When you can’t decide if you love it or hate it, just give it both honors, which is what the Owards does with its annual Love/Hate category.

This year’s dubious honor went to the Federal Courthouse in downtown Phoenix. The structure is among a variety of projects completed this year and one that also drew a litany of both applause and “boo” from voters, according to Mo Stein, president of Phoenix architectural firm The Stein-Cox Group, and Owards chairman.

“It’s a pretty obvious building,” he said. “What some people liked about the site is its incredible use of space and dramatic look; it’s not just a monolith.

“What others didn’t like is the white color and so much glazing, as well as the development around the site,” he said.

Richard Metler served as the project’s design architect and worked in a partnership with Langdon Wilson Architecture Planning Interiors, a Phoenix firm, to execute the plans. The project’s contractor was D.L. Wilhers Construction Inc., Phoenix.

Every year the Owards committee looks at the nominated projects that receive the largest number of both Orchids and Onions.

“When you do a project that’s this significant, you should get that kind of mixed opinion,” he said. “The fact that you can cause emotion with a project is important.”

Last year, the Love/Hate Oward went to Tempe Town Lake, which Stein said some respondents thought was great, while others called it a “big puddle.” Also handed the distinction in recent years: the Phoenix Public Library.

“Paul Johnson, the former mayor, said he liked it because it reminded him of a toaster,” he said.

The Owards have revealed that many significant projects do not cause emotion one way or the other. Bank One Ballpark, for example, has drawn “no more than two” responses since being built, he said.

Indeed, the committee has never had a problem finding the Love/Hate winner each year. Stein said there always has been a “sensation” candidate that receives an “overwhelming” amount of nominations.

The category, in a sense, created itself.

“When we started the Owards, we never planned for it,” Stein said. “We never thought we’d get a project every year for both an Orchid and Onion.”
OCHID AND ONION

2000 JURY

Randy Allen, Steelcase Inc.
Jeff Anderson, Landscape Architect,
Comoyee Hedrick
Tom Awall, Architekt
Ralph Backhaus, ASU
Marc Boyer, Design Workshop
Bob Coons, Encanto Village Planning
Committee
Dick Mettee, Stanley Consultants Inc.
Martin Umbgrove, Architect &
Landscape Architect
Cinda Wilford, Wells Fargo
Bob Wood, Scottsdale Urban Design
Studio, planner
Facilitators: Katherine Emery, City of
Glendale
Molly Hood, City of Glendale
Debby Schneidman, Schneidman Yotes &
Associates

Onion Award

Landscape Architecture
ROCK PILE AT ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY

This pile of rocks outside the ASU Law
Library was created from the excavation
during construction of the building.
Rather than haul the dirt away, it was
covered with river rock and adorned with a
saguaro cactus.

JUDGES' COMMENTS:
* "Dirt pile from excavation from building
left at sight and covered with river
rock with cactus at top."
* "Pretty auster." 
* "This looks like a rock cupcake with
saguaro candles on top."

This mound of excavation dirt dressed up as landscaping sits outside ASU Law Library.

Orchid Award

Landscape Architecture
SCOTTSDALE SIGNATURE
OFFICE SUITES

This complex of office suites at 8585 E
Hartford Drive, Scottsdale, was honored for
the landscape architecture of the
courtyard.
The architect was DFD Architecture and
the contractor was DPR Construction, Inc.
They are owned by Scottsdale Signature
Office Suites, LLC

Scottsdale Signature Office Suites was honored for this courtyard.

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