Hayden Library
Labriola Custom Table

Celebrating Place-based O’odham Basketry Patterns in Built Form

Our team is proposing a custom conference table within the Labriola (American Indian Collection) collaboration space that provokes a sense of indigenous identity to reflect local narrative. A collaboration with local Salt River Pima Maricopa Community metal artist Jeffrey Fulwilder who brings the influence of lived experience to the design work to share the history of this region.

Design Intent

Local O’odham tribes have an ancestral tradition of basketry designs that derive from desert lifeways and desert materials. Basket weavers harvest cattails, willow, beargrass, and the white of yucca plants around early spring. The flora is cleaned, dried, and stored to later be woven with devils claw or the martinyia plant. Weaving practices vary from coiling to split stitch basketry. This practice is traditionally led and passed down by the matriarchs of communities. The design motifs reference traditional stories and indigenous ways of being.