1899 and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The small building is made of red brick and features numerous stained-glass windows and a steeple. Today, it is home to a preschool and hosts Sunday services at 9:30 a.m.

**Details:** 10236 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria. 623-979-4682, peoriapresbyterianchurch.org.

## Estrella Mountain Community College



Estrella Mountain Community College(Photo: Estrella Mountain Community College)

This campus, which is the newest of 10 Maricopa Community Colleges, received an award for its sustainability at the 2014 Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards in September. The college completed construction of the modern, spacious Estrella Hall and Conference Center in fall 2013. Overall, the school's design blends contemporary architecture with environmentally friendly landscape.

**Details:** 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale. 623-935-8000, estrellamountain.edu.

## St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church



St. Thomas of Aquinas Catholic Church.(Photo: *The Republic*)

The church was built in 2003 in the Spanish Colonial traditional style and seats 2,000. The Rev. Eduardo Nevares was ordained as auxiliary bishop of Phoenix at the church in July 2010 and has kissed the floor at the altar.

**Details:** 13720 W. Thomas Road, Avondale. 623-935-2151, stacc.net.

## The Church at Litchfield Park



The Church at Litchfield Park(Photo: *The Church at Litchfield Park*)

This interdenominational community church was founded in 1938 and was originally owned by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Today, it's adorned with more than a dozen stained-glass windows; nine large, arched windows illuminate the church interior in a warm glow. The original sanctuary is adobe, made from mud and hay bricks in 1939, and the bell tower was designed by Paul Litchfield himself.

"Paul Litchfield designed the inside of the church, which was patterned after a Spanish gambling den he had seen in Mexico. It's the same architecture that the Wigwam had inside originally," said Rev. Dale Hopely.

**Details:** 300 N. Old Litchfield Road, Litchfield Park. 623-935-3411, churchatlitchfieldpark.org.

## Manistee Ranch Park



**Manistee Ranch Park**(Photo: *The Republic*)

The main mansion on the Glendale ranch was built in 1897 by a wealthy lumber baron from Wisconsin and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Inside, visitors can see antique furnishings that were original to the home or collected from within the city, as well as a collection of photographs, Glendale grammar school items and old farm equipment used on the ranch. The 4-acre property is home to 11 species of palm trees and a garden. Guests can take a tour on the first or third Saturday of the month, October through May, by appointment only.

**Details:** 5127 W. Northern Ave., Glendale. 623-931-8848, glendaleaz.com.

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