FIREHOUSE® STATION DESIGN AWARDS 2025

Firehouse is pleased to present the 12th annual Station Design Awards showcase of fire and emergency services facilities.

FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

Welcome to the 2025 Station Design Awards

As some of you might recall, I took over the reigns of the annual Station Design Awards from Janet Wilmoth last year. Those were big shoes to fill, but with her support and tutelage, I have given my all. That includes work to figure out how the Awards process can be evolved to increase the value of what's delivered, from the identification of Gold, Silver and Bronze award winners to specifics about facilities that didn't achieve top status but nevertheless include notable forays into methods to produce stations that put members in position to operate effectively and efficiently and that consider the physical and mental health and wellness of those people.

A key to the evolution of the process was more concentrated delineation of the factors by which facilities should be evaluated. The purpose was to increase the objectivity of our judges' assessment of facilities. As a result, we pinpointed 10 facets of a station's design that would be applied to evaluation: operational efficiency & functionality; health & wellness design; safety & decontamination features; sustainability & energy efficiency; overall architectural design; innovation in design & technology; adaptability & future-proofing; community integration & public access; training & specialized regional features; and site design, vehicular logistics & urban design. Further, we required judges to rate each of these facets on a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the best.

Undoubtedly, judges who participated in past projects recognized these elements, but spelling them out for our 2025 project clarified the need to absorb the extent of the dedication that architects and other members of design teams applied to projects.

To aid in this facet of assessments, we modified the submission platform to allow architects to provide double the amount of words to describe projects, including so that they not only could share obstacles that they encountered but could explain methods by which those hurdles were overcome.

This, too, paved the way for deeper scrutiny on the judges' part and provided them with more opportunities to reflect on details that architects noted. This benefits you, the reader, by allowing us to point out the judges' appreciation of what architects explained, to deliver even more key takeaways from projects than our previous Station Design Awards presentations provided.

Speaking of the judges, we maintained the number of panelists at seven, including repeat participants Christopher Clark, Ralph DeLuca, Joseph Leone, Eric Pros and Jerry Streich. However, by adding Brian Berryhill and Jeff Humphreys, we broadened the diversity of the panel in terms of its experience across regions. Berryhill and Humphreys bring perspective on station design in the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain region and the West. As a result, the panel was better capable of considering certain station design elements than previous Station Design Award panels might have been.

The end result of all of these efforts: A presentation that's even more substantial than all of those that preceded it, starting in 2014. This way, fire chiefs and department members who have launched endeavors to improve their agency's facility can be alerted to facets of other facilities' design and best practices that might have escaped them.

We sincerely hope that *Firehouse's* Station Design Awards and all of the information that's contained in it is more valuable to you than ever before. Furthermore, we give our sincere promise that we will continue to consider ways to increase that value for years to come.

RICH DZIERWA joined *Firehouse Magazine* in 2019 after four tenures with other publications. He was editor-in-chief of Consumers Digest/ConsumersDigest.com and of trade magazine Cutting Tool Engineering. He served as the consumer products reporter for BridgeNews and began his publishing career with an 11-year tenure at Appliance magazine, where he rose to managing editor after serving in other roles. Dzierwa's experience with consumer products, including furnishings, appliances, electronics and space design, has transferred to his *Firehouse* work regarding the magazine's Station Design columns and the Station Design Awards. Previous work also has contributed to his supervision of several surveys of fire service/EMS members, to produce unique reporting for *Firehouse*'s audience. Dzierwa earned a bachelor's degree in English from Columbia College Chicago.

Station Design Categories

Career 1 (larger than 15,000 sq. ft); **Career 2** (15,000 sq. ft. or smaller); **Co-Located** (a building that houses distinct fire, emergency response and other municipal units); **Combination** (houses a department that includes paid members, volunteers and/or others); **Renovations** (redesigns, repurposing or upgrades that affect at least 50 percent of a building); **Satellite** (built to address the response times of the jurisdiction); **Training Facilities** (facilities that are particular to training); and **Volunteer** (stations that serve volunteer-only fire and emergency response).

BRIAN BERRYHILL is a partner at Roth Sheppard Architects. Since joining the firm, his work has focused on leading law enforcement, public safety, and municipal design projects throughout the United States and Canada. He is a longtime member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and is a recurring presenter at the Station Design Conference on the topic "Psychological Considerations for Modern Public Safety Design."

CHRISTOPHER CLARK is the fire chief of the Glen Ellyn, IL, Volunteer Fire Company. He previously served as the fire chief of the Streamwood, IL, Fire Department. Clark has served 41 years in the fire service. He received a bachelor's degree in broadcast engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and a master's degree in public administration from Governors State University. Clark is a credentialed Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence and completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. He also does consulting work on a variety of projects for fire departments and local governments. Clark oversaw the construction of a headquarters fire station and major renovations/expansions to two existing fire stations.

RALPH DELUCA is a 39-year veteran of the fire service and recently retired as the fire chief of a fire protection district in suburban Chicago. During his tenure in the fire service, he attained a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Illinois, and he is a licensed architect in multiple states. Additionally, DeLuca attended numerous building assessment and forensic analysis programs and completed forensic evaluations of compromised structures. He also provides instruction on technical rescue response, firefighter safety and structural collapse response at the Illinois Fire Service Institute and is a structures specialist on IL TF-1.

JEFF HUMPHREYS is the leader of Mackenzie's public projects team. With more than 30 years of architectural experience, he has focused his career on public safety facilities. Humphreys regularly presents at design conferences and has numerous published articles to his name. He is a former member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Environmental Sustainability Committee and currently is a board member for the Oregon Fire Chiefs Foundation.

JOSEPH LEONE has been in the fire service for more than 35 years. He started his career as a paramedic with the Chicago Fire Department. After a short time in Chicago, he became a firefighter with the Addison, IL, Fire Department. Leone rose through the ranks of the department and retired as fire chief. He currently is the deputy fire chief of operations for the Kissimmee, FL, Fire Department. Leone received his master's degree from Southern Illinois University (SIU) and is an accredited Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He is an educator for SIU in the Public Safety Management program. Leone also is an approved instructor for the National Fire Academy, where he teaches incident command classes for fire and EMS. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

ERIC F. PROS has led the design of DS Architecture's award-winning Public Safety Studio for the past 14 years. His enthusiasm for an accessible and inclusive design process is the fuel that ignites the creative culture at the firm to identify design opportunities and explore prospects for innovative solutions in the continually evolving industry of public safety. Pros takes pride in his ability to inspire collaboration not only among stakeholders and colleagues but also beyond his office, which has led to numerous partnerships with collaborators across the country.

JERRY STREICH is an organizational development practitioner who has 37 years of experience in fire service recruitment, retention, strategic planning and station design. He has led local, regional and statewide recruitment initiatives, managed multi-million-dollar grants, and spearheaded department reorganizations and new fire department formations. As the owner of one of the nation's largest firefighter recruitment websites, Streich continues to develop innovative staffing solutions through his firm, Capstone LLC.

ARCHITECTS	WEBSITE
Allred & Associates	allredcorp.com
ajc architects	ajcarchitects.com
Barrett Kent Studio	barrettkent.studio
Belford Watkins Group	bwgarch.com
BKV Group	bkvgroup.com
Brunton Architects	bruntonarchitects.com
BRW Architects	brwarch.com
CNH Architects	cnharch.com
COAR Design Group	coargroup.com
Cole Architects	colearchitects.com
Currie Sowards Aguila Architects	csa-architects.com
Dewberry	dewberry.com
FGM Architects	fgmarchitects.com
H2M architects + engineers	h2m.com
HED	hed.co
Hoefer Welker	hoeferwelker.com
Integrated Architecture	intarch.com
JLA Architects	jla-ap.com
Komatsu Architecture	komatsu-inc.com
KZF Design	kzf.com

ARCHITECTS	WEBSITE
Manns Woodward Studios	mwsarch.com
Martinez Architects	martinez-architects.com
MBL Architecture	mbl-arch.com
MOREgroup	wearemore.com
Mull & Weithman Architects	mw-architects.com
OPN Architects	opnarchitects.com
OZ Architecture	ozarch.com
Perlman Architects	perlmanaz.com
RRM Design Group	rrmdesign.com
Samaha Associates	samaha-arch.com
SS&L	sslarch.com
Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects	scna.design
TCA Architecture + Planning + Design	tca-inc.com
TESSERE	tessere.com
The Galante Architecture Studio	galantearchitecture.com
WBA Architecture	wbaarchitecture.com
Weinstein A+U	weinsteinau.com
Wendel	wendelcompanies.com
Winter Street Architects	wsarchitects.com

FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 GOLD

2025 FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS GOLD

TCA
ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING + DESIGN

Official Project Name: Grand Coulee Dam Fire Station

Project City/State: Grand Coulee, WA

Date Completed: May 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Bryce McCleary

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,029

Total Cost: $13,800,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $689

Architect/Firm Name: TCA Architecture + Planning + Design

Website: tca-inc.com

Design Team: TCA Architecture + Planning + Design (Architect); Jacobs (Civil, Structural, Landscape, MEP)

Grand Coulee Dam Fire Station
Grand Coulee, WA

The design team partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation in 2013 to assess the feasibility of constructing a new headquarters and security station at the Grand Coulee Dam, which is a secure national infrastructure asset. The study included programming, conceptual design, a roadmap development between Federal Guiding Principles under the Green Building Certification program for sustainable buildings and LEED for Silver certification, and cost estimates for multiple sites.

Following site selection and funding, a two-story facility that's engineered to support advanced confidential technology to meet the critical demands of this unique high-risk site was developed. Separation of public and private areas is as good as that of any of the stations that the Station Design Awards judges assessed.

Program elements include responder living and gathering areas with access to two patios, apparatus bays that have adjacent support areas, security offices, a reception area and an internal training room. Heated aprons have integrated weather sensors. LED strip floor lighting that's in the bay reduces night blindness.

The overall design incorporates a suite of high-performance and carefully integrated design strategies. A mix of weathering steel wall panels, concrete and concrete masonry units provides durability and visual contrast, an effect that greatly impressed the Station Design Awards judges for its contribution to the seamless nature by which the station integrates with its surroundings. Further, electrochromic exterior glazing reduces solar heat gain in the desert climate. Smart switch glass allows for adaptable opaque privacy, and electric vehicle charging supports sustainable mandates.

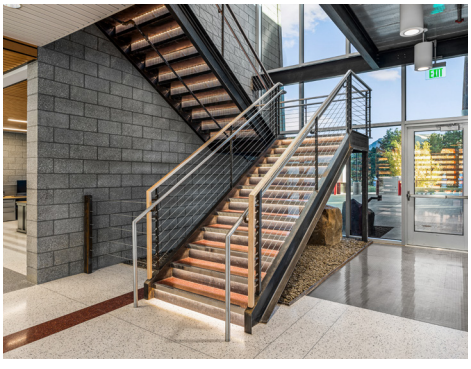
Two fire poles, coupled with side-acting apparatus bay doors, enhance turnout times.

A flexible training/meeting room expands into the lobby as a means to increase area.

Terrazzo flooring is consistent with the historical material that's found in the dam. Illuminated stair treads combine durability with safety.

The kitchen and dining areas are oriented to capture panoramic views of the Columbia River, to reinforce a strong connection to the surrounding landscape.

Strategically located at the west gate of the Grand Coulee Power Office Industrial Area, the new facility provides vital protection of the reclamation facilities and lands.



FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

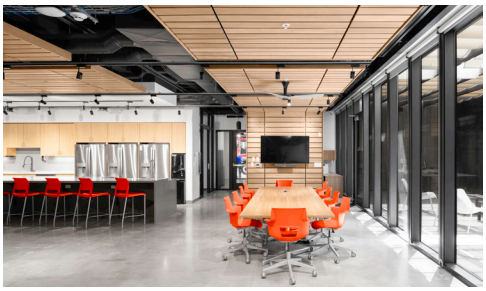
CAREER 1 SILVER

2025 FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS SILVER

BRW ARCHITECTS

UFSA Fire Station No. 253 Eagle Mountain

Eagle Mountain, UT



Official Project Name: UFSA Fire Station No. 253 Eagle Mountain

Project City/State: Eagle Mountain, UT

Date Completed: Sept. 15, 2023

Fire Chief: Dominic Burchett

Project Area (sq. ft.): 19,560

Total Cost: $9,700,393

Cost Per Square Foot: $496

Architect/Firm Name: BRW Architects

Website: brwarch.com/fire

Design Team: AJC Architects (Architect-of-Record): Heber Slabbert, AIA; Logan Tuura; BRW Architects (Associate Architect): Ray Holliday, AIA, Principal; Daniel Pesek, AIA, Project Manager; Logan Lebeda, AIA, Project Architect; Civil: Talisman Civil Consultants; Structural: KPFF Consulting Engineers; Mechanical/Plumbing: WHW Engineering; Electrical: BNA Consulting; Landscape: ArcSitio Design

In response to increasing residential development and the need for a forward-thinking, health-focused facility, this station was envisioned as a prototype model that would meet operational needs today while accommodating future growth. Unified Fire Service Area's (UFSA) priorities were clear: create a healthy station environment; ensure secure, functional adjacency to a neighboring public park; and deliver a long-term facility that's capable of supporting evolving personnel and community needs. Central to the planning was a land-swap agreement with UFSA that resulted in the inclusion of a dedicated community/training room to foster civic engagement and multifunctional programming.

Although the building's layout was derived from a previously developed prototype, the exterior materials were modified to complement the surrounding context, and the community/training room was added as an amenity for the Eagle Mountain citizens. Situated adjacent to a city park, a residential neighborhood and a nearby middle school, with future mixed-use developments planned, the site demanded sensitivity to public access without compromising security or operational efficiency. Execution of this proved worthy of acclaim from the Station Design Awards judges. The design team's approach successfully balanced civic interface with controlled access to secure operational zones.

The design prioritizes rapid emergency response through a highly efficient layout. Firefighter sleeping rooms are positioned along a straight arterial hallway that connects directly to the apparatus bays. Each private sleeping room includes an individual bathroom, which is a configuration that serves multiple purposes: promoting gender equity, reducing exposure to infectious disease and eliminating restroom bottlenecks during responses. This feature was particularly critical given that the project was developed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health and wellness are further enhanced by a layout that isolates Hot, Warm and Cold Zones. Two dedicated decontamination shower rooms are located between the decon laundry room and the airlock, to facilitate and encourage the firefighters' physical decon process more easily, an element of which the Station Design Awards judges were approving.

A central courtyard brings abundant natural light into the core of the building, including the interior-facing sleeping rooms, to foster a calming, circadian-supportive environment. The Station Design Awards judges were very impressed with this atypical feature.

The exercise room was designed to accommodate multiple firefighters working out together, to foster camaraderie and support both physical and mental health. The room opens directly to a screened patio, which allows indoor/outdoor flexibility for high-intensity training programs. This connection to the outdoors supports fresh air circulation and offers more dynamic opportunities for group exercise, to further enhance wellness and morale.

Additionally, the open-concept dayroom/kitchen/dining area was conceived by the team to encourage social interaction, team bonding and decompression.

To ensure safer air quality within the faciilty, the apparatus bays feature an automated filtration system that incorporates timed mechanical ventilation operation.

Ultimately, this facility represents a forward-looking model for UFSA's fire station design, one that places equal weight on performance, wellness and flexibility. The integration of the community room adds an additional layer of civic value, to reinforce the station's role as both a public safety hub and a neighborhood asset. The station not only meets but exceeds the expectations that were set by the department, city and residents who it serves.

Phoenix Fire Station No. 62, Phoenix, AZ

The design team of Station 62 prides itself on how the neighborhood fire station was designed with highly energy-efficient strategies, and the Station Design Award judges agreed, using the words "exceptional" and "well-crafted," among others, to express their appreciation for the effort.

The design team took inspiration from the historic "firehouse" and the traditional ranch homes that are found in the Phoenix metro area to create a station that blends into the neighborhood. The use of simple massing, gable roofs and durable indigenous materials creates a sense of place and pays homage to the architectural heritage of the area. The fire station's colors are a tribute to the soil, stimulated by the natural environment with brown and red clay hues.

The interior of the building was designed to be durable, comfortable and easy to maintain.

The design team incorporated several active and passive concepts that are intended to promote occupant well-being. These include large windows to promote natural light and localized fresh air; comfortable seating in common areas; adequate ventilation to create negative and positive pressure zones; and smart materials that readily respond to changes in the environment.

By carefully planning the layout of the building, the design team created a space that is easy to operate in, even when dealing with outside contaminants. Signage that's throughout the building identifies zones, so crews know when they enter or leave a Hot Zone. Decontamination showers are placed strategically in transition corridors between apparatus bays and living areas. The Station Design Awards judges gave an enthusiastic thumbs up to this facet of the facility.

The 20,816-sq.-ft. station includes four apparatus bays, 14 dormitories, four captain's dorms, a community room, a fitness room, work/living space and support spaces.

Notable to this project is a crisis response wing and a patio that has synthetic turf for outdoor training. The 6.43-acre site is large enough to accommodate a variety of amenities, including public parking, staff parking, a fuel-dispensing station, a generator, water retention, covered patios and landscaping.

The design team and the department faced and overcame critical challenges, including planning for a future expansion, durability, system maintenance, operational costs, Hot Zone safety and construction escalations during a rapidly inflating market.

The station is designed to exceed current industry standards and best practices in terms of code compliance, efficiency, safety, cleanliness and disease prevention.

Perlman Architects

Official Project Name: Phoenix Fire Station No. 62

Project City/State: Phoenix, AZ

Date Completed: Dec. 6, 2024

Fire Chief: Mike Duran

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,816

Total Cost: $15,798,616

Cost Per Square Foot: $758.97

Architect/Firm Name: Perlman Architects

Website: perlmanaz.com

Design Team: Perlman Architects: Ken Powers, Architect-of-Record; Erik Thomsen, Designer; Gerrald Adams, Project Manager; Civil: Bill Gasque, Civil Design Solutions; Structural: David Schott, Simply Structural; Mechanical: George Josephs, Associated Mechanical Engineers, and Sheldon McInelly, Akribis Engineers; Electrical: John Echeverri, EJ Engineering; Fire Protection: Logan Simpson; Landscape: Jerry Moar

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

fgma
FGMARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Arlington County Fire Station 8

Project City/State: Arlington, VA

Date Completed: June 25, 2025

Fire Chief: David Povlitz

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,522

Total Cost: $16,968,821

Cost Per Square Foot: $826.86

Architect/Firm Name: FGM Architects

Website: fgmarchitects.com

Design Team: MEP: Brinjac Engineering; Structural: Ehlert/Bryan; Civil: Urban Ltd.; Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR): MCN Build; Architectural Photography: Chris Spielmann

Arlington County Fire Station 8, Arlington, VA

Arlington County Fire Station 8 combines state-of-the-art functionality with a design that honors the history of the community. It replaces a station that was built in 1963, which was a few years after the county fire department was integrated.

Station 8 was the first Black volunteer fire company in the Jim Crow South. The community was cut off from emergency services by the county fire department and physically separated from white neighborhoods, so it took action to protect itself. The station provided critical public safety services while also serving as a vital hub for learning and social connection for the community.

In recognition of this powerful legacy, the design team led a community-driven design process that included in-person, hybrid and virtual formats. Voices ranged from the grandchildren of original firefighters to neighbors who have lived beside the station's aging pioneers.

The resulting design balances historical tribute with a strong emphasis on accessibility, sustainability, resilience and future needs. All spaces meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and are designed to adapt to changing mobility and gender dynamics. Interpretive exhibits on the station's exterior, in the lobby and throughout the living quarters celebrate Station 8's history. The first floor features an ADA-accessible lobby and a unique safe haven area. This secure space offers protection for individuals experiencing violence, allowing them to lock down in the bullet-resistant room and connect directly with emergency dispatch.

Operationally, the first floor incorporates best practices in Hot/Warm/Cold Zone design to prevent contaminants from reaching the administrative and living areas on the second and third floors. It includes dedicated gear locker and reserve gear rooms, a gear laundry/cleaning room, two toilet/shower rooms with adjacent lockers for firefighters to shower and change clothes, and laundry space for dirty station uniforms.

The second floor includes offices, meeting rooms and a fitness space that opens onto a patio, which provides fresh air and light while reducing the facility's visual scale near the residential neighborhood.

The third floor houses the station's living quarters. An open-concept kitchen/dining area accommodates a full shift. An enclosed dayroom provides acoustic privacy for relaxation or watching TV. Individual bunk suites were designed with gender neutrality and sleep hygiene in mind. Eleven of the 12 suites can be made accessible, with one built fully accessible from the start.

Station materials were selected to blend tradition with modernity: red brick for historical continuity and metal paneling for a contemporary edge. A stair tower glows red when the station is responding to a call. At its base, a custom sign that was inspired by the original Station 8 badge marks the station's number along the accessible entry path. The Station Design Awards judges praised the station's exterior, with one calling the execution "something that approaches the spectacular."

Sustainability is central to the design of Station 8. Its compact urban footprint is paired with a biosolar roof that combines a vegetated green roof with photovoltaic solar panels. This integrated system enhances solar efficiency by creating a cooler microclimate while shading the roof plants.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

Coon Rapids Fire Station No. 3, Coon Rapids, MN

Coon Rapids Fire Station No. 3 was designed to meet the evolving needs of both the firefighting team and the community that it serves.

Two pull-through and four double-deep apparatus bays are equipped with negative pressure separation and Hot Zone design strategies to reduce exposure to toxins and contaminants. The Hot Zone concept is further enhanced by assigning a separate bay that's away from the main building for returning apparatus that require decontamination. The Station Design Awards judges took note, with this (as well as what's noted below) certainly factoring into the fact that four of the seven awarded either a 9 or a 10 (on a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the highest) regarding the station's safety and decontamination features.

Firefighters and equipment move directly into a dedicated decon zone that includes showers, gear wash and SCBA cleaning. Once clean, members transition to the operational bays, which, while still within the Hot Zone, remain significantly cleaner. This layout further isolates the office and living areas of the facility from potential contaminants, and the Station Design Awards judges were highly complimentary of the strategy.

Near the main entrance of Station No. 3, a museum-quality display showcases the department's legacy, including one of the agency's original pumpers.

The station includes four dormitory suites, each with private bedrooms and bathrooms to ensure comfort and privacy. Designed for growth, the layout easily accommodates expansion to six suites. The suite configuration also allows incoming shifts to access lockers without disturbing those who are off duty.

Wellness is central to the station's design, which features a dedicated wellness room, a library, indoor and outdoor fitness areas, and a tranquil exterior meditation plaza. A full-glass overhead gym door opens to an outdoor training zone, which enhances natural light and airflow. To support restorative sleep between calls, dorms include acoustic isolation and a ramped tone-and-light alerting system.

Interior materials were selected not only for durability and calming aesthetics but also to support long-term firefighter health. Low-VOC paints and adhesives were used, cabinetry and doors are free of urea-formaldehyde, and a below-ground radon removal system was installed.

Station No. 3's robust on-site training includes an interior hose tower, which has stair hose advancement setups, rescue windows, a standpipe and anchor points for rappelling practice. The mezzanine level provides access to a confined space access, a smoke-filled maze, and props for ladder rescues and bailout drills. Functional fire alarm panels and a working training sprinkler riser enable realistic, live system training in multiple riser types.

The facility is equipped with administrative offices, flexible classrooms and a fully outfitted Emergency Operations Center that also serves as the city's backup EOC during major incidents. Sustainable, LEED-aligned strategies are integrated throughout, to ensure long-term energy efficiency and environmental responsibility.

Architects CNH

Official Project Name: Coon Rapids Fire Station No. 3

Project City/State: Coon Rapids, MN

Project Date Completed: Sept. 1, 2024

Fire Chief: John Piper

Project Area (sq. ft.): 36,063

Total Cost: 14,915,395

Cost Per Square Foot: 414

Architect/Firm Name: CNH Architects

Website: cnharch.com

Design Team: CNH Architects: Quinn Hutson and Brooke Jacobson, Principal Architects; Ashley Klis, Interior Designer; Electrical & Mechanical: Jay Hurby and Steve Schreurs, EDI-Dolejs; Civil & Structural: Doug Hughes and Matt Woodruff, Larson Engineering; Landscape: Amy Bower, HKGI; Cost Consultant: Jonathan Murray, Loeffler Construction & Consulting

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

Cy-Fair Fire Station #1, Houston, TX

Official Project Name: Cy-Fair Fire Station #1

Project City/State: Houston, TX

Date Completed: Jan. 1, 2021

Fire Chief: Amy Ramon

Project Area (sq. ft.): 19,896

Total Cost: $6,511,780

Cost Per Square Foot: $327.29

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Sarah Reed; Civil: Weisser Engineering; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen

This station represents a thoughtful adaptation and refinement of an established station layout prototype that evolved through years of development and real-world application. A unique elevation design deliberately varies from the standard prototype to complement the surrounding neighborhood while maintaining strong alignment with the department's established visual identity. The interior organization follows a strategic three-tiered approach with public, semiprivate and private zones that provide appropriate levels of security, privacy and environmental control for both operational efficiency and occupant comfort.

Open-concept common areas create seamless connections to outdoor spaces, to foster both team collaboration and community engagement. Quick access to apparatus bays remains the top priority, with carefully planned circulation routes from office, living and sleeping areas that minimize response times. Individual sleeping quarters are grouped intelligently according to responding units, with shared desk spaces and restrooms accessible through alcoves off of the main hallway, to maximize space efficiency while maintaining functionality.

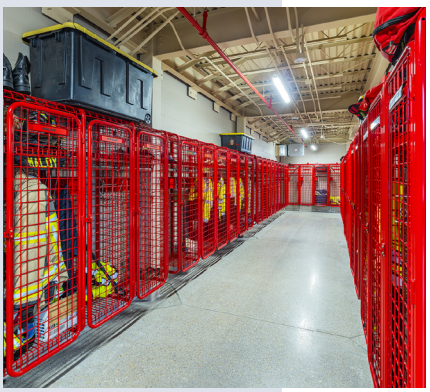
Health and safety considerations drive the strategic placement of decontamination facilities near living areas, with direct access from apparatus bays to ensure proper separation between clean and potentially contaminated zones.

Station officer suites incorporate space-saving folding wall beds and Jack-and-Jill-style restrooms that balance privacy needs with efficient use of available square footage.

The Station Design Awards judges agreed with the design team's appreciation of its execution of the secure lobby design and its control of public access to shared community and training classroom spaces while maintaining clear separation from operational station areas.

Architecturally, the facility leverages mezzanine spaces that flank the apparatus bays as prominent visual "tower" elements in the exterior composition, which demonstrates how functional requirements can drive compelling design solutions where form truly follows function.

Throughout the interior, a carefully selected palette of neutral and natural tones creates a calm, welcoming environment that feels more like home than an institutional facility, to support the mental health and well-being of personnel who spend extended periods on duty.



CAREER 1 NOTABLE

Davenport Fire Station No. 3, Davenport, IA

OPN ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Davenport Fire Station No. 3

Project City/State: Davenport, IA

Date Completed: Feb. 5, 2024

Fire Chief: Mike Carlsten

Project Area (sq. ft.): 18,740

Total Cost: $10,784,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $575.45

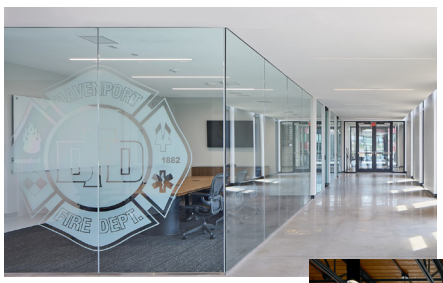
Architect/Firm Name: OPN Architects

Website: opnarchitects.com

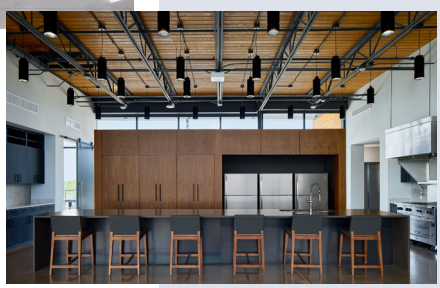
Design Team: OPN Architects: David Sorg, Landon Burg, Mindy Sorg

Fire Station No. 3 is sited strategically in an underdeveloped gateway to reduce response times, establish a civic presence, and support firefighters' physical and mental wellness.

The site stretches east-west between two of the city's busiest one-way north and south arterial roads. It was selected to drive development between two of the city's busiest roads, which serve as both a primary entrance and exit to the community.



The transitional-style design is a modern reflection of the city's historic fire station that creates a catalyst for development in the area. Off-white brick complements the wood that's used to warm the façade and connect to the exposed wood roof deck in the apparatus bays, the second-level terrace and interior living areas. The building massing is anchored on the east by the two-story apparatus bay and its single slope roof, to create a double-height glass façade, to maximize daylight and establish a civic presence, an element that multiple Station Design Awards judges complimented, stating "great design" and "engaging." The design is balanced on the west by another double-height glass façade at the public areas on the first floor and the firefighters' living areas on the second floor.



The simple plan and massing and straightforward sequence of spaces create a highly efficient facility layout in the view of the Station Design Awards judges, which is essential for reducing response times as well as creating economy of material use. The space that's above the support areas in the apparatus bays creates an area for training, while the hose drying tower doubles as a technical training stair. The community room doubles as an ICC 500-rated storm shelter and, along with the conference room, is used frequently by community and city groups. A police workstation saves officers from traveling downtown to take care of paperwork or to work out.

Strategic sequencing of spaces, including a decontamination clean room that's between the bays and the rest of the building, mitigates exposure to carcinogens through physical decon procedures as well as air pressurization, to ensure that contaminants are kept out of station clean zones.

The living areas, which include a full kitchen and a TV and gaming area, are wrapped in full-height glazing with exposed wood ceilings, to ensure that firefighters have a variety of space types to relax and recharge.

The transparency of the façade creates a civic presence by displaying the work that's done within the station while also connecting members to the community. Full-height glass in the apparatus bays and living and public spaces and an exterior deck offer direct connection to the outdoors and daylighting that reinforces circadian rhythms.

The floor plan of the facility strategically separates public areas from those that are used exclusively by firefighters.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

KZF DESIGN

Official Project Name: Florence Fire Station 34

Project City/State: Florence, KY

Date Completed: May 8, 2025

Fire Chief: Rodney Wren

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,527

Total Cost: $10,217,862

Cost Per Square Foot: $498

Architect/Firm Name: KZF Design

Website: kzf.com

Design Team: KZF Design: Project Management, Architecture, Interiors, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing; Civil: Viox & Viox

Florence Fire Station 34, Florence, KY

The city of Florence's population growth has driven a demand for additional fire personnel and a new headquarters station. The Florence Fire Department approached this new station with a commitment to the health, readiness and professional development of its firefighters. As such, the station incorporates decontamination spaces, areas for advanced training, and support spaces for both physical and mental well-being. Station 34 was developed within a challenging site, but the geographic location was ideal for strengthening the presence of public safety services. The Station Design Awards judges recognized the challenge and awarded points to the design team for its efforts.

With a keen focus on minimizing response times, the department now responds more quickly and effectively in one of its busiest service areas.

The site layout establishes clear and distinct areas for emergency vehicles versus public access, which is remote from the return lane and rear apron for emergency vehicles. The public entrance is defined clearly through hardscaping, landscaping, signage and material finishes. Private staff entrances are located in the rear of the station. The Station Design Awards judges praised the attention to these details.

Station 34 was planned meticulously with clearly delineated Hot, Warm and Cold Zones. This setup and flow reduces cross-contamination through dedicated spaces that are designed particularly for gear cleaning and personnel decontamination in terms of physical and mechanical separation.

With direct access from the administrative and operational wings, the fitness center design ensures that firefighters can transition easily between physical training and active duty. Its high ceilings provide for optimal airflow and its direct connection to the outdoors through a pair of doors and large windows allows natural light to flood the space.

The dayroom/kitchen area includes ample seating for all on-shift personnel, to foster camaraderie and rest between calls. A direct connection to a patio encourages firefighters to spend time outdoors for relaxation or informal team gatherings.

The training room's audio-video systems allow for both in-person and virtual instruction. Modular furniture and flexible layouts ensure that the room can accommodate a variety of scenarios and class sizes.

The apparatus bay's adjoining training tower is designed for multistory drills, complete with a mezzanine to perform ladder operations at simulated door and window openings and integrated anchor points for rope training. Nearby, a confined space simulation offers an environment for horizontal and vertical rescue drills.

Understanding the importance of rest, each firefighter is provided with a soundproof bunkroom. Controlled lighting prevents disruption. The flexibility of gender-neutral sleeping quarters allows the facility to adapt to changing staffing requirements.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

H2M architects + engineers

Official Project Name: Greenfield New Fire Headquarters

Project City/State: Greenfield, MA

Date Completed: May 1, 2025

Fire Chief: Robert Strahan

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,234

Total Cost: $14,900,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $736.40

Architect/Firm Name: H2M architects + engineers

Website: h2m.com

Design Team: H2M: Dennis Ross, David Pacheco, Katrina Pacheco; City of Greenfield: Butch Hawkins, Robert Strahan, City's Station Design Committee; Tecton: Rebecca Hopkins, Shannon Hickey; CES: Derek Bride, Brian Hamel, Stephen Muckle; Fuss & O'Neill: Dan Delany, Tim Clinton, James Black; CMS: Neil Joyce

Greenfield Fire Headquarters, Greenfield, MA

The multilevel Greenfield Fire Department headquarters was badly outdated, lacked cross-contamination protections, and needed new infrastructure and additional space for basic operations. The city originally planned on a public safety facility to include the police department, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a regional public safety answering point. During the search for a viable site, the adjacent historic library received a state grant to build a new main city library. To use the grant within its limited timeframe, the city chose to utilize the existing fire station site and a municipal parking lot for the new library. This forced the fire department to move into temporary facilities while looking for appropriate sites.

At the same time, the architectural firm worked with the city to develop a Request for Proposal for possible sites. A viable, but tight, site that was composed of several underutilized properties was the best alternative based on preliminary "test fits" and site evaluations. The final headquarters design is the culmination of more than a decade of designs on various sites, working with a developer and local contractor to create a public-private partnership. The Station Design Awards judges were complimentary of the execution despite the site constraints.

It was critical to the department that the design address the latest trends in responder health and well-being, overall operational functionality, gender equity, all-electric energy efficiency and a city-wide EOC and include history of firefighting within the city.

The final design includes two buildings (the main headquarters and an outbuilding for storage) that maintain a centralized response point. Just inside of the main public entrance, an historic photo wall leads to a firefighting museum and administrative offices, which was deemed to be a nice touch by the Station Design Awards judges. Living spaces and bunks are in private areas that are directly accessible to the bays for same-level response. Circulation paths, vibrant and muted colors and warm materials promote social connection, a sense of home away-from-home and mental health.

The station reuses round, wooden windows with keystones from the original station in the gable roof ends, something that didn't escape the keen eye of the Station Design Awards judges. Masonry materials, metals, glazing, lighting and colors complement those that are prevalent in the city.

Environmental sustainability is important to the city. To take advantage of a reimbursement program from the local electric utility, the station is designed to target an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) score of 35 or lower. The station also meets the Massachusetts Stretch Code that requires buildings to be at least 30 percent more energy efficient than standard. The facility is all-electric, except for an emergency propane generator and a back-up propane boiler for the in-floor heating. The roof over the bays is designed to support the future installation of photovoltaic panels.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

La Crosse Station No. 4, La Crosse, WI

Official Project Name: La Crosse Station No. 4

Project City/State: La Crosse, WI

Date Completed: July 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Jeff Schott

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,745

Total Cost: $8,000,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $386

Architect/Firm Name: Wendel

Website: wendelcompanies.com

Design Team: Wendel: Architects: Robert Krzyzanowski, Laura Eysnogle, Jim Schmidt; Civil: Ryan McKane, Knight E/A; Structural: Tom Rines, Northland Consulting Engineers; Apex Engineering: Heath Mathews and Dan Peterson, Plumbing; Paul Kuchta, Electrical

Station No. 4 reflects the department's continued investment in modern facilities that prioritize firefighter safety, efficient emergency response and connection to the community. The city strategically acquired and cleared seven residential properties that were adjacent to the original Station No. 4. Although initial concepts considered demolishing the existing station, city leaders chose to preserve the structure for potential future use, which minimized disruption during construction and maintained flexibility for redevelopment.

The resulting four-bay facility is built to accommodate a typical on-duty crew of eight, with sleeping quarters for each individual and an overall capacity of 32 personnel. The station's layout is designed for speed and efficiency, with short travel paths between living areas and the apparatus bays. The watch office offers direct visibility to the front apron, to ensure situational awareness and swift mobilization, which the Station Design Awards judges noted as an important positive facet of the facility. These design choices support reduced turnaround times and seamless day-to-day operations.

Health, wellness and safety were central to the project's programmatic goals. The station includes a dedicated decontamination zone that follows current best practices in zoning and contamination control, separating Hot, Warm and Cold Zones. A private mother's room provides space for nursing and personal care, underscoring the department's commitment to inclusivity and mental wellness.

The facility houses a satellite police office, to offer local law enforcement a reliable touchpoint in the community without the need to return to headquarters. This shared-use model enhances interagency coordination and extends the city's public safety presence.

Sustainability and responsible stewardship of public funds were key design drivers. The station features rooftop solar panels that contribute to renewable energy production, reduce utility costs and reflect the city's climate-conscious values. Durable, energy-efficient building materials, including structural steel framing, brick and cast stone exteriors, and interior concrete masonry, ensure long-term resilience with minimal maintenance.

The project faced several unexpected hurdles, including the relocation of existing electrical service lines and an alleyway easement that affected site access. The design team worked closely with utility providers and city departments to resolve these issues early in the construction phase, to avoid costly delays and preserve the overall timeline.

Throughout the project, the architectural firm employed its Master Builder approach to provide both design and construction management services, to maintain continuity from concept through completion.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

Lincoln Fire and Rescue Station 8, Lincoln, NE

Station 8 resolves decades of operational strain and failing infrastructure in one of the city's busiest districts. Originally built in 1958 for a four-person, all-male crew, the old station no longer supported the demands of a modern, diverse department. It inadequately housed eight firefighters in an open dormitory, lacked proper carcinogen containment and sat atop a collapsing underground cistern. The new facility delivers a cutting-away-from-home atmosphere, honors community character, optimizes emergency response, and prioritizes firefighter health and safety.

The firehouse was constructed on its original site to preserve emergency coverage in the neighborhood and to maintain access to the adjacent community park. After demolishing the previous building, the site was remediated fully by filling the concrete cistern and installing a retaining wall to manage the significant grade change. The design team calibrated the finish floor elevation carefully to bridge a slope that's between a high corner and the low point. The Station Design Awards judges appreciated the work that went into overcoming this challenge.

The firehouse's exterior draws from the historic 1920s neighborhood. Its massing includes second floors within gable roofs and a brick façade that matches the nearby historic middle school. A hose tower serves as both a functional and ceremonial marker of the building's public entrance and civic identity.

To improve turnout times, the design incorporates rapid vertical circulation through three fire poles and a double-sided stairwell, which connects second-floor sleeping quarters directly to the apparatus bays. Apparatus movement is streamlined with single-stacked bays and a dedicated exterior bypass lane, which allows units to return from a call and immediately respond to another without reentering the building. The bays intentionally were sited away from the nearby intersection to avoid potential delays that could be caused by traffic congestion.

A zoned layout separates high-hazard areas, such as the apparatus bay from living quarters, using airlocks to reduce exposure and prevent recontamination. Two dedicated decontamination bathrooms support an efficient personal decon process. A radon detection system addresses a serious regional health risk, given that Nebraska ranks third nationally for elevated residential radon levels.

The firehouse includes an ICC 500-compliant storm shelter, which is integrated into the facility's bunker gear room.

The apparatus bays are fully air-conditioned to enhance firefighter comfort and to safeguard temperature-sensitive gear.

Anticipating future needs, the facility was designed with electric vehicle readiness in mind. It includes space for a future transformer and generator, with conduit preinstalled. From the electrical room, depot boxes and charging cables can be routed directly to each bay, to enable modernization without disruption to operations.

Despite the complexity of building on a tight urban site, managing phased demolition and construction, and temporarily relocating crews, the project team successfully delivered a firehouse that meets current needs while anticipating future demands. Station 8 demonstrates how thoughtful design and long-range planning can transform a strained, outdated station into a high-performance asset.

BRW ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Lincoln Fire and Rescue Station 8

Project City/State: Lincoln, NE

Date Completed: Jan. 23, 2025

Fire Chief: Dave Engler

Project Area (sq. ft.): 15,944

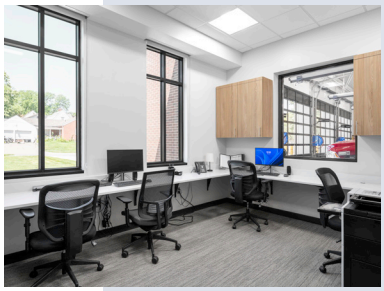
Total Cost: $10,074,382

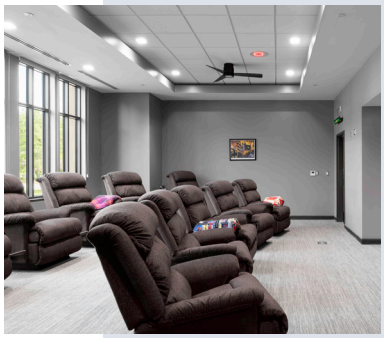
Cost Per Square Foot: $632

Architect/Firm Name: BRW Architects

Website: brwarch.com/fire

Design Team: BRW Architects: (Architect-of-Record): Ray Holliday, AIA, Principal-in-Charge; Marcus Gibbon, AIA, Project Manager; Ashton Holliday, AIA, RID, Project Architect; Katharine Woehler, AIA, Project Coordinator; Schemmer: Associate Architect, Civil, Structural, MEP, Project Control; Owner's Representative: Caleb Swanson





FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

North Aurora Fire Protection District Station No. 1, North Aurora, IL

Dewberry

Official Project Name: North Aurora Fire Protection District Station No. 1

Project City/State: North Aurora, IL

Date Completed: Sept. 27, 2024

Fire Chief: Mike Klemencic

Project Area (sq. ft.): 26,918

Total Cost: $16,000,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $594

Architect/Firm Name: Dewberry

Website: dewberry.com

Design Team: Dewberry: Architects: Jonathan Tallman, Nathan D. Custer, John Svast and Mark Robbins; Interior Design, Beth Keppler; Engineers: Dave Evers and Jason Soucie; Structural, MEP, Fire Protection, Technology: Ben Ahring, Eriksson Engineering Associates; Civil: Mike Schoppe, Shoppe Design Associates; Landscape: Tom Featherstone and Ryan Featherstone, Featherstone Inc.; Construction Manager: NAFPD Board and Membership; Photography: Peter McCullough

Designed to accommodate current equipment in size and support, the apparatus bay of Station No. 1 contains five double-deep pull-through bays; an adjoining hose and training tower and mezzanine with systems for in-bay overhead water filling, exhaust filtration and scrubbing; and a best-practices approach to cross-contamination mitigation that's supported by handwashing and decontamination spaces.

Eight critical success factors were established by the district with the design team: aid emergency response time; preserve and build relationships; firefighter and staff health and wellness; good stewardship of resources; future-proof technology assets; support family atmosphere; capability to maintain the facility and grounds; and be a good neighbor.

Site layout was prioritized toward a proven response orientation. This is supported by living quarters for 10 firefighters in private bunkrooms, dual locker rooms, individual changing and shower spaces, and a combined dayroom/dining/kitchen area that fronts out onto a semiprivate patio that provides a view of the Fox River.

The design team's focus on the connection to the site is very intentional, with opportunities to provide firefighter mental wellness and decompression support with physical recreation, social interaction and private contemplation.

Administrative functions incorporate a dedicated training space that can accommodate community use with public restrooms from an elevated public lobby. Fire protection offices, meeting spaces and work rooms are located across from the training space.

Exterior views reduce the costs that are associated with large expanses of glass and control the unwanted solar heat gain to interior environments. This creates the opportunity to deliberately frame views out to the urban context, the landscaped buffer yard, and the river and trail system. The Station Design Awards judges recognized these efforts in their assessment of the facility.

Considerations for the mental health effects of first responder facilities is paramount. Contemplative spaces were woven into exterior site and interior use spaces. The concept for interior space development puts an emphasis on a residential scale and materiality. The color palette is warm, natural and calming. Interior finish selections promote infectious disease control by being durable, streamlined and easy-to-clean.

By utilizing the site design to communicate the appropriate access and use of the site, the public is kept safely away from bay aprons. The design of the exterior building volume organization is resolved using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which uses design and management of the physical environment to decrease opportunities for criminal activity and increase the perceived likelihood of being caught, a notable point to the Station Design Awards judges.

With a tight budget, this facility must last 75 years to satisfy owner requirements. The design team utilized tilt-up precast concrete wall systems, future-sized square footages and ample daylight to meet that goal.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

Northbridge Fire Department Headquarters

Northbridge, MA

For more than 250 years, the town of Northbridge fought fires without a formal fire station to call its own. The Northbridge Fire Department (NFD) originally functioned as a private unit of the town's major employer to protect its textile factory. With the closure of the factory, the department was left to serve the town out of crumbling mill buildings. The buildings were too small to house modern fire apparatus, and unhealthy station conditions created a poor work environment for first responders.

Northbridge's first official fire station restores and revitalizes the NFD with a safe and contemporary facility that merges modern station design with the deep history of the mill town.

A glowing sign hovers over the apparatus bay, the first design element that the public sees. The five double-deep bays provide the capacity to station as many as 10 fire and EMS vehicles. A four-story tower acts as hose storage and a training tower. The southwestern portion serves as office space for municipal clerks and managers. Behind the station, an outbuilding provides shelter for as many as five ancillary vehicles.

In the event of a disaster, the facility can transition quickly into an Emergency Operations Center.

Pathfinding tools were incorporated into the design of the facility to help to guide firefighters through the building, a facet of the project that the Station Design Awards judges appreciated.

The facility's shared driveway concept prevents daily traffic from impeding fire operations and limites risk to pedestrians and motorists.

Historical artifacts from the town's firefighting history decorate the station. The department's first wooden fire hose cart hangs in the lobby, surrounded by repurposed timber from the remains of the first blaze that the chief of the NFD battled.

The facility was designed with a focus on innovative carcinogen prevention, emphasizing decontamination programming. It does so by directing members from the apparatus bay (Hot Zone) to a decon room where they leave their firefighting equipment. They then move into a showering room (Warm Zone) to clean themselves, dress in clean clothes and enter a hallway with heavy carcinogen protection (Cold Zone).

Insulated metal panels that clad the station exterior conserve energy and require little upkeep. A terracotta rainscreen, zinc panel accents and brick walls combine to fortify the station against harsh weather conditions with little maintenance cost. (Brick and terracotta reference Northbridge's mill-town heritage.)

Without precedent, it was vital that Northbridge's first fire station not only was a success but also a guide for the rebirth of the town.

TGAS
THE GALANTE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO

Official Project Name: Northbridge Fire Department Headquarters

Project City/State: Northbridge, MA

Date Completed: May 4, 2024

Fire Chief: David White

Project Area (sq. ft.): 29,800

Total Cost: $19,653,877

Cost Per Square Foot: $659.53

Architect/Firm Name: The Galante Architecture Studio

Website: galantearchitecture.com

Design Team: The Galante Architecture Studio: Ted Galante, Lead Principal; Yar Laakso, Project Manager; MEP: Consulting Engineering Services; Civil: Samiotes Consultants; Structural: Structural Integrity Engineering Group; Security/Technology: Secure Our City; Contractor: M O'Connor Contracting; Object-Project Methodology: CHA Consulting

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

MW STUDIOS ARCHITECTURE

Official Project Name: Ocean City Fire Department Station 3

Project City/State: Ocean City, MD

Date Completed: July 17, 2024

Fire Chief: Joshua Bunting III

Project Area (sq. ft.): 18,706

Total Cost: $10,351,025

Cost Per Square Foot: $553.35

Architect/Firm Name: Manns Woodward Studios

Website: mwsarch.com

Design Team: Manns Woodward Studios: Rob Manns, Principal Architect; Evan Gray, Project Manager; Nate McNeil, Project Architect; Josh Noppenberger, Principal of Construction Administration

Ocean City Fire Department Station 3

Ocean City, MD

This two-story station replaces the outdated Station 3. It capitalizes on a city-owned site to enhance access, visibility and emergency response capabilities.

The station's layout was designed to support quick deployment, firefighter wellness and long-term resiliency in a coastal city that experiences high seasonal traffic and a constant influx of visitors. The first floor features four double-deep, drive-through apparatus bays, which allows for rapid, obstruction-free response and ease of return from the heavily traveled Route 1 highway. Each bay connects directly to an independently ventilated turnout gear room, a multitier decontamination zone and fire gear storage.

Station response time was a core driver of the design. Travel distances between key operational spaces were minimized through a clear circulation spine and intuitive flow from bunkrooms to apparatus bays. Three separate mezzanines create spatial separation without sacrificing speed. These mezzanines are used for equipment storage and as integrated training platforms. The Station Design Awards judges agreed with the execution of this design element.

A fully enclosed fitness room that's located on a mezzanine level of the facility keeps members who are conducting physical training protected from salt air and extreme weather.

On the second floor, the design emphasizes recovery, collaboration and mental health. A communal kitchen and dining room serve as the central hub, with multiple adjacent areas that allow the space to adapt to the department's needs. A multipurpose room provides flexibility for community meetings, internal training and other departmental activities. A spacious balcony creates an inviting area for camaraderie, informal gatherings or quiet decompression.

Natural light was prioritized in the design of the facility by providing clerestory windows and full-height glazing as a means to help to provide natural daylight deep into the building.

Because of the coastal front location, every material was selected with longevity, corrosion resistance and maintainability in mind. As an essential facility, the building exceeds structural performance standards to remain operational during and after extreme weather events. The structure was constructed with masonry-hardened systems and uses engineered exterior wall cladding to withstand winds of 140 mph and faster and associated wind-borne debris.

Several hurdles were overcome in the development of Station 3. A major hurdle was achieving a layout that prioritizes response efficiency and firefighter health in a compact urban footprint. This involved determining what functions and materials should be placed on the first floor. This was overcome by working closely and consistently with the department leadership and members to understand operational priorities and daily workflows. In the view of the Station Design Awards judges, the work paid off, with one judge offering that the station "might be evidence that a three-story facility (first floor, mezzanine, second floor) provides a reasonable massing scale for compact sites."

Another critical hurdle was ensuring easy access to emergency calls in a multistory facility. To address this, the design incorporates direct access to stair towers and bays, which are positioned strategically near the living quarters and first-floor corridors. These strategies minimize steps, reduce transitions, and enhance clarity between sleep, response and operational zones.

Riviera Beach Fire Rescue Station 87 and EOC

Riviera Beach, FL

This prototype design was delivered through a collaborative partnership that shared a common goal of providing a supportive space through a health-first approach for first responders. The two-story, four-drive-through-bay station is divided into climate air-balanced zones to minimize cross-ventilation of airborne volatile contaminants. Returning from a call, firefighters proceed through a decontamination room, which is equipped with boot and equipment wash, gear extractors and personal showers, before they enter the living environment. A second air-balanced entrance provides direct apparatus bay access from the living quarters.

Living quarters offer mental and physical wellness rooms with energy pods, cycling detox saunas, a physical conditioning room, a day lounge and a large community kitchen. Circadian rhythm LED lighting promotes natural sleep cycles and relaxation. A zoned alert system with ramp-up tones and light signals is designed to wake only those who are responding and to reduce stress on the heart. Other health and safety components include touchless plumbing fixtures, a fresh-air cross ventilation system for apparatus bays, Hot/Warm/Cold Zone contaminant plans and a pickleball court. The Station Design Awards judges offered a "Well done!" for these elements.

The station's lobby features exhibit space that honors the department's retired fire chiefs and provides historical reference through a timeline of the department's evolution.

The station also serves as the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and incorporates the latest technology in the transmission of information and data. The EOC includes meeting rooms, a breakroom and office/dorms for extended stays. The building is structurally hardened to withstand a Category 5 storm and includes a 100 percent-building backup generator. The station's floor elevation is above the FEMA-designated 500-year floodplain and is designed for a life cycle of at least 50 years.

CAREER 1 NOTABLE

SOWARDS CURRIE AGUILA ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Riviera Beach Fire Rescue Station 87 and EOC

Project City/State: Riviera Beach, FL

Date Completed: Dec. 25, 2024

Fire Chief: John Curd

Project Area (sq. ft.): 30,981

Total Cost: $18,700,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $603

Architect/Firm Name: Currie Sowards Aguila Architects

Website: csa-architects.com

Design Team: Currie Sowards Aguila Architects, Kaufman Lynn Builder, Thompson Youngross Engineering, Pennoni, Engenuity, AGT Land

FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 GOLD

South Metro Fire Rescue Station No. 15
Centennial, CO

Official Project Name: South Metro Fire Rescue Station No. 15

Project City/State: Centennial, CO

Date Completed: March 1, 2025

Fire Chief: John Curtis

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,460

Total Cost: $8,028,390

Cost Per Square Foot: $700

Architect/Firm Name: OZ Architecture

Website: ozarch.com

Design Team: OZ Architecture: Kevin Schaffer, Principal-in-Charge; Eric Becker, Associate Principal/Designer; Structural: Martin/Martin; Mechanical: 360 Engineering; Electrical: AE Design; Civil/Landscape: Strategic Site Designs; Specifications: Delet; Sustainability: OZ Architecture

South Metro Fire Rescue Station No. 15 was designed to meet a rigorous set of program requirements that support the evolving operational demands of a modern fire department. The station accommodates three shifts of six firefighters each, providing three apparatus bays and incorporating key amenities, such as communal living areas, individually climate-controlled sleeping quarters, specialized decontamination facilities, operations support spaces and full fire suppression systems. Committed to longevity, the building adheres to a 75-year materials and quality standard. The design team responded to these criteria by developing a two-story structure that seamlessly maximizes functionality, durability and operational efficiency for members.

A notable challenge was the station's parallelogram-shaped site, which barely accommodated the original station. The design team transformed the site restrictions into strengths by orienting the new building at a distinctive angle, including to manage adjacent floodway drainage. The apparatus bays were purposefully aligned perpendicular to the road, which guarantees swift, direct access through folding doors. The main building mass pivots away from the bay, to form an interstitial area for entrances, offices and support spaces. This inventive solution also preserves critical circulation and allows space for an on-site training mezzanine at the back of the bay. All of this earned particular praise from the Station Design Awards judges.

Circulation routes on both levels of the facility connect high-use areas and sleeping quarters directly to the apparatus bays. Two staircases and a fire pole offer multiple egress options.

Well-being for first responders was a guiding principle of the facility's design. Natural light bathes the interior, to reduce stress and foster alertness. Each firefighter benefits from an individually climate- and lighting-controlled sleeping room, including blackout shades.

A two-story fitness room has large windows, an overhead door and a covered patio, to provide natural light and fresh air. The fitness room also features a reinforced masonry wall to support specialized workout activities where extreme durability is needed.

Health and safety protocols were paramount. The decon shower was designed as a unique three-step process: Personnel first remove soiled gear and deposit it directly into a laundry drop, then proceed to shower, and finally access a locker dressing area for clean clothing. A lock system ensures privacy and smooth flow through each stage. Separate air handling systems for the bays and living quarters prevent cross-contamination, and bays are equipped with a direct-capture vehicle exhaust system. Positive-pressure corridors further reinforce the division between living quarters and the apparatus bays. The Station Design Awards judges' rating of all of this was among the best of all of the facilities that they assessed.

The public entrance, which is centrally located near the crew watch office, enhances security, supervision and separation of the public from the work areas.

The station's design boldly asserts its civic presence with a two-story form, prominent red bay doors and a modern tower. Durable, natural materials, including brick and zinc panels, along with energy-efficient systems, ensure resilience, sustainability and a welcoming presence within the community.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 SILVER

Thousand Oaks Fire Station No. 34

Thousand Oaks, CA

The Ventura County Fire Department planned to build two new fire stations to improve emergency response times and accommodate future growth. The effort began with Station No. 34, which is the busiest firehouse in the department. The ground-up station includes seven single-occupancy dormitory rooms and three private bathrooms, to support current staffing needs and allow for future expansion, including a gender-integrated workforce.

Circulation paths that are within the facility were planned carefully to reduce response times.

The double pull-through apparatus bay allows for efficient vehicle movement. A separate three-bay ancillary building that's located on the premises stores reserve apparatus.

A detached exercise room, which is connected to the main building by a covered patio, has soft outdoor flooring that supports varied fitness routines. This was separated from the living quarters to minimize noise for resting firefighters. The Station Design Awards judges gave props to the design team's approach here.

Decontamination spaces are fully isolated from the living quarters and are located on the opposite side of the apparatus bay. Two vestibules that have handwashing stations and a depressurized apparatus bay maintain airflow away from dorms and shared areas, to prevent contaminants from entering occupied spaces.

Durable, low-maintenance materials and high-efficiency mechanical systems that were employed will contribute to lower operating expenses over the life of the facility.

Common areas are filled with natural daylight to enhance comfort and to reduce energy use. The tactics to achieve this impressed the Station Design Awards judges very much.

Traditional brick was selected by the design team for the exterior to reflect the character of the adjacent church, to create visual continuity within the neighborhood.

Additional site features include an emergency generator, a secure fuel dispenser, fencing, parking, a public drinking fountain and a bike repair station.

Official Project Name: Thousand Oaks Fire Station No. 34

Project City/State: Thousand Oaks, CA

Date Completed: March 1, 2025

Fire Chief: Dustin Gardner

Project Area (sq. ft.): 13,042

Total Cost: $9,715,001

Cost Per Square Foot: $744.90

Architect/Firm Name: RRM Design Group

Website: rrmdesign.com

Design Team: RRM Design Group: Architecture: Mike Scott, Schuyler Johnson, Dayna Lake, Darin Cabral, Enrique Rubalcava, Andrew Garl; Civil: Mike Hamilton and Jisela Romos; Landscape: Lance Wierschem; Structural: Michael Doremus and Joe Kaneda; Electrical: Chris Jose, Thoma Electric; Mechanical: Brandon Rodgers, BMA; Fire Protection: Al Yakel, Collings & Associates

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 BRONZE

Mountain Brook Fire Station No. 2
Mountain Brook, AL

The city of Mountain Brook initiated a project to address the aging Fire Station No. 2, which was built in the 1960s. An initial feasibility study considered rebuilding on the existing site, but this option proved costly because of limited space and the need for extensive retaining walls.

The design team identified a more suitable and cost-effective alternative: a nearby two-acre site with an unused church building, which the city subsequently purchased. This new location not only meets the current operational needs but also allows for future municipal expansion.

A key design priority is firefighter health and safety, particularly in minimizing cancer risks from carcinogen exposure. The new station is organized into Hot, Warm and Cold Zones to manage contamination, with a circular workflow for efficient decontamination after emergency responses. Fire separations and positive pressurization of both the decon wing and the residential wing protect the rest of the station from any contaminants. A phased approach uses a "pre-decon" space to keep carcinogens within the Hot Zone and to allow for ease of access for the firefighters.

Innovative elements to support the firefighters include red light use throughout the residential wing to reduce eye fatigue for night calls, study rooms for decompression, a spiral slide rather than a traditional pole and an infrared sauna.

The facility is designed for both current functionality and future adaptability. The building was designed to allow for a future ladder truck to be added to the station. Spaces were designed to allow for increased capacity without limiting useability. The layout consists of three direct access points from the main building into the apparatus bay to reduce response times. The Station Design Awards judges considered this "great connectivity" notable among the facilities that they assessed. Light, bi-folding station doors reduce response times and reduce downtime if the doors malfunction.

Features include dedicated training spaces, private dorm rooms for each firefighter, and amenities that support both physical training and daily living.

The exterior is designed to blend with the surrounding residential neighborhood, using materials and forms that are common to local homes. The building's massing and landscaping minimize its visual impact and maintain neighborhood character, while practical considerations, such as concealing rooftop equipment, are integrated into the design. The Station Design Awards judges took particular notice here. Remarks included "innovative and unexpected exterior design," "really good reflection of the community and the environment surrounding the facility" and "fine example of suburban residential aesthetics."

The site design pulled the station forward to the main road, to provide the means to grant separation from the rear neighbors. The station is positioned for visibility down Overton Road, where, previously, firefighters would stop traffic to back into the old station.

The design brings a sense of scale to an otherwise large building with the use of a two-story residential wing. Even the landscape was designed to feel residential, while meeting the requirements of a "Bee City."

BARRETT | KENT STUDIO
Architecture | Interior Design

Official Project Name: Mountain Brook Fire Station No. 2

Project City/State: Mountain Brook, AL

Date Completed: April 15, 2025

Fire Chief: Chris J. Mullins

Project Area (sq. ft.): 13,598

Total Cost: $7,974,068

Cost Per Square Foot: $586

Architect/Firm Name: Barrett Kent Studio

Website: barrettkent.studio.

Design Team: Barrett Architecture Studio

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

SS&L ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Auburn Fire Station No. 6

Project City/State: Auburn, AL

Date Completed: Aug. 15, 2022

Fire Chief: John Lankford

Project Area (sq. ft.): 8,200

Total Cost: $3,100,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $378.05

Architect/Firm Name: SS&L Architects

Website: sslarch.com

Design Team: SS&L Architects: Wes Osmer, AIA, LEED AP, Principal-in-Charge; Nick Vansyoc, AIA, IIDA, Project Manager & Architect; Jeff Bazzell, AIA, LEED AP, Architect

Auburn Fire Station No. 6, Auburn, AL

Strategically located on the north side of Auburn, Fire Station No. 6 enhances emergency response coverage for the city's growing residential areas. The design draws from the surrounding neighborhood context, using brick and wood details to create a warm, residential character that complements its setting. The Station Design Awards judges agreed.

The facility features two modern apparatus bays that are equipped with essential air, water and power hookups, along with a vehicle exhaust extraction system to support operational efficiency and firefighter safety. The apparatus bay features four-fold retractable bay doors on the north and south sides to ensure rapid deployment.

The station is designed to house as many as 10 personnel, including via the inclusion of private bedrooms and restrooms that reflect Auburn's evolving staffing needs.

Shared spaces include a commercial-grade kitchen, a comfortable dayroom and a fitness gym.

A looped circulation layout ensures clear, efficient access between the bays and the gear room.

Integrated technology, including computer-aided dispatch displays and an advanced notification system, supports fast, accurate response.

Fire Station No. 6 reflects the city's forward-thinking approach to public safety through thoughtful planning, high-performance systems and community-conscious design.

Branson Fire Station No. 4, Branson, MO

Branson Fire Station No. 4 exemplifies exceptional design, thoughtful planning, and a deep commitment to meeting the needs of both firefighters and the community. This long-overdue project transformed Branson's public safety, addressing critical gaps in emergency response and delivering long-term benefits to the city's southwest neighborhoods. The reduction in response time to about five minutes from 14–16 minutes caught the attention of the Station Design Awards judges.

Branson's southwest quadrant endured dangerously slow emergency response times because of inadequate resources and increased traffic congestion.

The design of Station No. 4 is the result of collaboration and community engagement. Its residential character reflects the neighborhood while maintaining a professional image. This inclusive approach fostered public support.

Set on a 9-acre property, five site locations were considered, each with multiple building orientations. The team prioritized minimizing noise for adjacent single and multifamily housing, maintaining clear emergency vehicle routes and preserving the site's natural landscape. The final building orientation also helped to increase the building's energy efficiency and effective daylight harvesting while allowing for the integration of a future roof-mounted solar field.

Despite the site's heavily wooded and rocky terrain, the team successfully limited tree removal and avoided unnecessary disturbance. The unused portions of the site were transformed for community use. Adequate space also exists for the development of a future fire training facility and burn tower.

The station's interior design prioritizes both functionality and firefighter well-being. Design decisions include gender separation, promoting team health and unity, improving response time and implementing contamination-control measures. Importantly, the building was designed to particularly address two areas of concern: sleep deprivation and contamination control.

To safeguard firefighter health, the facility employs Hot/Warm/Cold Zone design philosophies that clearly separate contaminated, transitional and clean areas. Air pressurization, removal of contaminated air exhaust, and use of easily cleanable surfaces keep the facility and airflow clean and healthy.

Steam showers enable firefighters to decontaminate by sweating out toxins and showering immediately after responding to incidents. Steam also helps to reduce stress, enhance circulation and alleviate congestion.

Separate bunkrooms, which are situated close to the apparatus bay for rapid response, are outfitted with acoustically isolated double ceilings, operable windows and blackout curtains. The Station Design Awards judges considered the configuration and attention to detail noteworthy.

A unique kitchen arrangement provides secure storage that accommodates three shifts. A spacious dining room and dayroom foster camaraderie and social interaction.

The station's fitness room utilizes acoustic separation and thick rubber flooring to minimize effect on other areas while accommodating a variety of workout schedules.

A back patio, which is connected to the dayroom and fitness area, provides a secluded outdoor space for relaxation and decompression for firefighters.

The station features quartz countertops, heavy-duty finishes, and epoxy floors for durability and easy maintenance. An ICC 500-compliant storm shelter provides critical protection in tornado-prone southern Missouri, while drive-through bays that have fast-acting bi-fold doors improve emergency response times and safety.

HOEFER WELKER

Official Project Name: Branson Fire Station No. 4

Project City/State: Branson, MO

Date Completed: May 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Ted Martin

Project Area (sq. ft.): 9,556

Total Cost: $4,059,674

Cost Per Square Foot: $424.82

Architect/Firm Name: Hoefer Welker

Website: hoeferwelker.com

Design Team: Hoefer Welker: Ken Henton, Subject-Matter Expert; Nick Lawler, Project Manager; Chris Krumrei, Project Designer; Shannon Zlab, Project Architect; Joe Maness, Mechanical; Jacob Lengquist, Electrical; Adam York, Plumbing; Interiors: Emily Gual; Structural: Kim Jones; Fire Protection: Daniel Dargo; Civil: Eric Hodge; Landscape: Brian Strum; Contractor: John Seawright

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

TGAS
THE GALANTE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO

Official Project Name: Cambridge Temporary Station 10

Project City/State: Cambridge, MA

Date Completed: Jan. 8, 2024

Fire Chief: Thomas F. Cahill Jr.

Project Area (sq. ft.): 8,500

Total Cost: $7,086,249

Cost Per Square Foot: $833.68

Architect/Firm Name: The Galante Architecture Studio

Website: galantearchitecture.com

Design Team: The Galante Architecture Studio: Ted Galante, Lead Principal; Paolo Carissimi, Project Manager; Elisa Farruggia, Assistant Project Manager; Temporary Station Consultants: Extreme Modular Building Company; MEP/FP: CES; Civil: Samiotes Consultants; Object-Process Methodology: Brendan Roy; Contractor: WT Rich

Cambridge Station 10, Cambridge, MA

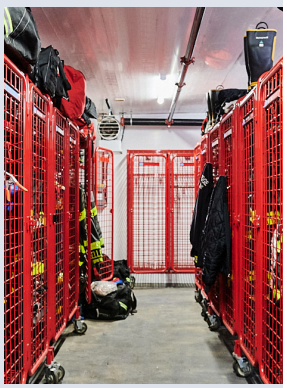
During one of its largest historical rehabilitations, the city of Cambridge ran into a massive problem. The process of gut-renovating the century-old Cambridge Fire Headquarters required the relocation of all personnel and the station's apparatus out of the facility during construction. In a densely developed city, space to safely house people and apparatus for years is at a premium. To solve this, the architect decided to approach the problem by implementing a temporary modular fire station.

The biggest challenge of siting Station 10 was to ensure quick response times yet simultaneously mitigate noise for the surrounding community. Forty-four feasibility studies of 27 sites led to the selection of a creative choice: Spaulding Hospital's parking lot.

Station 10's site accomplishes three important goals: lessening the effect of engine noise on a dense urban neighborhood, accessibility to a residential district and high visibility from a main route. Station 10 has the added advantage of location in the neighborhood of its headquarters. The new station's prominent visibility, including its red palette, makes it instantly recognizable as a firehouse and an anchor of safety in its neighborhood. Among the remarks from the Station Design Awards judges: "The attention to detail in the exterior design of the building is remarkable since it is a temporary building."

The station is composed of four separate apparatus bays that are stitched together, each with the capacity to hold its own vehicles, including a dive rescue unit to handle incident responses and training on the Charles River. In addition, the facility contains the essentials of any fire station in a separate extension: a kitchen, a full sprinkler system, common areas, gender-neutral bathrooms, individual bunkrooms and a fitness center.

Wall insulation, low-flow water fixtures and energy-efficient LED lighting reduce operational expenses for the all-electric building. Wash-down-ready engineering enables immediate cleaning of the facility. Direct-exhaust-capture technology diverts diesel exhaust to the outside. An advanced decontamination network that separates Hot Zones from living quarters protects staff from fumes, toxins and possible carcinogen transfer.



Planned to be used for the three-year headquarters renovation, Station 10 exemplifies the potential for modular technology to serve municipalities that have aging stations but lack funds for a new building, as the building may be transported and reused on future projects. The construction speed, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of modular building could enable more municipalities to update, expand or replace their firehouses with top-shelf construction and amenities to keep first responders physically and mentally healthy.

Once the team moves back into the headquarters, Station 10 allows the department to renovate other aging and potentially unsafe fire stations by relocating other personnel and apparatus to this building. Thus, this station has the potential to be in commission for closer to 8 years before heading to another nearby community.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Chesterfield Fire/EMS Station No. 5, Chesterfield, VA

Official Project Name: Chesterfield Fire/EMS Station No. 5

Project City/State: Chesterfield, VA

Date Completed: Aug. 18, 2022

Fire Chief: Edward L. Senter Jr.

Project Area (sq. ft.): 15,000

Total Cost: $6,200,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $413

Architect/Firm Name: Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects

Website: scna.design

Design Team: Guernsey Tingle: Amanda Running, AIA, Architect-of-Record; Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects: Ken Newell, AIA, and Kim Parton, NCARB, Public Safety Design Specialists

The team designed and provided construction administration services for a new three-bay fire and EMS station. The scope of project included preliminary design to include site evaluation for future development and rezoning assistance. The project site was on a prominent location and part of the proposed "special area plan," therefore requiring complex coordination with county and fire department leadership, adjacent landowners and proposed developments that are near the site. As such, the design team supported the community leadership in public meetings to present a design that met the needs of the fire department as well as the locality.

The one-story facility was developed from a previous prototype design. The prototype design was modified and improved to function even more efficiently for the department's growing needs. Although the station is a one-story facility, the team designed the exterior elements to make the station appear as a 1½-story structure to match the development requirements of the special area plan in the surrounding area.

The station's design is reflective of Jeffersonian architecture and new urban design vision. The design team performed programming and design of the fire station to include individual bunkrooms and toilet/shower rooms, associated day spaces, staff offices, secure EMS storage, and other support and decontamination spaces. A thoughtful articulation of exterior details on all sides of the building was critical to meet the aesthetic concerns and public visibility. The station's brickwork was deemed "exceptional" by the Station Design Awards judges.

In addition to the durable masonry veneer and other long-term finishes of the exterior, materials on the interior were selected with warm tone finishes to evoke a sense of physical and emotional well-being that's similar to the comfort of home while maintaining the durability that's necessary for an active firehouse. The Station Design Awards judges considered the care that was associated with the interior aesthetics on par with that of the exterior.

Throughout the construction phase, the design team coordinated and supported the owner, leading meetings, providing input on questions during construction and ensuring a successful final product. As issues arose with material availability and lead times, cost escalation issues were at their peak in the post-pandemic market. Thus, the design team worked closely with the contractor and owner to consider and review alternative options and substitutions to maintain the schedule and budget for the project.

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

tsk
a MOREgroup brand

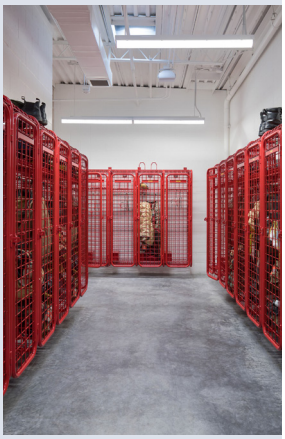
Official Project Name: Clark County Fire Station #61
Project City/State: Las Vegas, NV
Date Completed: Feb. 2, 2021
Fire Chief: Billy Samuels
Project Area (sq. ft.): 10,311
Total Cost: $6,100,000
Cost Per Square Foot: $591.72
Architect/Firm Name: MOREgroup
Website: wearemore.com
Design Team: MOREgroup: Chris Lujan, Jason Andoscia, Ziao Tran

Clark County Fire Station #61, Las Vegas, NV

Fire Station #61 replaces a 1979 facility with updated operational capabilities to support modern emergency response. Located on a constrained site, the project required a rebuild in place, opting for a single-story station to fit within the fabric of its neighborhood. The county sought a facility that was durable, efficient and forward-thinking to elevate firefighter well-being.

In a key research exercise, the team collaborated with station leadership and crew members to test the team's design concept for apparatus bay layouts; framing; and erecting dimensional lumber and sheathing at the fire training facility grounds to simulate the building's perimeter footprint, to test turning radii and to confirm that the largest vehicles that would be assigned to the station could maneuver the site. The insights shaped the final layout and ensured that the new footprint met both spatial and logistical requirements.

Design decisions prioritized health and morale by including 12 private dormitory rooms, a separate captain's suite, private showers, a kitchen and dining area, a dayroom, a workout room and an outdoor space. These features were designed to support the station's crew culture, wherein everyone contributes to maintaining the space. The kitchen, dining area, dayroom and patio form a central core where crews can regroup and recharge, with intentionally configured community space working to support the station's culture.



Understanding the staff's responsibility for building repairs and upkeep, materials were selected for durability under heavy daily use. Finished insulated masonry, stainless-steel surfaces, and charred wood siding offer longevity and low maintenance.

Translucent apparatus bay doors bring in daylight while avoiding heat buildup. Shading elements reduce solar exposure and help the building to perform in Nevada's harsh desert climate. The Station Design Awards judges gave a thumbs up to these aspects.

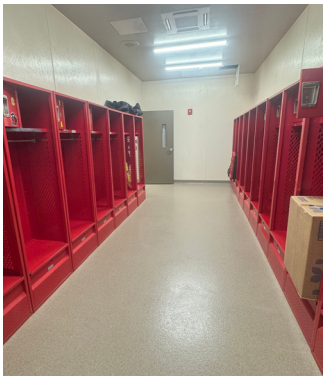
Fire Station #61's exterior fits into its community with mid-century modern forms and a warm, neutral palette that's accented with a vibrant yellow. Although that color struck the Station Design Awards judges as a bit much on first blush, they came around to appreciate the energy that it brings to area spaces.

The station became the county's prototype for future small-site fire stations, setting a new benchmark for standards on collaboration and field-proven performance.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Columbia County Fire Rescue #2, Evans, GA



The facility's public entrance allows guests to be greeted by a classroom with a restroom available. The classroom provides a location for meetings, training, etc., and the uniform quartermaster supply was integrated into the front half of the station. Separation through secured doorways allows the crew to maintain the operations without issues or intrusions.

In the initial design process, the goal was to give personnel space to allow time to decompress after running emergency calls while still maintaining a team mentality. The design allows for a more free-flowing approach, with a common dining/kitchen/dayroom area.

The dayroom and bay are separated by a controlled air environment. Between these locations, a decontamination room allows personnel to wash their fire gear and equipment in a controlled environment to remove any potential contaminants versus carrying them throughout the station. A commercial extractor/washer and gear dryer are in the area.

The three-bay station includes space for the new aerial and heavy rescue. The Station Design Awards judges were impressed with this accommodation.

The bay area has four additional access rooms for tool storage, supplies, IT/network equipment and electrical rooms. The bay is equipped with Air-Vac filtration systems.

The upstairs area provides personnel with a more personal area that isn't accessible to the public. One of the leading causes of firefighter fatalities is cardiac emergencies; a gym was provided to give personnel a location to work fitness and health. The sleeping area is a common bunkroom that has partition walls for the crew, to allow some privacy. The officer of each unit is provided with a separate bedroom, with the addition of workspace that has a computer. There is a small conference space for crew meetings or training. The district captain has an office at the station to complete tasks and reports. There are three restrooms that have showers.

The station is alerted by dispatch via fiber and over-the-air communication that continuously is monitored for faults. Information display boards that are in the dayroom and bay provide real-time computer-aided dispatch information to the crews; colored lighting indicates various calls. A full power generator provides continuous redundancy.

The exterior of the station was designed to allow personnel to pull their apparatus outside to perform maintenance without interfering with traffic; the bays are pull-through.

The station is secured by an electronic lock system that allows instantaneous updates of personnel door access codes. The station driveways and parking areas are monitored by an IP surveillance system.

The rustic façade blends into the surrounding community while maintaining a timeless look. The Station Design Awards judges agreed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY GEORGIA

Official Project Name: Columbia County Fire Rescue #2
Project City/State: Evans, GA
Date Completed: July 15, 2025
Fire Chief: Jeremy Wallen
Project Area (sq. ft.): 13,691
Total Cost: $5,432,000
Cost Per Square Foot: $396.77
Architect/Firm Name: Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Website: columbiacountyga.gov
Design Team: JLA

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Cross Creek Fire Station, Fulshear, TX

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Cross Creek Fire Station

Project City/State: Fulshear, TX

Date Completed: Oct. 11, 2024

Fire Chief: Herc Meier (former); Doug Boeker (current)

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,615

Total Cost: $6,583,686

Cost Per Square Foot: $566.83

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, John Smead, Andrew Vincent; Civil: S&G; Structural: Matrix; MEP: LTY; Landscape: Evergreen; Technology: COMBS

Thoughtful, community-oriented design guided the development of this station, to ensure that the facility not only fulfills operational needs but also enriches its surrounding residential context. The exterior embraces a refined composition through careful selection of materials, accent features and landscaping, to satisfy the area's strict design guidelines. This commitment to visual harmony helps to integrate the station seamlessly into its master-planned neighborhood, offering a welcoming front. The Station Design Awards judges agreed.

Sustainability was paramount in every phase of the design process. The implementation of rainwater harvesting goes beyond environmental stewardship; it directly supports the station's mission by reducing potable water needs and providing a supplementary source for fire suppression. The inclusion of corrugated metal panels intentionally echoes the aesthetic and function of the rainwater cistern, to present a cohesive and purposeful material narrative. In total, the Station Design Awards judges appreciated the commitment to sustainability.

Inside, the approach to interior finishes is guided by the principles of durability and occupant well-being. Neutral color tones promote calm and focus, while generous daylight infuses each regularly occupied space, to enhance alertness and comfort for station personnel. Natural stone and warm wood accents run continuously from inside to out, to create a welcoming sense of continuity and to further tie the facility to its environment.

Cleanliness and occupant health are advanced through robust, easy-to-maintain finishes. High-volume/low-speed fans supplement advanced diesel exhaust systems within the apparatus bays to ensure effective air circulation, to support a safe and comfortable workspace. The thoughtful premise extends to spatial arrangement: Transition airlocks strictly separate clean and contaminated zones, while decontamination areas are situated conveniently beside gear storage and laundry facilities, to make hygiene protocols both accessible and efficient.

Bringing together sustainability, operational excellence and a deep respect for community character, this station is a forward-thinking public safety resource. Its design solutions work in tandem to nurture the well-being of first responders and reinforce the facility's integral role within the residential landscape that it serves.

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Fayetteville Fire Station #2, Fayetteville, AR

The city of Fayetteville sought a station design that could be repeated easily yet has the flexibility to expand or contract based on the required company size and building sites that are available. Additional requirements were that the station blend both traditional and modern aesthetics and achieve a minimum certification of LEED Silver. The final design requirement: occupant safety. Once all requirements and critical needs were established, the design team worked closely with department administration and a crew-led station design committee to develop a functional, flexible, long-lasting design to serve the department and surrounding community for many years to come.

Station #2 utilizes a modular design strategy, and one of the Station Design Awards judges applauded the design team for "great placement and use of space for a modular design."

The station is centrally located in an old, heavily trafficked area of town. Replacing an outgrown, outdated station, it was determined early on that Station #2 would house one engine, one rescue, the department's hazmat team and a county-owned USAR truck. The double-stacked apparatus bay features coiling doors that help to expedite turnout time and mitigate the risk of damage that could be caused by apparatus exiting.

A large mezzanine provides storage space for bulky equipment and supplies as well as direct access to the building's mechanical systems. Tucked below the mezzanine are various high-contaminant areas, such as a workshop, a dirty toilet and a turnout room.

On the living side of the station, a front-facing shift office provides department crews with a clear line of sight for approaching visitors. Upon entering the vestibule, visitors are welcome to use the Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant restroom but are unable to go farther into the station unless they are escorted by department staff through an access-controlled door.

Natural light is introduced into the kitchen and dayroom through a series of clerestory windows. Impact-resistant, durable materials, such as high-density polyethylene millwork, heavy-duty hardware and polished concrete, are found in all highly trafficked areas.

With a 48/96 shift structure, the station design committee and department administration believed that it was important to provide on-duty crews with single-occupancy bedrooms and individual thermostat controls to promote a restful sleeping environment and privacy when needed. A 2:1 bedroom/bathroom ratio allows for quick shower times following fires and/or particularly nasty calls.

The communications room doubles as a "safe room," to provide shelter during severe weather.

The captain's office has ample storage/charging capacity.

A proponent of functional fitness, users wanted a workout area that was designed to house particular equipment, such as a wall-mounted rack system (which requires higher-than-average ceiling heights) and an overhead door that provides direct outdoor access for CrossFit-style training.

Classic, durable exterior materials, such as brick and precast, coupled with decorative metal fencing and an access-controlled gated entrance, underscore the department's commitment to staff safety while blending with the surrounding urban fabric, an element of which the Station Design Awards judges approved. Visitor parking was carefully placed to ensure that visitors don't cross the front apron and have a clear, dedicated path to the main entrance. Tamper-resistant protection for the generator and other exterior mechanical/electrical/plumbing equipment are provided by a masonry enclosure that matches the building structure.

MBL ARCHITECTURE

Official Project Name: Fayetteville Fire Station #2

Project City/State: Fayetteville, AR

Date Completed: Nov. 22, 2024

Fire Chief: Brad Hardin

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,539

Total Cost: $6,931,188

Cost Per Square Foot: $629

Architect/Firm Name: MBL Architecture

Website: mbl-arch.com

Design Team: MBL Architecture: Audy Lack, AIA, and Ashley Mauldin, AIA (Architect-of-Record); Civil & Landscape: Olsson; Structural: REC; MEP: HSA Engineers

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District Station No. 5, Frederick, CO

Official Project Name: Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District Station No. 5

Project City/State: Frederick, CO

Date Completed: July 30, 2024

Fire Chief: Jeremy Young

Project Area (sq. ft.): 13,871

Total Cost: $10,579,637

Cost Per Square Foot: $762

Architect/Firm Name: Golden Triangle Construction

Website: gtc1.net

Design Team: Allred & Associates Architecture

To ensure the fastest possible response times, the station was designed with several critical features that streamline movement and reduce delays. The layout provides direct connectivity between the living quarters and the apparatus bays, including a dedicated corridor that links the bunkrooms straight to the bays. Additionally, the multipurpose areas (kitchen, dayroom, fitness center and offices) are accessible via two separate routes to the bays.

The pull-through apparatus bays feature overhead doors on both sides to facilitate rapid entry and exit.

To further support safe and swift deployment, the station's natural gas oven and barbeque grill are connected to an emergency shut-off switch that's strategically located along the direct travel path to the apparatus bays. This enables staff to immediately halt the gas flow with a single button, which eliminates the need to shut off each appliance individually.

An emergency access road, which is secured by a gate, connects the station directly to the frontage road. This dedicated route bypasses residential neighborhoods, to provide immediate access to the nearby highway system and reduce critical response time.

The station was designed thoughtfully to safeguard responder health and wellness. A clean-living environment is maintained through positive-pressure vestibules that separate the living quarters from the apparatus bay, to minimize exposure to carcinogens. A dedicated decontamination room allows responders to remove gear and to shower before they enter the living areas.

The station integrates on-site training opportunities to promote both physical and mental fitness. The fitness room is accessible at any time, while the apparatus bay includes a training wall that's equipped with tie-off anchors, training windows and embedded grooves for ladder safety. A Denver Drill prop that's located in the mezzanine enables confined-space training. These flexible, on-demand training features eliminate the need for scheduled events, which empowers staff to maintain readiness on their own terms.

Multiple Station Design Awards judges praised the hose/hydrant bike rack.

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Garland Fire Station No. 6, Garland, TX

BRW ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Garland Fire Station No. 6

Project City/State: Garland, TX

Date Completed: Nov. 16, 2024

Fire Chief: Mark Lee

Project Area (sq. ft.): 12,616

Total Cost: $9,450,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $750

Architect/Firm Name: BRW Architects

Website: brwarch.com

Design Team: BRW Architects: Mark Watford, FAIA, Architect-of-Record; Stephen Hilt, AIA, Project Principal; Carol Kesler, AIA, Project Manager; Chris Sano, AIA, Project Designer; Civil: Hart Gaugler; Structural: IMEG; MEP: MEPCE; Landscape: LJA Engineering

Garland Fire Station No. 6 is inspired by the city's mid-century modern downtown architecture. The station was designed to overcome significant site challenges, including Texas Department of Transportation highway restrictions to site access, by maximizing functionality within a compact footprint and creating intuitive site circulation for both emergency vehicles and for visitors to the facility.

The station features three drive-through apparatus bays that are designed to maximize visibility from the highway through a glazed curtainwall façade that highlights the department's pride in its fleet. The exterior's smooth brick, metallic silver accents, and bold black and red elements create a sleek, contemporary presence to reflect the speed and efficiency of fire operations. Horizontal projecting courses accentuate the building's elongated profile, to reinforce its horizontality and create a sense of balance and grounded-ness. Projecting brick headers add texture and depth to otherwise plain walls, to cast dynamic shadow patterns throughout the day, which enhance the visual appeal and give the structure a unique, evolving character.

A key focus of the station is the comprehensive decontamination sequence that's designed to support firefighter health and safety. Upon returning from a call, firefighters follow a dedicated path: Contaminated gear is dropped in the extractor room, followed by a decon shower, a sauna to help to remove toxins, a second shower and, finally, a locker room for clean clothing. Indoor air quality is protected by apparatus bay exhaust, enhanced tailpipe scrubbers, air purification filters and building pressurization through the air locks. The Station Design Awards judges considered the commitment to decon among the best of what they found in the facilities that they assessed.

The living quarters wrap around a private courtyard, to provide natural daylight, views outside and a tranquil retreat for firefighters. A detached fitness room provides acoustic separation from the station's living quarters while offering a covered outdoor fitness training zone.

Natural light, warm finishes and thoughtful details throughout the station create a healthy, comfortable environment. One Station Design Awards judge said, "This building would really feel like a home away from home."

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Glendale Fire Station No. 153, Glendale, AZ

Official Project Name: Glendale Fire Station No. 153

Project City/State: Glendale, AZ

Date Completed: March 28, 2025

Fire Chief: Ryan Freeburg

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,868

Total Cost: $9,298,449

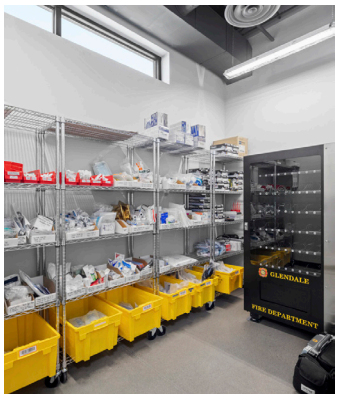
Cost Per Square Foot: $783

Architect/Firm Name: Cole Architects

Website: colearchitects.com

Design Team: Cole Architects; Structural: ASE Engineering; MEP: Kraemer Consulting Engineers; Civil: Sunrise Engineering; Landscape: Stack Rock Group

After decades of growth and shifting service demands, the original Fire Station No. 153 no longer could support the operational needs of the Glendale Fire Department. The city of Glendale set its sights beyond a simple replacement, seeking a modern, high-performing station that's designed to enhance emergency response, protect firefighter health and serve the future. The project team delivered a purpose-built, expanded facility.



With no backup station in the area and a high call volume, the team prioritized maintaining a full emergency response throughout construction. A phased plan allowed crews to remain on site, supported by temporary modular housing and apparatus accommodations that kept operations uninterrupted and safe.

The completed station features three drive-through apparatus bays, nine private dormitories, captain's offices, a spacious dayroom, a full kitchen and dining space, a crew workroom, a fitness room that has natural light and a dedicated "recharge" room (a quiet, low-stimulation space that's designed to help firefighters to reset after high-intensity calls).

Two decontamination rooms and a designated clean/dirty zone reduce cross-contamination within the facility.

Every space that's in the station was designed to streamline workflow and elevate health and wellness. Circulation paths provide direct and efficient movement from dorms and living spaces to the apparatus bays. Functional adjacencies eliminate wasted motion. Zoned HVAC systems ensure clean air and temperature control across different use areas. High-durability, acoustically appropriate materials support both resilience and rest.

Health and wellness were considered at every turn. The clean/dirty transition, the fully equipped fitness room and improved rest areas were driven by input from firefighters. Shared spaces, such as the kitchen and dayroom, create opportunities for camaraderie and informal decompression.

The design process was deeply collaborative. Stakeholders across departments were engaged at every phase. The design team toured regional stations to study best practices, gathering input on topics ranging from decon workflows to gear storage and the evolving needs of modern firefighter crews.

The Station Design Awards judges praised the design team's successful use of color and textures both inside and out.

Station No. 153 not only meets the performance demands of today but also positions the department for success well into the future.

This project stands as a testament to what's possible through thoughtful design, cross-disciplinary collaboration and deep respect for the professionals for whom the station was built.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Dewberry

Hanover Park Fire Department Station No. 16
Hanover Park, IL

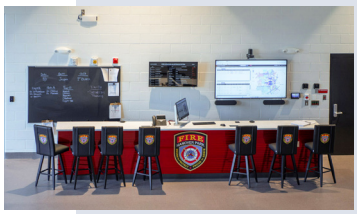
The village of Hanover Park Fire Department decided to create a new facility to support 21st century needs, to accommodate modern and future-sized apparatus, to provide expected levels of privacy in bunkrooms and changing areas, to support physical fitness and mental wellness, and to provide diverse training opportunities where prioritized.

A site was selected that provides an advantageous emergency response framework and prominent presence. The large property also supports expanded apparatus bays, space for public and staff support, and on-site training options, with a planned future department storage building.

Critical success factors included: maintaining the station project budget; fostering a civic connection between the station and the community; creating a mission-focused station that supports fire staff priorities with low maintenance burdens for building and site; communicating progress in public safety services through the outward image and processes for operations; planning for or accommodating all department storage needs; introducing spaces that are adaptable and expandable; providing a workplace environment that's future-facing and is supported technologically; sustainability metrics around energy and water use and material durability; incorporating infrastructure opportunities and appropriate redundancies to be resilient; and supporting the physical, mental, and cultural health and wellness of users. In regard to the latter, the Station Design Awards judges were complimentary of the meditation garden; "Great idea," one judge said.

A combination of gable and shed roof forms blend the building into the residential surroundings, and masonry materials relate to municipal buildings. This familiar form permitted the project to align with budget goals, relate to neighborhood context, and include limited maintenance and relatable materials and systems. The gable forms support future additions, and the exterior materiality provides a durable solution that conveys the longevity of a civic building.

The workplace environment deploys technology, operations, and firefighter wellness and safety in multiple design features. Resolved in a compact T-shaped form, the station leaves sufficient space for a functional front apparatus apron. This provides high visibility to the public and site circulation space for large vehicle access and training and preserves an outdoor space for firefighter wellness.



Every station portion is coded into Hot/Warm/Cold Zones to indicate the relative potential threat level to building users from cross-contamination of environmental materials that are related to fire service. Operational spaces are measured for proximity to respond with access to apparatus bays and vehicles. Ample amenities are provided to promote mental, physical and emotional well-being for firefighters, including a gradient of privacy from active areas to more private spaces for rest and contemplation, fitness-specific areas that are centrally located between living areas and training spaces, and a wellness patio for decompression.

Perimeter load-bearing concrete masonry units are combined with light-gauge roof trusses and interior bearing walls as required, which provides efficient use of materials and limits the transitions involved. Strategies for heating and cooling are catered to the operational areas and needs by zones. The apparatus bay and support spaces utilize gas-fired radiant systems and high-volume/low-speed fans. Living quarters utilize residential-style air handlers and exterior operable windows. Passive energy performance strategies guide window and shading placement.

Official Project Name: Hanover Park Fire Department Station No. 16

Project City/State: Hanover Park, IL

Date Completed: Aug. 21, 2024

Fire Chief: Eric Fors

Project Area (sq. ft.): 14,070

Total Cost: $8,000,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $568

Architect/Firm Name: Dewberry

Website: dewberry.com

Design Team: Dewberry: Architects: Jonathan Tallman, Nathan D. Custer, Jeff Perkis, Kevin Palmby; Interior Design, Beth Keppler; Engineers: Dave Evers and Jason Souciel; Structural, MEP, Fire Protection, Technology: Ben Ahring, Eriksson Engineering Associates; Civil: Timothy C. King, Hitchcock Design Group; Landscape: Colette Rozanski, R.C. Wegman Construction; Design/Builder: Hanover Park Fire Department and Village of Hanover Park; Photography: Bob Elmore

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Irving Central Fire Station

Project City/State: Irving, TX

Date Completed: June 10, 2024

Fire Chief: Victor Conley

Project Area (sq. ft.): 10,406

Total Cost: $7,827,424

Cost Per Square Foot: $752.20

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Justin Myers, Design Architect; Peter Foniciello, Architect-of-Record; Civil: Parkhill; Structural: Alpha Consulting; MEP: Counsel; Landscape: Parkhill

Irving Central Fire Station, Irving, TX

The Central Fire Station represents a thoughtful evolution in emergency response facility design, seamlessly integrating modern functionality with community heritage. The two-story facility replaces an aging structure while honoring the past through an incorporated fire museum that showcases antique apparatus and cherished memorabilia.

The design team maximized the limited site footprint through strategic planning, a matter that the Station Design Awards judges praised. This includes incorporating drive-through apparatus bays, an on-site fuel station and emergency generator systems, without compromising operational efficiency.

Environmental responsibility guided the facility's development, achieving LEED Certification through carefully selected energy-efficient building systems, thoughtful reuse of original building elements, and climate-appropriate landscaping that enhances both sustainability and community appeal.

The design prioritizes firefighter health and safety through innovative features, including a source-capture exhaust removal system and a dedicated decontamination shower transition zone between apparatus bays and living areas, to significantly reduce exposure to carcinogens. The Station Design Awards judges found this facet of the facility's design among its best.

The facility's layout reflects a deep understanding of fire department culture and operational needs. An open-concept living area fosters camaraderie among shifts, while shared amenities, such as a single pantry and common refrigerators, encourage collaboration between members.

The design embraces inclusivity through gender-neutral locker areas that have individual shower and toilet facilities.

Strategic placement of semiprivate dormitory pods on the second floor provides necessary quiet and privacy for rest periods, while maintaining rapid response capabilities through the installation of two fire poles.

Safety considerations extend beyond daily operations to include an ICC 500-rated storm shelter that serves a dual purpose as the bunker gear locker area.

Every design decision reflects a commitment to creating a facility that not only meets current operational demands but anticipates future needs.

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Morgan Hill Butterfield Fire Station, Morgan Hill, CA

Official Project Name: Morgan Hill Butterfield Fire Station

Project City/State: Morgan Hill, CA

Date Completed: June 7, 2025

Fire Chief: Marcus Hernandez

Project Area (sq. ft.): 6,065

Total Cost: $9,100,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $1,500

Architect/Firm Name: COAR Design Group

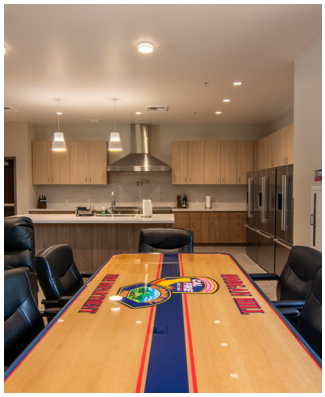
Website: coargroup.com

Design Team: COAR Design Group: Jeff Katz, Christie Jewett, Krt Maness, Roseanna Jamison, Frank Drayton; BKF Engineers; ZFA Structural Engineers; M&P: Capital Engineering; Electrical: O'Mahoney & Myer; Landscape and Planning: RHAA

The programming for this project included the development of concept designs through design development and construction documents following an initial site assessment. Designed to reduce response time in the growing community of Morgan Hill, the Butterfield Fire Station is the first fire station that's in the community to be fully electric.

The single-story station accommodates two drive-through apparatus bays, living quarters for the three-person crew and associated workspaces. Care was taken to separate the work and living quarters spaces, with special attention paid to finishes, ventilation and vehicle exhaust systems and integration of Hot Zone practices within the facility.

The floor plan is designed for minimal steps to apparatus bays, regardless of location, while the individual, gender-neutral dormitories provide optimal space for rest and relaxation. Multiple layers of sound isolation, including door bottom seals, ensure sleep and shift changes come with minimal disruption.



The fitness room is located adjacent to a large patio, which enables outdoor workout space for members as well as all of the traditional fitness equipment.

To support the city's climate goals, the station operates on a fully solar-powered microgrid system that combines solar power generation with battery storage to create an independent power grid, which allows the station to operate during power outages. Inside of the station, zero-emission equipment includes commercial induction cooktops in the kitchen as well as heat pump water heaters and heat pump HVAC systems throughout the living spaces.

Working through several challenges, including limited construction budget and unique site conditions, several design options were developed for the station that best utilized the available space that was on the site. "Really good design for such a compact station," one Station Design Awards judge noted. The design also provided space for the adjacent community park plaza, which included the addition of new park amenities and demolition of the existing on-site amenities.

The building's exterior finishes are stucco and brick, to complement the surrounding building style of Morgan Hill.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

STUDIO GC
architecture + interiors

Official Project Name: Morris Fire Protection and Ambulance District Fire Station 1
Project City/State: Morris, IL
Date Completed: July 22, 2024
Fire Chief: Tracey Steffes
Project Area (sq. ft.): 12,000
Total Cost: $5,103,000
Cost Per Square Foot: $425.25
Architect/Firm Name: Studio GC
Website: studiogc.com
Design Team: Architect: Studio GC; Construction Manager: Narvick Brothers

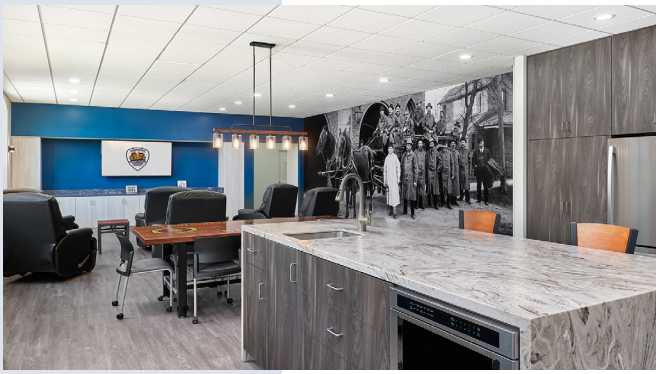
Morris Fire Protection and Ambulance District Fire Station 1, Morris, IL

The scope of work that produced Fire Station 1 is unique in that it combines a traditional fire station with a Morris Fire District Museum and has the opportunity for future expansion. The museum holds a steamer engine, a 1954 ladder truck and two circa-1800 hose reels that help to tell the story of the district over its history. The Station Design Awards judges appreciated this component and its integration with social spaces.

The program for the facility was to have a three-bay apparatus area with space for a future storage mezzanine, residential space for five firefighters plus a company officer, a larger community meeting room and space for the museum to house the department's 157 years of artifacts and antique equipment. The layout needed to provide efficient access to the apparatus bay from the bunkrooms and the dayroom/kitchen. Additionally, because of the growing staffing of female firefighters, the toilet/shower facilities needed to be nongendered and allow for adequate privacy and comfort.

The facility was designed with the health and welfare of the firefighters in mind. Careful placement of a decontamination area and shower minimizes the firefighters' exposure to harmful aspects of their jobs.

The primary challenge was the limited size of the site. This required careful crafting of the layout of the building to allow for public access to the museum, proper access to the apparatus bay, and balancing the critical need to limit chute time and the arrangement of spaces for daylight, comfort and aesthetics.



CAREER 2 NOTABLE

OCFA Mission Viejo Fire Station No. 24
Mission Viejo, CA

coar DESIGN GROUP

Official Project Name: OCFA Mission Viejo Fire Station No. 24

Project City/State: Mission Viejo, CA

Date Completed: July 17, 2025

Fire Chief: Brian Fennessy

Project Area (sq. ft.): 14,519

Total Cost: $15,600,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $1,074

Architect/Firm Name: COAR Design Group

Website: coargroup.com

Design Team: COAR Design Group: Jeff Katz, Christie Jewett, Matt Kingdon, Alex Stolyar, Chris McMurry; EC Constructors: Jim Summers, Cory Summers, Toby Wiest; McParlane & Associates; Orie 2 Engineering; BKF Engineers; Parterre; ELEN Consulting

The two-story, design-build fire station replaced an existing station that was on the same site. It features a four-bay apparatus area, accommodation for an aerial platform, a turnout area, hose storage, a workshop, storage areas, laundry facilities, medical storage, a decontamination room, an exercise room, a patio, offices, 12 bunkrooms, eight restrooms and a kitchen/dayroom. Regarding the latter, "Finally, elevated seats in the dayroom!" one Station Design Awards judge remarked.

The station incorporates best practices for Hot Zone design, including a decon area that has a gear-only washer and dryer, an extractor and a turnout dryer. A restroom is located off of the apparatus bay, so firefighters don't enter the station until they cleaned off. A sink alcove and an airlock vestibule that's located between the apparatus bay and the station minimize the spread of contaminants into living areas.

Bunkrooms are situated on the second floor, to create restful living spaces that are separate from active workspaces. "Great work," said one Station Design Awards judge.

The exterior of the station was a collaborative design effort that blended characteristics of the station, city attributes and overall architectural aesthetics. The result is a station that complements the surrounding community while still prominently standing out as a civic landmark. The Station Design Awards judges agreed.

The interior of the station blends seamlessly with the exterior scheme while incorporating durable and sustainable materials that can withstand heavy and consistent use over extended periods.

The project included developing plans for temporary fire facilities for the department to utilize during construction of the station.

The site consists of a backup generator, a fuel station and a trash enclosure.

The design also includes improved site access for emergency vehicle circulation.

Extensive use of 3D modeling of the station throughout the process enabled the design team to help the Orange County Fire Authority and the city visualize the proposed design and site challenges and develop a solution that satisfied both community and fire district concerns.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

TCA
ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING + DESIGN

Official Project Name: Pasco Neighborhood Prototype Fire Station 83

Project City/State: Pasco, WA

Date Completed: Jan. 1, 2021

Fire Chief: Kevin Crowley

Project Area (sq. ft.): 10,650

Total Cost: $4,500,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $423

Architect/Firm Name: TCA Architecture + Planning + Design

Website: tca-inc.com

Design Team: TCA Architecture + Planning + Design: Brian Harris, Principal-in-Charge; Sarah Elley, Project Architect; Beth Lane, Project Manager; Structural: CPL; Civil: Harms Engineering; Mechanical: Sider+Byers; Electrical: TF-WB; Landscape: AHB; Cost Estimator: Roen; Construction Manager: Strategic Construction Management

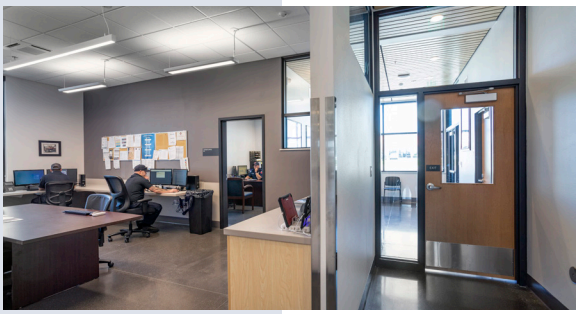
Pasco Neighborhood Prototype Fire Station 83

Pasco, WA

Pasco is one of Washington's fastest-growing cities. It needed to expand its fire infrastructure to meet increasing service demands. This effort included the development of a flexible prototype facility to accommodate the development of three neighborhood stations and a headquarters station. All four stations, one of which is yet to be built, share a standardized floor plan and materiality and systems to reduce long-term costs, to streamline operations and to support training across the department. Each building's exterior is uniquely adapted to complement its surrounding neighborhood.

The prototype design of the facility reflects a comprehensive strategy that's focused on firefighter health and safety, to emphasize contamination control and transition areas, sleep health and access to the natural environment.

Stations feature three apparatus bays with support areas, individual sleeping rooms, living areas, workrooms, an exercise room, and a private patio that's accessible from the kitchen and fitness room. Headquarters Fire Station 84 includes additional program elements: an administrative wing, battalion chief bay and sleeping quarters, a logistics building and outdoor training features. Despite these additions, the operational layout remains identical, reinforcing operational consistency.



A key design challenge was reducing overall square footage while maintaining all operational needs. Strategies included simplifying circulation paths, right-sizing rooms, relocating the mechanical room access to the exterior, incorporating a mechanical mezzanine that's located above the apparatus bay and repositioning the wash alcove to a location that's adjacent to the turnout gear entry.

The design team worked closely with the city to provide extensive site studies and land purchase strategies to identify feasible locations. Station 83 was compressed to fit on city-owned land. (Headquarters Fire Station 84 was pushed to the property line to preserve adjacent greenfield space, which allowed the city to resell more than half of the parcel. Station 85 features a rooftop solar array that reduces annual electrical costs by almost 40 percent.)

Station 83 is foundational to the family of stations and reflects a highly coordinated, efficient and forward-thinking approach to fire service facility designs that support operational needs while responding to the city's growth, management of operational costs and community context. "Great looking project," one Station Design Awards judge said. "Strong, clear identity," another remarked.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Pearl Central Fire Station, Pearl, MS

The new Central Fire Station represents a thoughtful blend of functionality, community service and architectural clarity. It's purpose-built to support both the operational needs of the department and the broader goals of the city to strengthen relationships between firefighters, administrative staff and the public. Every design decision reflects a focus on transparency, economy and dignity in service, resulting in a facility that works as hard as the people who are inside of it.

At the heart of the station is the open-concept dayroom/kitchen/patio, which is a fluid, interconnected space that's designed to foster camaraderie, visibility and a sense of home. These communal zones are framed with durable, economical materials that are applied in artful, intentional ways, to reinforce the station's role as both workplace and refuge. The design of the facility emphasizes natural light and sightlines throughout, as a means to promote wellness and safety. The Station Design Awards judges agreed.

Programmatically, the station was designed with clarity and flexibility in mind. A welcoming public lobby that has a staffed reception area provides access to a multiuse training room that doubles as a FEMA-rated storm shelter. This room serves not only the department but also the wider community during severe weather events, which underscores the station's role as a place of safety and service.

A key feature of the layout of the facility is the strategic placement of administrative offices adjacent to, but physically separated from, the living quarters and operational spaces of the firefighters. This separation supports the privacy and daily rhythm of the crews while fostering communication and cohesion with leadership and support staff.

The operational wing includes a pull-through, three-bay apparatus hall that's designed for rapid deployment and efficient circulation. Within the bay, a dedicated workout equipment area allows firefighters to train close to their gear and vehicles. Overhead, a mezzanine provides flexible space for rope training, rappelling exercises and additional storage as needed.

The design of the station includes thoughtful accommodations for daily life and shift-based living. Jack-and-Jill-style bathrooms offer privacy while maximizing space efficiency. The Station Design Awards judges complimented the design team on this choice.

Sleeping quarters reflect the same practical and respectful design approach that's seen throughout the rest of the station.

The station is a modern civic facility that reflects the values of its community: transparency, resilience and trust. Through simple materials, smart spatial planning, and a commitment to both form and function, Central Fire Station supports the needs of its firefighters while welcoming the public and remaining feasible for the city to maintain.

WBA

Official Project Name: Pearl Central Fire Station

Project City/State: Pearl, MS

Date Completed: May 5, 2025

Fire Chief: Todd Burkes

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,815

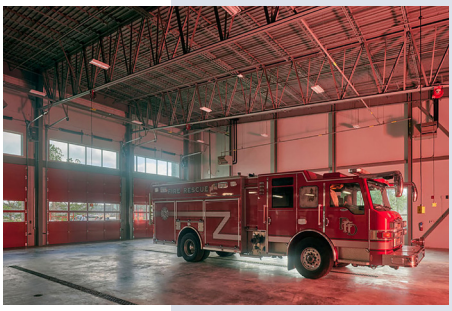
Total Cost: $5,582,578

Cost Per Square Foot: $472

Architect/Firm Name: WBA Architecture

Website: wbaarchitecture.com

Design Team: WBA Architecture: Jamie Wier, AIA; Julie Markle, AIA; Parker Anderson, AIA; Ashley Anderson; Yerix Morel; Courtney Blake; Mark Crowe; Dorothy Hawkins; McKinnley Bridges



CAREER 2 NOTABLE

Poudre Fire Authority Station #7, La Porte, CO

Official Project Name: Poudre Fire Authority Replacement Station #7

Project City/State: La Porte, CO

Date Completed: April 17, 2025

Fire Chief: Derek Bergsten

Project Area (sq. ft.): 10,400

Total Cost: $8,684,261

Cost Per Square Foot: $835

Architect/Firm Name: Poudre Fire Authority

Website: poudre-fire.org

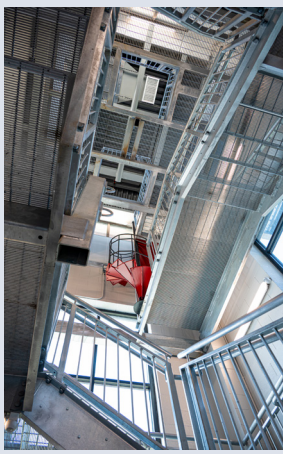
Design Team: Belford Watkins Group; Structural: Martin & Martin; Mechanical/Plumbing: Galloway; Electrical: PEC; Civil: United Civil

Station #7 houses a single engine company that specializes in swiftwater and rope rescue operations. Located on a donated 2.4-acre site, the facility is designed with a focus on response, community space, in-house training, and firefighter wellness and recovery.

Three response bays provide ample room for the three emergency vehicles and equipment. Situated in a mountainous region, the station incorporates landscape and training features that are tailored particularly for mountain rescue operations, reflecting a comprehensive approach to emergency preparedness and training.

Numerous integrated training props that are within the facility allow crews to conduct rope, boat and rescue scenarios on site. The Station Design Awards judges praised the execution of this.

A dual-purpose system combines decontamination with everyday use. Utilizing the concept of Hot, Warm and Cold Zones, the station design ensures that the firefighters, their bunker gear and their living quarters remain contaminant free.



Sleeping room lockers triple the storage capacity compared with that of the previous lockers.

A residential-style appliance package offers commercial-grade performance as a means to simplify use and reduce maintenance costs.

The kitchen/dining area allows the entire crew to maintain visibility and foster camaraderie.

The design incorporates significant aspects of Poudre Fire Authority's rich history, including an office layout that's reminiscent of the old dispatch system. Historical artifacts, such as the bells and signs from the previous station and spiral stairs from the original Station 1 tower, are included.

A large community room can be reserved by residents for use. The room doubles as a training room; it contains ample anchors for a hands-on rope rigging classroom experience and a high-tech audio-video system.

Materials that are durable and easy to clean between shifts were prioritized in the design of the facility. Features include polished concrete flooring, stainless-steel fixtures, and carpets that are designed to mask stains from dirt, coffee and boot polish.

The shower panels are engineered with only three seams to minimize mold risk; textured glass ensures privacy without compromising aesthetics. Rainfall shower heads offer relaxation after challenging calls.

Positioned across from the bay to minimize disruptions to firefighters, the gym was designed with flexibility for indoor/outdoor workouts, including an overhead door from the gym to an outdoor exercise area.

To support natural sleep-wake rhythms, circadian lighting is incorporated into the dayroom/office and dorms. Like natural sunlight, the lights cycle in color throughout the day. Blue performance office lighting enhances alertness; red recovery dorm lighting promotes restful sleep. The dorms also have sound attenuation and blackout shades to further improve sleep quality.

"There is a lot packed inside of this station," one Station Design Awards judge said. "A clear focus on functionality, health, fitness and response."

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

KOMATSU ARCHITECTURE

Sunnyvale Fire Station No. 1, Sunnyvale, TX

Official Project Name: Sunnyvale Fire Station No. 1

Project City/State: Sunnyvale, TX

Date Completed: Jan. 6, 2023

Fire Chief: Tami Kayea

Project Area (sq. ft.): 12,000

Total Cost: $7,413,673

Cost Per Square Foot: $617.80

Architect/Firm Name: Komatsu Architecture

Website: komatsu-inc.com

Design Team: Komatsu Architecture: Karl Komatsu, Principal-in-Charge & Quality Control; Ryan Brantley, Project Architect; Amy Sibley: Interior Design & Programming Lead; Anne McBurnett: Interior Design

The architect worked closely with the town and fire department to evaluate five potential sites for the facility. It was determined that the current location best met the community's response time requirements and the town's project budget.

The station includes three drive-through apparatus bays, a fire chief office, two assistant chief offices, eight individual dormitory rooms, one officer suite, and a multipurpose training room that also functions as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The station was constructed on town-owned land that's located at the edge of an equestrian lease site. At the town's request, the station was designed to reflect the rural character of the area and to complement the nearby stables. The design team incorporated Sunnyvale's design standards through the use of traditional barn elements with wood siding, cupolas, metal rail fencing and warm wood accents. The Station Design Awards judges found this facet of the facility notable.

The station's design includes direct access from the living quarters to the apparatus bay, which allows for quick and efficient emergency response. To support firefighter health, safety and performance, the facility incorporates several key features: private dorm rooms to support restful sleep, an on-site fitness area to promote physical health, and an open-concept kitchen/dining/dayroom area to facilitate a team environment. A screened patio is equipped with a grill, table and chairs. The workout room was designed to serve as an ICC 500-compliant storm shelter. This and the multipurpose training room/EOC is appreciated by the Station Design Awards judges any time that they encounter them.

The station is equipped with mechanical exhaust systems, air quality sensors and air locks to help to prevent carcinogenic air from migrating out of the apparatus bay. All rooms that are adjacent to the apparatus bay, such as the gear, decon and quartermaster areas, were designed with positive air pressure.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CAREER 2 NOTABLE

WEINSTEIN A+U

Official Project Name: Tukwila Fire Station 51

Project City/State: Tukwila, WA

Date Completed: Jan. 5, 2021

Fire Chief: Jay Wittwer (Ret.)

Project Area (sq. ft.): 12,540

Total Cost: $10,600,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $845

Architect/Firm Name: Weinstein A+U

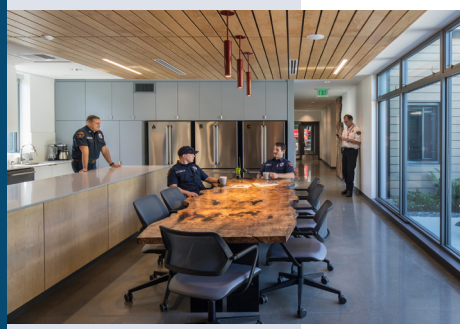
Website: weinsteinau.com

Design Team: Weinstein A+U: Ed Weinstein, Design Principal; Kirsten Wild, Principal-in-Charge; Emma Nowinski, Project Manager; Lauren Rock, Project Architect; Civil: LPD Engineering; Landscape: Swift Company; Structural: Swenson Say Fagét; Mechanical: The Greenbusch Group; Electrical: TFWB Engineers; Fire Station Specialist: TCA Architecture + Design + Planning; Sustainability: O'Brien360; General Contractor: Lydig Construction

Tukwila Fire Station 51, Tukwila, WA

The city of Tukwila consists of suburban neighborhoods, an industrial zone and vehicular-oriented commercial areas that are clustered around the intersection of two freeways. The population fluctuates dramatically, growing by as much as 500 percent during the day when thousands come to work and shop within the city's boundaries. The design team was tasked with programming and designing three fire stations on new sites that were selected to better serve the population.

To establish a unified civic presence throughout the city, the design team proposed a shared architectural language for the new stations that was expressive of their function and the city's commitment to serve its residents. Fire Station 51 was completed first. Rather than attempt to fit it in with its surroundings, the station was designed to stand out against the sea of big box stores and loading docks, to create an oasis for the firefighters and a civic landmark for residents and visitors.



The city had high aspirations for both the programming and performance of its new stations. However, a limited budget and skyrocketing costs meant difficult decisions had to be made to prioritize needs. The design team used an initial sustainability meeting to identify cost-effective methods to deliver efficient and resilient stations as an alternative to investing in a costly accreditation program. Fire Station 51 was designed for future expansion.

The design team collaborated with those who would be using the station on a daily basis. The firefighters asked for an efficient building that supported training and minimized response times but also for a place where they could rest and refresh between stressful calls. Natural light, open spaces and shielding the firefighters from the bustle of the station's highly commercial surroundings were priorities. The operational areas and bunkrooms are organized around the apparatus bay to provide efficient response times, while the living areas are oriented to a central courtyard that connects them to each other and to the restorative landscape beyond. The Station Design Awards judges appreciated this design element.

The department values connection with the community, but its stations typically aren't accessible to the public. One exception is the entry lobby. The site design encourages public interaction with the building and the department by creating an inviting place for pedestrians to pause. A wedge-shaped walkway leads from the street to the lobby, past generous seat walls and native landscaping. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by a cantilevered bench and wall-mounted slab that was repurposed from an historic maple tree that grew nearby and fell during the planning of the station.

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FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CO-LOCATED BRONZE

Waterstone Fire & EMS Station, Hillsborough, NC

Stewart Cooper Newell Architects.

Official Project Name: Waterstone Fire & EMS Station

Project City/State: Hillsborough, NC

Date Completed: June 1, 2023

Fire Chief: Jeff Cabe

Project Area (sq. ft.): 12,808

Total Cost: $6,640,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $519

Architect/Firm Name: Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects

Website: scna.design

Design Team: Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects: Ken Newell, AIA, Principal Architect; Kim Parton, NCARB, Associate Principal Architect

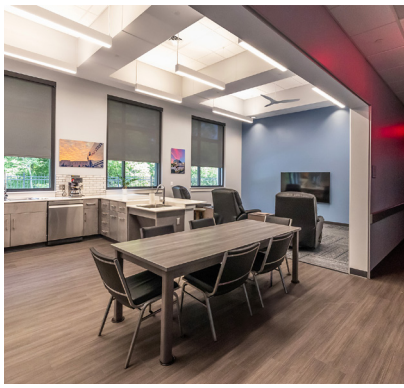
Orange County contracted with the architect to design an emergency response center that housed both the Orange Rural Fire Department and Orange County EMS.

One of the biggest challenges of the project was the extremely steep site that limited the total usable area that was available for a building that could house the two separate departments. The design included a retaining wall to resolve the steep slope, which resulted in a narrow street front. To maintain access to the site and to provide the shortest emergency response pathway, all of the parking was located at the rear of the building. Using this site constraint as a design challenge, the design team developed a layout that placed the emergency egress closest to the street to allow for quick response. The public entrance is at the rear closest to the facility's parking, an element that the Station Design Awards judges applauded for its innovativeness. Going this route, the design team ensured that both the front and the rear façades were articulated to maintain a street façade throughout the exterior of the building.

The programming needs of the project required separate service areas for each department, with the exception of a shared apparatus bay area. As a result, the apparatus bays are located in the center of the building, with associated areas of each department flanking on either side. The Station Design Awards judges found the concept appealing.

The two departments have separate entrances, which are defined clearly to designate the entry to each department while maintaining a cohesive look, to provide the building with a unified aesthetic.

The project is located in the Waterstone area of the town. The historic aesthetic of the town and the modern elements that are prevalent in the Waterstone area were combined to create a design that blends into the surrounding community. Traditional red brick, decorative precast concrete veneer and arched apparatus bay door openings were used. A polished and textured veneer that's composed of architectural concrete masonry units and matte black windows, cornices and downspouts complement the modern commercial buildings that are located in the area, an end result that one of the Station Design Awards judges called beautiful.



FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

CO-LOCATED NOTABLE

St. Francis City Hall and Fire Station, St. Francis, MN

In response to rapid population growth and mounting service demands, the city of St. Francis launched the design and construction of a co-located City Hall and fire station. The goal was to replace outdated, inefficient facilities with a resilient, forward-looking civic center that could accommodate present and future operational needs and elevate the city's downtown identity.

Through a collaborative feasibility study and space planning process, the design team worked closely with fire department leadership to craft a facility that supports quick response, effective training, and the health and safety of responders.

To reduce turnout time, the floor plan is arranged for efficient access from multiple zones, whether paid-on-call members are arriving from home or full-time personnel are on site. Bunkrooms, the dayroom, training spaces and offices all connect to the apparatus bays via a central stair or fire pole. Incoming volunteers can access the radio room and gear area immediately on arrival.

Apparatus circulation was configured to avoid visitor traffic and align with the department's preferred response routes, despite county roadway limitations.

The building separates Hot and Cold Zones. On return from a call, responders pass directly into steam showers and gear extraction areas for decontamination before transitioning into locker rooms and administrative areas. These zones are separated mechanically with dedicated HVAC systems.

Training is embedded into the station's design. The hose tower features bar grate platforms and a standpipe system. Roof access provides opportunities for vertical rescue training. An unfinished second-floor space, which is ventilated by a rapid exhaust makeup air unit, supports smoke-out and search drills. A large training room accommodates local and regional departments for lecture-based instruction, continuing education and certification programs.

Shared services and systems—e.g., a centrally located fitness room that promotes physical wellness and daily readiness and encourages interdepartmental collaboration—help to reduce long-term operational costs and utility demands.

The precast building envelope offers a highly durable, low-maintenance solution that's aligned with sustainability goals. Although similar public safety facilities can average $500 per sq. ft., this building was delivered at $342 per sq. ft. thanks to efficient geometry, cost-effective detailing and material strategy. The Station Design Awards judges applauded the uncommon collation, to deliver the correct hierarchy in massing and elevations in terms of the City Hall and the firehouse, as well as the cost savings.

The facility includes approximately 3,500 sq. ft. of unfinished space on the second level. This strategic decision allows the city to expand within the current footprint to meet evolving needs without incurring significant new construction costs later.

The building acts as a civic anchor in downtown St. Francis. A public plaza reflects the city's "St. Francis Forward" vision and design guidelines of the area. With walkable connections and urban design elements, the project strengthens civic pride, encourages community engagement and establishes a high-quality benchmark for future development.

The facility demonstrates how smart planning, integrated training and wellness, and community-minded design can converge in a cost-effective, sustainable and future-ready municipal facility.

BRUNTON

Official Project Name: St. Francis City Hall and Fire Station

Project City/State: St. Francis, MN

Date Completed: Oct. 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Dave Schmidt

Project Area (sq. ft.): 35,000

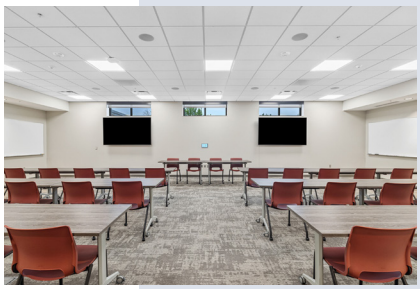
Total Cost: $12,000,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $342

Architect/Firm Name: Brunton Architects

Website: bruntonarchitects.com

Design Team: Brunton Architects: Architecture and Interior Design; Structural: Albertson Engineering; MEP: Associated Consulting Engineers; Civil: Hakanson Anderson; Landscape: HKGi



FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

COMBINATION GOLD

2025 FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS GOLD

BRW ARCHITECTS

Holland Fire Station No. 1, Holland, MI

Holland Fire Station No. 1 is a purpose-built facility that's designed to enhance firefighter health, safety and operational efficiency while supporting the department's evolving needs and long-term growth. Located in an industrial area, the station replaces a small, two-bay structure that had limited accommodations.

The department's top priorities included accommodating future growth, improving gender equity, supporting firefighter health and wellness, integrating training facilities and enhancing operational readiness. The station houses significantly more apparatus than its predecessor; provides individual, private bedrooms; and includes a training tower and a modern training room, which includes a kitchenette, that doubles as a community space.

Firefighters are assigned their own private bedroom, to support personalization, privacy, quality sleep environments and mental health. These rooms are equipped with a large locker; additional lockers that are in the locker room support paid part-time staff.

The station's Hot, Warm and Cold Zones support firefighter safety and hygiene. High-hazard areas, such as the apparatus bay, are separated from living spaces via airlocks. Two dedicated shower rooms, with adjacent change-of-clothes lockers, streamline the post-incident decontamination process. Six of the seven Station Design Awards judges rated the facility's composition in terms of contamination control an 8 or better (on a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the best).

Official Project Name: Holland Fire Station No. 1

Project City/State: Holland, MI

Date Completed: May 15, 2024

Chief of Public Safety: Matt Messer

Project Area (sq. ft.): 21,134

Total Cost: $12,500,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $591

Architect/Firm Name: Integrated Architecture & BRW Architects

Website: brwarch.com/fire

Design Team: Integrated Architecture (Architect-of-Record): Darrel DeHaan, AIA, Principal/Project Manager; Kevin Kamradt, Project Architect; Sara Petoskey, Interior Designer; BRW Architects (Design Architect): Ray Holliday, AIA, Principal; Lisa Andel, Associate AIA, Studio Director; Logan Lebeda, AIA, Project Architect; Civil & Structural: Holland Engineering; MEP: E3M Solutions

Mental and physical wellness are integrated into the daily experience of the station. Warm, home-like interiors that have natural daylight and pleasant acoustics encourage the crew to spend time together to build camaraderie.

Technological and operational upgrades elevate the station to modern standards. A Westnet alerting system ensures prompt and clear response activation. Apparatus bay floors feature radiant heat. A MagneGrip direct-capture vehicle exhaust system maintains clean air in the bays. Environmentally, the station is designed to accommodate future personal vehicle charging stations.

Response times were optimized through strategic spatial planning. Bedrooms are arranged along a double-loaded corridor that leads directly to the apparatus bay. The training room includes an exit that's adjacent to the apparatus bay. This was important to the Station Design Awards judges, who typically don't favor training rooms that are located on the second floor.

One of the key construction challenges was maintaining the existing station's operations during buildout on the same site. The construction sequence also was adapted for Michigan's cold winter. For example, all concrete grade beams were poured first, followed by steel erection before the foundation was poured.

Through thoughtful planning, innovative spatial solutions, and a steadfast commitment to firefighter health and safety, the new Fire Station No. 1 exemplifies what it means to design for performance, resilience and care.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

COMBINATION SILVER

Salem Fire and EMS Station 151, Salem, UT

The design of Station 151 prioritizes the health and wellness of firefighters and EMS personnel through an approach that combines strategic planning, thoughtful materials and day-to-day comfort considerations.

Individual sleeping quarters reduce noise and support proper rest cycles. The kitchen, fitness area and dayroom are organized for easy socialization and decompression. A variable air volume HVAC system ensures zoned climate control throughout the building, to support individualized comfort in active and rest areas. Views toward the Wasatch Front and two private interior courtyards provide biophilic benefits. The timber truss structure and natural materials bring warmth and calm to the interior environment.

A Hot/Warm/Cold Zone strategy underpins the spatial organization, to support NFPA-compliant decontamination processes and minimize cross-contamination risks. The apparatus bay includes gear wash and turnout storage zones. One of the Station Design Awards judges deemed the facility's alignment with health, wellness and safety the strongest aspects of the design.

Clear visibility throughout Station 151, in combination with secure access zones, contributes to crew safety and operational efficiency.

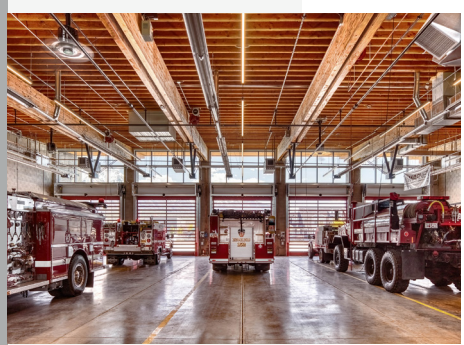
Large overhangs, high-performance glazing and a tight building envelope mitigate solar gain. Not only is the heavy timber structure a regional design nod, but it's a renewable material choice that has low embodied carbon.

Station 151 exemplifies regionally inspired civic architecture. The glulam-king post truss system showcases local craftsmanship and celebrates timber construction, to honor the culture of the surrounding area. Brick detailing in decorative soldier coursing and a modified Flemish bond introduce rich textures and shifting shadows that animate the façade throughout the day. "Materials are splendid," one Station Design Awards judge remarked.

The station's integrated technology includes individualized alerting systems to support rapid response while minimizing sleep disruption. Administrative and training areas are tech-ready, supporting virtual training, remote meetings and digital incident tracking.

The firehouse was designed with the future in mind. Although currently operating as a combination department, the layout and support spaces accommodate the planned transition to a fully staffed, full-time department (e.g., modifiable sleeping quarter arrangements, flexible offices and expandable storage zones).

The training room, which provides views of the Wasatch Front, doubles as a community space, embracing the needs of a volunteer department while allowing room for in-house training and shared emergency simulations.



The five apparatus bays support both fire and EMS services with safe, direct access to major response corridors. Secure back-of-house circulation ensures smooth vehicle transitions and reduces conflicts between public and emergency traffic. Site design emphasizes clear sightlines, efficient turn radii and safe pedestrian routes throughout.

Located near key city routes, the building maintains a civic presence while buffering operational zones from public areas. Landscape design enhances visual identity while supporting public wayfinding and access.

Station 151 is a testament to thoughtful, future-ready civic design, supporting today's hybrid staffing model while preparing for tomorrow's full-time operation.

2025 FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS SILVER

ajc architects

Official Project Name: Salem Fire and EMS Station 151

Project City/State: Salem, UT

Date Completed: April 14, 2025

Fire Chief: Chris Wright

Project Area (sq. ft.): 21,777

Total Cost: $10,989,498

Cost Per Square Foot: $504.64

Architect/Firm Name: ajc architects

Website: ajcarchitects.com

Design Team: ajc architects (Architect-of-Record): Heber Slabbert, AIA; Trevon Beutler; Walter Garcia; Kate Winterbottom; Civil: Mark Cook; Structural: Jordan Terry; Mechanical/Plumbing: WHW Engineering; Electrical: BNA Consulting; Landscape: ArcSitio; General Contractor: Warner & Associates

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

COMBINATION BRONZE

Andover Fire-Rescue Station 2, Andover, KS

The existing fire station for the city of Andover was up against the pressure of serving a rapidly growing population, facing limitations supporting modern apparatus, inadequate space for operations and sharing headquarters with a county EMS crew that was in need of significant maintenance. The design team partnered with the city and Andover Fire-Rescue to launch a comprehensive study to assess the station's limitations, explore new site options, and define the operational and spatial needs for both current and future facilities. The result? A plan that not only addressed today's challenges but laid the groundwork for tomorrow's growth. The outcome was twofold: a new headquarters and a revitalized station. The new headquarters, Station 2, was placed strategically to serve Andover's southernmost residents, where response times were most strained.

Overall goals of the design of Station 2 were for the station to be efficient for members to effectively serve their community, to address mental and behavioral health of the staff and to engage with the community. Corridor access to the front and rear of the apparatus bays streamlines movement from within the living quarters to minimize turnout times. A decontamination zone was located between the apparatus bay and living quarters to help to reinforce the decon process of PPE and personnel. The Station Design Awards judges considered the layout particularly well-appointed.

A storm shelter for the building occupants was incorporated into the PPE locker room because of the durable construction and open floor area.

Daylighting was implemented by utilizing windows to allow sunlight to flood the station and regulate the circadian rhythm of the staff. Red alert lighting minimizes stress that can be induced from abruptly waking up and retains night vision for night shifts.

A direct-connect vehicle exhaust system that the design team incorporated into the apparatus bay captures emissions from the emergency vehicles.

A multipurpose room flanks the front of the building; members of the community are encouraged to use this space for their meetings and training.

Program space for training drills was desired, because members often traveled to a neighboring city on their day off to receive training. A mezzanine for training drills was incorporated into the apparatus bay, utilizing mutually beneficial construction materials for durability and strength.

Future growth also was a consideration. The bunkrooms were oriented in such a way that an addition can be provided. If additional bays are added, the corridor in the center of the apparatus support spaces would act as a passthrough. A park and splash pad that are adjacent to the station are in the planning stages, and the Station Design Awards judges loved the opportunity that these will provide to showcase the department's gratitude for the community's support.

2025 FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS BRONZE

TESSERE

Official Project Name: Andover Fire-Rescue Station 2

Project City/State: Andover, KS

Date Completed: Nov. 3, 2023

Fire Chief: Chad Russell

Project Area (sq. ft.): 16,000

Total Cost: $6,500,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $406.25

Architect/Firm Name: TESSERE with FGM Architects

Website: tessere.com

Design Team: TESSERE: Peter Todd, Principal-in-Charge; Kyle Wilkerson, Project Architect; Derick Holmes, Civil; Kyle Ward, Landscape; Christy Wendler, Interiors; FGM Architects: Paul Erickson and Matthew Fadel, Fire Station Design Consultants; MEP/Structural: Professional Engineering Consultants; Construction Manager: Crossland Construction

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

COMBINATION NOTABLE

martinez ARCHITECTS

Atascocita Fire Station #29, Atascocita, TX

Official Project Name: Atascocita Fire Station #29

Project City/State: Atascocita, TX

Date Completed: Dec. 19, 2024

Fire Chief: Mike Mulligan

Project Area (sq. ft.): 15,103

Total Cost: $7,011,666

Cost Per Square Foot: $464.26

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

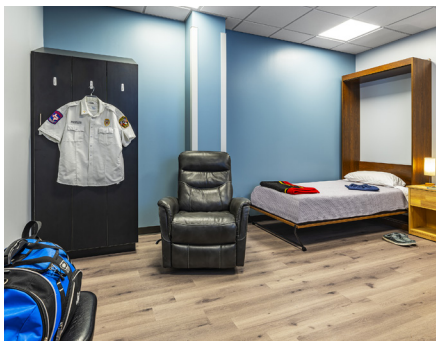
Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Andrew Vincent; Civil: S&G; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: Stanton; Landscape: Evergreen

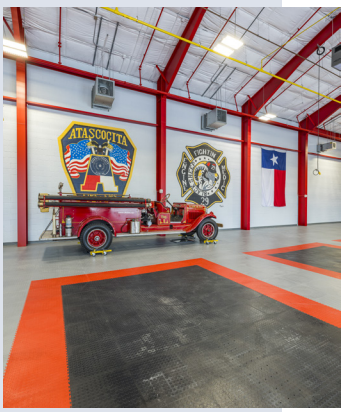
Innovative design solutions transformed a challenging triangular corner site that has a single access point into a highly functional fire station for Harris County ESD 46/Atascocita Fire Department. The Station Design Awards judges applauded efforts to overcome the challenge.

The design team responded to the site's constraint by implementing six shorter apparatus bays instead of the district's standard three longer bays, to maximize the available space while maintaining operational efficiency.

The station's interior layout prioritizes crew wellness and operational efficiency. Open-concept common areas seamlessly connect the dayroom with kitchen activities to foster the department's collaborative team culture.

Individual dormitory rooms are equipped with zone alerting technology to promote uninterrupted sleep. A dedicated "flex" dorm accommodates temporary staff as needed. Gender-neutral individual showers/restrooms provide privacy and inclusivity for all personnel.

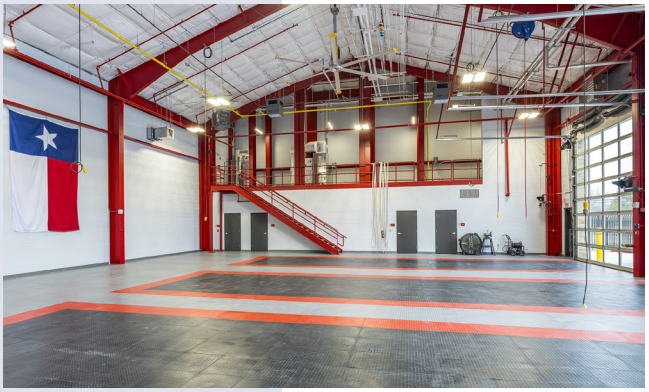




A decontamination restroom is accessible directly from the apparatus bay to provide a designated space for personnel to clean up after exposure to potentially harmful substances in the field.

Separate walk-in pantries for each shift ensure organized food storage and reduce cross-shift conflicts.

A spacious fitness room that's filled with natural daylight encourages regular physical training.



Community engagement was considered in the station's layout. A publicly accessible meeting room that's positioned outside of secure areas enables community events and training sessions without compromising operational security. Additionally, a dedicated workroom serves nonhoused district personnel who need temporary workspace while they are in the field.

Budget-conscious construction methods, including preengineered metal building structure and simplified roof forms, delivered exceptional value while meeting all functional requirements. The resulting facility effectively balances operational needs, personnel wellness and fiscal responsibility. Said one Station Design Awards judge, "The facility is a strong wellness-driven, cost-conscious design."

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

COMBINATION NOTABLE

SAMAHA

Official Project Name: Manassas Fire & Rescue Station #21

Project City/State: Manassas, VA

Date Completed: May 14, 2021

Fire Chief: Edward Mills

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,839

Total Cost: $9,799,164

Cost Per Square Foot: $470.23

Architect/Firm Name: Samaha Associates

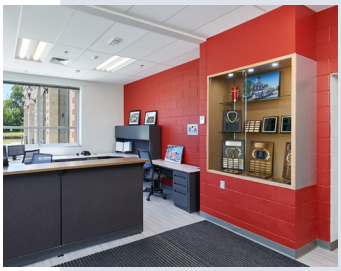
Website: samaha-arch.com

Design Team: Samaha Associates: Architecture, Interior Design, Planning; Civil: IMEG; Structural: Ehlert Bryan; MEP: Stratus; Geotechnical Engineering & Special Inspections: WDP & Associates; Cost Estimation & Construction Manager: Downey & Scott

Manassas Fire & Rescue Station #21, Manassas, VA

Manassas Fire & Rescue Station #21 is the first building that was developed as part of the city's strategic plan to provide expanded public safety services to the surrounding developing community. The station stands as a landmark civic building and extends the architectural vernacular of the city's downtown core beyond its historic district.

The design team assisted the client in determining both the operational and functional program requirements for the station through a series of tours of other recently completed fire stations and stakeholder meetings. Several possible sites were evaluated to determine whether they would meet the city's critical goal of a two-minute response time. The design team explored multiple options for one- and two-story stations, examining the effect of both schemes on site development and response.



Site selection and the subsequent programming and design process were an open collaboration between the design team and the community and included response time mapping, multiple concept site plans, multiple design options and holistic budget development for the city council. The community's sharing of experiences and viewpoints yielded a design that immediately projected a sense of belonging to the community.

Manassas' original fire station, which today serves as Town Hall, served as inspiration for the new design. The concept provided an operationally modern fire and rescue facility with a façade that borrows form and architectural elements from the original station, which is an element that the Station Design Awards judges complimented. The blending of traditional and contemporary architectural elements recognizes the city's mission to provide state-of-the-art public safety services, including career staffing, while paying homage to the city's long history of service provided by its volunteer fire and rescue personnel. The new station provides a rapid response layout wherein the career department staffs three shifts of 19 personnel for 24/7 and the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad provides additional staffing in the evenings and on weekends.

The facility includes bunkrooms, a dayroom, a kitchen, restrooms/locker rooms, four-fold-door drive-through apparatus bays with gear and shop storage, volunteer offices, a training classroom a training tower, an extrication pad, SCBA services, and a return-to-station protocol personal decontamination vestibule.

The training tower includes props for multiple rescue certifications, including balcony rescue, window rollout, confined space (through a sewer access) and Stokes basket (through the open stairwell). Continuity of training without needing to leave the site allows uninterrupted rapid response without duplication of staffing. One of the Station Design Awards judges remarked, "The training tower and extrication pad set a high bar for regional readiness."

The station was designed with flexibility and future growth in mind. Office spaces are adaptable to support a diverse station population and evolving needs. Bunkrooms allow for different sleeping arrangements. The apparatus bay is sized for current and future station needs.

FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

RENOVATIONS GOLD

Edsall Road Fire Station #26, Springfield, VA

SAMAHA

Official Project Name: Edsall Road Fire Station #26

Project City/State: Springfield, VA

Date Completed: Feb. 1, 2023

Fire Chief: John S. Butler

Project Area (sq. ft.): 14,130

Total Cost: $8,633,321

Cost Per Square Foot: $609.74

Architect/Firm Name: Samaha Associates

Website: samaha-arch.com

Design Team: Samaha Associates: Architecture, Interior Design, Planning; Civil: ADTEK; Structural: Ehlert Bryan; MEP: Stratus; Cost Estimation: Downey & Scott

The modest, 8,300-sq.-ft. original Edsall Road Fire Station #26 was from an era when firefighting and rescue personnel operated as independent companies. The administrative and living spaces were located centrally in the station, and the bays for each were pushed to opposite ends of the building.

The confluence of interstates 95, 395 and 495 is one of the most highly concentrated areas of traffic incidents in the nation. As density increased in the region, the department had outgrown its facility and desperately needed more space for personnel and apparatus.

Further fueling the urgency, just as the architectural/engineering team was starting to design, a pumper that was parked inside of one of the bays caught fire, which destroyed a portion of the building. The fire-wall contained the spread of fire, but the need for a new space was greater and more urgent than ever.

The critical path in the design effort was constructing a temporary fire station (triple-wide trailer and frame-supported membrane structure on an adjacent site that was leased). Once the temporary facilities were operational, the team completed the renovation and an addition on the tight, 1.49-acre site faster than an occupied phased renovation could have been performed.

The modernized design solution involved expanding the existing facility, providing four 76-ft.-deep drive-through bays and accommodating three shifts of 13 career staff within a rapid response layout.

The core of the existing building, including the living and administrative spaces, was renovated, while additions to the station included the bays, a training tower, a kitchen, an exercise room, and two- and four-person bunkrooms.

The station is organized around two response corridors through the building that enter the front and back of the apparatus bay, which allows for quick and direct response from anywhere in the station. The Station Design Awards judges concurred.

Before

Before

Apparatus bays directly access the street, with the apron area allowing ease of movement exiting the site. This impressed the judges.

Administrative functions of the station are located at the front of the building, with the more private functions, including the bunkrooms, along the back of the building near to the staff parking and landscaped buffer to the adjacent residential neighborhood.

The Edsall Road Fire Station #26 renovation and addition focused on operational performance coupled with a healthy living environment. The final building design reduced building energy usage, created a healthy indoor environment by specifying materials with limited to no off-gassing, and provided views and natural daylighting to all regularly occupied spaces. The renovated station utilized much of the infrastructure of the original station for cost savings and environmental stewardship and was awarded LEED Silver Certification.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

RENOVATIONS SILVER

Beacon Fire Department, Beacon, NY

The Beacon Fire Department, which historically was a volunteer-led organization that operated from three stations that dated back to the 19th century, faced increasing pressure to consolidate its operations into a modern, centralized facility. In 2006, the architectural firm began to collaborate with the city to explore options for merging the department's three independent companies. The final solution included a transformative renovation and expansion of the centrally located Lewis Tompkins Hose Company Station.

The project encountered significant design, budgetary and logistical hurdles. Initially, volunteer members insisted on maintaining separate community and workspaces for each company. As the volunteer base declined and the reliance on career firefighters grew, the department's needs changed significantly. By 2025, the number of active volunteers fell to three from 80, while the number of career staff increased to 18 from 13. This shift required a reevaluation of the department's spatial and operational priorities, including the development of a layout that could accommodate a fully career-based staffing model and support operations 24/7.

The original station was located on a narrow side street, which provided limited space for emergency vehicles. This often forced vehicles into pedestrian pathways. The redesign positions the building toward a wider road that's better connected and introduces a deeper apron, to facilitate safer staging. The orientation and central location significantly improve response efficiency and public safety.

The renovated station prioritizes firefighter health, safety and operational efficiency, incorporating clearly defined Hot, Warm and Cold Zones. The facility includes a dedicated decontamination laundry, Hot Zone showers and an acoustically isolated SCBA fill station.

The living and sleeping quarters are located strategically for quick access to the apparatus bay, to help to reduce response times and sleep disruption. Training elements were integrated into the building's layout. The former apparatus bay was converted into a dedicated EMS response area that has ample adjacent storage. Additional features include a fully equipped fitness room and American with Disabilities Act-compliant facilities. The station ensures long-term environmental and financial sustainability. The building operates entirely on electricity and utilizes geothermal ground-source heat pumps for heating and cooling. High-performance insulation exceeds code requirements. A heat recovery ventilation system maintains indoor air quality while conserving energy. Together, these systems reduce the building's carbon footprint, lower operating costs and support the city's broader climate goals.

The redesign addresses a long-standing visual disconnect. The previous station clashed with the city's historic character, particularly because of its prominent location across from City Hall. The renovation enhances the civic presence and achieves architectural harmony, to create an inviting gateway that honors Beacon's rich heritage while embodying its vision for the future. The Station Design Awards judges agreed and considered the exterior renovation greatly in their recognition of the facility as a Silver award winner. Six of the seven judges rated the station's overall architectural design as an 8 or higher (on a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the best).

2025 FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS SILVER

wendel
Home of the Award Winning

Five Bugles Design

+ Mitchell Associates Architects

Official Project Name: Beacon Fire Department

Project City/State: Beacon, NY

Date Completed: Nov. 16, 2024

Fire Chief: Thomas Lucchesi

Project Area (sq. ft.): 17,161

Total Cost: $12,333,552

Cost Per Square Foot: $718.69

Architect/Firm Name: Wendel

Website: wendelcompanies.com

Design Team: Mitchell Associates/Wendel (Architecture): Bob Mitchell, Ken Gale, Peter Signorelli, James Alexander, Juan Carascal; MEP/Fire Protection: John Trombino and Rocco Landi, Gerard Engineering; Structural: Craig Maloney; Civil: Eric Schlobohm, Insite Engineering

Photos by Peter Signorelli

Spotsylvania Fire & Rescue Station 6, Spotsylvania, VA

Spotsylvania Company 6 is the busiest station in the department, but it was severely undersized, including a cramped kitchen and dayroom, minimal apparatus support space and 11 personnel sharing bunk beds in three small bedrooms. The apparatus bays were overcrowded. This included the fact that the turnout gear, an SCBA compressor, laundry appliances, electrical panels and janitorial space lined the walls.


Before

Despite a tight site, the county chose to expand the facility, driven not only by cost considerations but also by the lack of available and affordable land in the dense commercial area. The Station Design Awards judges applauded the overall end result. One judged noted, "The team did a great job to remediate the issues of the previous layout."

The renovated and expanded station now includes 14 single-user bunkrooms, four single-user shower rooms, spacious common areas, a new lobby and public restroom, and attic space for mechanical and communications equipment. The existing living space was reconfigured to include two offices, a locker room, a laundry room and a shop/SCBA room. A separate addition on the far side of the bays relocated all of the equipment that previously was stored in the apparatus bays, including gear storage, equipment decontamination, EMS supplies and electrical equipment. To fit the building program (and sufficient parking) on the small parcel, communications equipment, HVAC equipment and water heaters are located in the attic space of one of the additions.

The exterior of the additions was designed to blend seamlessly with the existing Colonial-influenced architecture, using matching materials, eave heights and roof slopes. The building footprint was shaped to stay within the setbacks and to allow the rooflines to merge with the existing hip roof without creating drainage issues. The previously understated main public entry point now is celebrated with a portico and building-mounted signage.

Because of budget constraints, there was no funding for a temporary facility. Therefore, the design ensured continuous station operations without compromising long-term functionality. A key strategy was constructing new mechanical, electrical and communications rooms within the additions, making them fully operational before the renovation of the existing facility. The original building was back-fed from the new systems, with ductwork entering through the only gable wall. Corridors were connected to existing window locations to limit structural modifications.

Phase One built additions on two sides of the building that together included all of the spaces that are necessary to function as a fire station. Phase Two built temporary exterior passageways. Phase Three remodeled the existing area while response occurred through the temporary passageways. Once the remodel scope was completed, the temporary corridors were dismantled, and the sitework was finalized.

BKV GROUP

Official Project Name: Spotsylvania Fire & Rescue Station 6

Project City/State: Spotsylvania, VA

Date Completed: Feb. 27, 2024

Fire Chief: Jay Cullinan

Project Area (sq. ft.): 9,110

Total Cost: $2,860,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $314

Architect/Firm Name: BKV Group

Website: bkvgroup.com

Design Team: BKV Group: Mark Manetti, Craig Carter, Kwok Ong, Gentry Kowall, David Li, Brandon Adams, Rose Rodriguez, Michael Kostick, Jim Hansing, Elaine Fitzgerald; Ascent: Boyd Headley, Sean Haas, Randy Spencer; Timmons Group: Bill Vest, Luke Fetcho, Pete Cloutier; Spotsylvania County: Chief Jay Cullinan, Josh Knight, Assistant Chief Steve Cooper, Assistant Chief Jason Irby

Cave Creek Fire Station No. 1, Cave Creek, AZ

Perlman Architects

Official Project Name: Cave Creek Fire Station No. 1/DMFD Fire Station No. 147

Project City/State: Cave Creek, AZ

Date Completed: Nov. 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Jim Ford

Project Area (sq. ft.): 9,078

Total Cost: $4,988,692

Cost Per Square Foot: $549.53

Architect/Firm Name: Perlman Architects

Website: perlmanaz.com

Design Team: Perlman Architects: Ken Powers, Architect-of-Record; Gerrald Adams, Project Director; Xavier Ibarra, Project Manager; Civil: Bill Gasque, Civil Design Solutions; Structural: David Schott, Simply Structural; Mechanical: George Josephs, Associated Mechanical Engineers, and Sheldon McInelly, Akribis Engineers; Electrical: John Echeverri, EJ Engineering

Before

Through a unique intergovernmental agreement between the town of Cave Creek and the Daisy Mountain Fire Department, the community of Cave Creek now has full-time emergency fire and medical protection within its town limits. What began as a 4,366-sq.-ft. car wash, which was built in 1999 and converted into a makeshift community service facility in 2005, underwent a remarkable transformation into a modern, fully operational neighborhood fire station that honors the department's past and its promise to serve.

Cave Creek sits against the backdrop of the Tonto National Forest, where the town's rural Western spirit is alive and well. The renovated fire station reflects this character—and the Station Design Awards judges agreed—while bringing life-saving infrastructure to the heart of the community. Designed to blend seamlessly with its surroundings, the station embodies the neighborhood's aesthetics while delivering state-of-the-art functionality.

The adaptive reuse of the car wash was no small feat. One of the project's biggest challenges was surgically removing the old tunnel equipment and all of the related utility rooms of the facility, while preserving the building's structural envelope—except for the front wall, which was rebuilt completely.

The reinvented facility features three modern drive-through apparatus bays, eight firefighter dormitories, offices, EMS support spaces, a fitness room, living quarters and a calming, daylight-filled public lobby that has a covered patio. Every aspect of the design was centered on firefighter wellness, promoting health through light, air, and materials that were selected to reduce stress and fatigue. The Station Design Awards judges agreed; one judge said, "The attention to firefighter safety is far batter than it was."

Sustainability and resilience were equally critical. The station includes high-performance HVAC systems, LED lighting and low-maintenance finishes that are suited for Arizona's desert climate. Onsite improvements include secure staff parking, visitor spaces and provisions for future fuel equipment.

Fire Station No. 1 stands not just as an essential service but as a symbol of transformation, collaboration and enduring community care.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

RENOVATIONS NOTABLE

coar DESIGN GROUP

Official Project Name: Chula Vista Fire Station No. 1

Project City/State: Chula Vista, CA

Date Completed: Feb. 14, 2025

Fire Chief: Harry Muns

Project Area (sq. ft.): 10,393

Total Cost: $7,104,466

Cost Per Square Foot: $683.60

Architect/Firm Name: COAR Design Group

Website: coargroup.com

Design Team: COAR Design Group: Jeff Katz, Christie Jewett, Matt Kingdon, Alex Stolyar, Chris McMurry; EC Constructors: Jim Summers, Cory Summers, Ramon Huizar; Delane Engineering; Orie2 Engineering; McParlane & Associates; Elen Consulting; Parterre

Chula Vista Fire Station No. 1, Chula Vista, CA

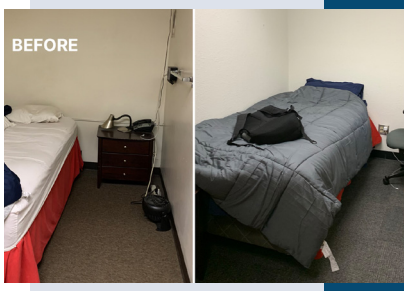
Chula Vista Fire Station No. 1 has been a landmark structure in the community since it opened in 1948. Although the exterior of the facility is iconic to the city, at 77 years old, the inside was outdated and no longer met the evolving needs of the department's operations. The design-build team worked closely with the city of Chula Vista to design a new layout for the station that would provide an improved living quarters/workspace for fire personnel, while preserving elements of the station that the department and community love. The original fire alarm bell from 1948 still stands outside of the building.

Renovated elements included the demolition of most of the existing interior walls, doors/windows, ceilings, finishes and utilities and integrated best practices for fire station design that would equip the facility for the next 50-plus years. The updated facility accommodates modern equipment, including an expanded apparatus bay for a new ladder truck, an ambulance company and personnel facilities. Noting that interior renovations to historic buildings can be very challenging, updates to the interior of Fire Station No. 1 that the Station Design Awards judges liked: an oversize fitness room, and painting the bay ceiling white ("Transformative," remarked one judge).

The city elected to update the exterior via new stucco and a new roof to repair aging aspects of the building and to ensure that it will stand for years to come.

Tasked with the challenge of remaining operational during construction, the design-build team worked closely with the city, the department and the construction management team to phase the construction and ensure designated portions of the building remained operational at all times. A temporary gym was set up in the parking lot, a trailer was set up outside for turnout gear storage and a temporary wall was constructed to divide the apparatus bay, to keep one apparatus bay in service.

The building program was developed to meet the specific needs of the station as well as to ensure design consistency across existing Chula Vista fire stations. This was an important factor that allowed operations to stay consistent throughout the entire department.



Marble Falls Fire Station #1, Marble Falls, TX

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Marble Falls Fire Station #1

Project City/State: Marble Falls, TX

Date Completed: June 5, 2025

Fire Chief: Tommy Crane

Project Area (sq. ft.): 10,780

Total Cost: $2,861,819

Cost Per Square Foot: $265.47

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, John Smead; Civil: Kimley-Horn; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen

The Marble Falls Fire Station #1 renovation represents a comprehensive transformation that addresses the evolving needs of the modern fire service while honoring the dedication of those who serve the community. The extensive project encompassed a complete interior demolition and renovation of all areas other than the apparatus bay, to breathe new life into a facility that required significant updates to meet contemporary standards and operational requirements. The renovation spans two floors, with fire administration offices and a training classroom occupying the first floor, while living quarters and common areas are situated on the second floor. This layout creates a clear separation between administrative functions and the daily living spaces that are essential for round-the-clock emergency response operations.

At the heart of the transformation was the need to address critical health and safety requirements. The existing building demanded comprehensive upgrades to meet NFPA standards, particularly regarding the separation of clean and contaminated areas. The renovation also incorporated essential modifications to accommodate female firefighters, to ensure an inclusive environment that reflects the diverse composition of today's fire service.

The redesigned facility now features larger administrative offices that are bathed in natural daylight, to create a more productive and pleasant work environment for department leadership and support staff. The expanded training classroom, which is equipped with enhanced security features, provides an improved learning environment for ongoing professional development and community education programs. "Outstanding," one Station Design Award judge offered.

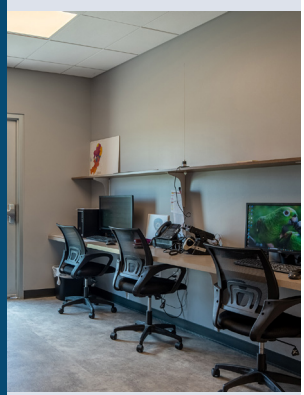
The second-floor transformation is particularly striking, featuring an open-concept kitchen/dayroom that fosters camaraderie and team building. The Station Design Awards judges appreciated its bright, user-friendly and spacious qualities.

Individual sleeping rooms replace traditional open dormitories, to offer privacy and better rest quality. Gender-neutral restrooms that have showers feature a common vanity area with access to unisex toilet and shower facilities, to maximize functionality within the existing building constraints.

Recognizing the needs of shift-based operations, the renovation incorporates three distinct pantry areas, to allow each shift to maintain its own food storage and preparation spaces. This detail acknowledges the importance of personal space and organization in a shared living environment.

The project addressed critical operational improvements by relocating essential equipment outside of the apparatus bay. The ice machine and fitness equipment now reside in dedicated spaces, which reduces contamination risks and creates a healthier environment.

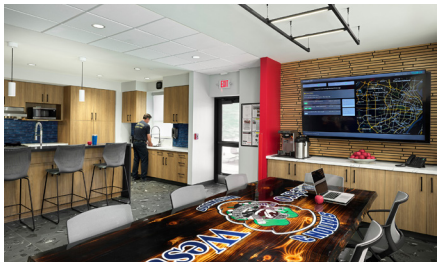
The renovation transformed an aging facility into a modern, efficient and healthy workplace that supports both the operational needs of the department and the well-being of its personnel. "The renovation will enhance firefighters' safety and improve morale for sure," one judged remarked.



RENOVATIONS NOTABLE

Metro West Fire Protection District Station 3 & Administrative Office, Wildwood, MO

The oldest of Metro West Fire Protection District's five fire stations, Station 3 was suffering from a lack of functional space, outmoded accommodations and outdated systems. The design team embarked on a space-planning study that looked at the department's current and future needs, including options for renovation, addition or full replacement. Determining that the existing facility was in good condition, an interior renovation of the space proved to be the most cost-effective option while still meeting the desired program goals.



Working closely with the fire crew, the design team fully reimagined the building's layout to increase efficiency, comfort and wellness. The station's existing bunkroom, which was an outdated model that consisted of one large space with partitions, was replaced with six separate rooms that have three beds in each room. (Only one firefighter sleeps in each room at a time.) Locker rooms were replaced with individual Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant bathrooms for the privacy of all staff. The kitchen/dining area was relocated and replaced with a modern design that has multiple seating options and access to a patio. Other upgrades included a new HVAC system, electrical systems, sprinklers, water lines and motion-sensor LED lighting.

A new wellness room provides a quiet, calming space. Alarms were upgraded to a progressive alarm (with gradual increase in volume) from a siren, which is shown to be better for heart health and circadian rhythm. New dispatch technology allows only certain crews to be woke, rather than signaling the entire building when, for example, only one ambulance is needed.

A dedicated decontamination room that's off of the apparatus bay and separated from living quarters allows crew to store and clean gear as well as shower after fire events.

A cramped exercise room was expanded to almost double the size, with technology and HVAC upgrades, suspended LED lighting and acoustical ceiling panels. Windows were added in several locations to provide additional natural light into interior spaces.

Station 3 also houses the district's administrative offices, fire prevention bureau, data center and executive boardroom on the upper floor. Accessed via separate entry, this floor also received a full renovation and reconfiguration to make best use of the space. Designers helped administrators redefine roles to determine proper floor placement. The fire bureau, which formerly was at the back of the building, was moved next to the entry for easier access for its high volume of visitors. Also included on this floor are offices, a kitchen ("A fantastic transformation," one Station Design Awards judge said), a workroom, a lobby with reception, a conference room, a boardroom and the wellness room.

The station's history and mission are celebrated throughout with multiple wall murals, quotes, artifacts and strong branding using the department's red, yellow and blue colors and logo. The public entry greets visitors with an "M" and "W" light fixture.

The $227-per-sq.-ft. cost? "Amazing in these times," a Station Design Awards judged remarked.

fgma
FGMARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Metro West Fire Protection District Station 3 & Administrative Office

Project City/State: Wildwood, MO

Date Completed: Feb. 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Mike Krause III

Project Area (sq. ft.): 19,100

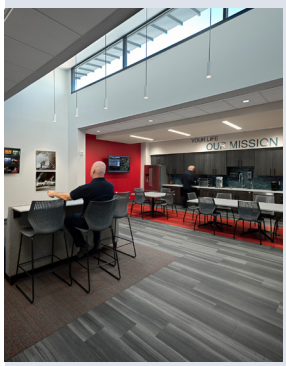
Total Cost: $5,300,000

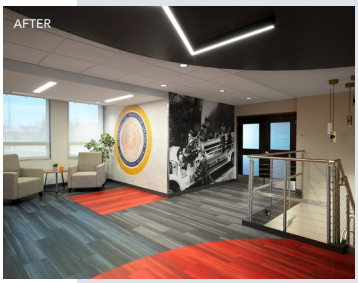
Cost Per Square Foot: $277

Architect/Firm Name: FGM Architects

Website: fgmarchitects.com

Design Team: FGM Architects: Joshua N. Mandell, Principal-In-Charge; Paul Luzecky, Design Principal; Jerrod Joggerst, Project Manager; Daniel Matchett, Project Architect; Jenna Rehkemper, Architectural Designer; Katie Corey, Interior Designer





Willowfork Fire Station #1, Katy, TX

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Willowfork Fire Station #1

Project City/State: Katy, TX

Date Completed: Feb. 16, 2024

Fire Chief: Billy Wilson

Project Area (sq. ft.): 14,384

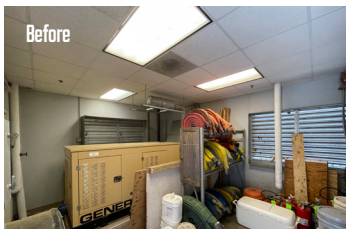
Total Cost: $5,467,506

Cost Per Square Foot: $380.11

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

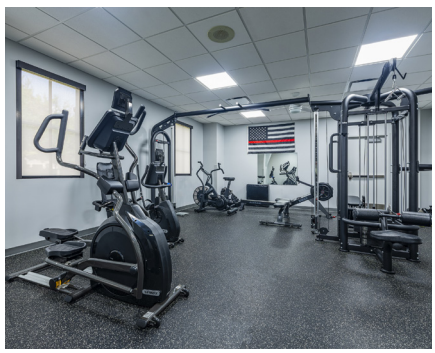
Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Andrew Vincent; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: Stanton



The comprehensive renovation of Willowfork Fire Station #1 exemplifies a thoughtful approach to modernizing emergency response facilities while prioritizing the health, wellness and operational efficiency of responders. The transformative project reimagined the station's interior spaces to create an environment that supports the demanding nature of emergency services work. The renovation introduced individual dormitory rooms that have dedicated shift lockers and study desks, to provide personnel with private spaces that promote quality rest. Strategic placement of these quarters includes hallway buffers for enhanced sound control while maintaining quick access routes to apparatus bays.

The project addressed the evolving needs of modern fire service and EMS by creating separate living and response areas for personnel who are from different organizations, acknowledging the collaborative nature of contemporary emergency response. Gender-neutral accommodations ensure that the facility serves all personnel equitably, reflecting the changing demographics of the fire service. Officer quarters received significant enhancements, featuring en-suite sleeping rooms that are accessed separately from office areas, to provide leadership with appropriate privacy while maintaining operational oversight capabilities.



Common areas underwent substantial improvements to foster team cohesion and wellness. The kitchen and shift pantries were enlarged to accommodate crew meal preparation and storage, recognizing the importance of nutrition in maintaining readiness. A newly constructed mezzanine level houses mechanical, electrical and data infrastructure, which frees valuable ground-floor space for an expanded fitness area, a watch office and communal living spaces.

Architectural modifications included replacing traditional overhead bay doors with bi-folding systems. The strategic placement of the dayroom and dining area adjacent to the apparatus bays, enhanced with glazing for visual connection, maintains crew awareness while providing comfortable spaces for downtime. The incorporation of airlocks throughout the facility helps control contamination and maintains interior air quality. The Station Design Awards judges were appreciative of this detail.

The renovation represents more than physical improvements; it embodies a commitment to supporting those who serve their community in times of crisis. By creating spaces that promote rest, wellness and operational efficiency, the renovated facility enables Fort Bend County ESD 2 and the Willowfork Fire Department to better serve their community while ensuring that their personnel have the resources and environment that are necessary to perform their vital duties safely and effectively.

Wooster Fire Station No. 1, Wooster, OH

m&w
mull & weithman architects, inc.

Official Project Name: Wooster Fire Station No. 1
Project City/State: Wooster, OH
Date Completed: Sept. 6, 2024
Fire Chief: Barry Saley
Project Area (sq. ft.): 14,818
Total Cost: $5,374,000
Cost Per Square Foot: $363
Architect/Firm Name: Mull & Weithman Architects
Website: mw-architects.com
Design Team: Mull & Weithman Architects: Bradley Mull, Joe Weithman, Joe Malone; MEPT & Civil: Karpinski Engineering; Structural: Korda/Nemeth; Geotechnical: ECS Midwest

Fire Station No. 1, which is one of three stations that serve the city, is located adjacent to City Hall on a sloped site that's within a residential neighborhood. The existing multilevel, 10,047-sq.-ft. main station, which was constructed in 1961, had a sound structure but needed renovations to meet current fire service standards.

The department prioritized the following project goals: apparatus bay additions and renovations; sleeping quarter renovations; new building services; gear storage and decontamination spaces; office spaces to relocate fire administration from Fire Station No. 2; functional fitness space; kitchen and dayroom renovation; and new responding apron and asphalt shingle roof.

The solution included three separate additions to provide new apparatus storage and training space, a physical fitness and dining/patio space and administrative office space.

Site improvements included connecting the multilevel parking areas to provide additional firefighter parking and allow circulation around the site.

Interior alterations to the first and second floor provided renovated dormitory space, kitchen and dayroom updates, and turnout and gear laundry storage spaces. The original office space was reconfigured into decon and apparatus support spaces, and the apparatus bays were renovated from four narrow bays to three right-sized bays.

The façade of the building was reimagined to reflect the new bay configuration. A new brick veneer that matches the additions was added to the façade to tie the overall composition together. "Curbside appeal is impressive," one Station Design Awards judge remarked. "Really handsome," said another.

The prominence of the existing gable form was maintained and centered within the north and south additions. The existing station contained four different floor elevations because of the east/west slope of the site. The three new additions are all at various levels because of the floor elevation of the existing space that they adjoin and the grading of the site. The exterior envelope efficiency of existing single-wythe masonry was improved by adding rigid insulation board to the interior of the exterior walls of the living quarters. The existing gable shingle roof was removed and replaced.

New window openings were cut into the walls of the building to bring additional natural light to the interior living quarters and to the dayroom spaces.

Interior acoustical ceilings were removed to expose the concrete tee structural system and gain much needed height for the interior spaces. All services and systems were exposed but kept above the bottom of the tees to reduce clutter and maintain ceiling height. Strategically placed bulkheads were used to conceal services that run perpendicular to the tees. A new vestibule was added with the west addition for the firefighter entry, and a fire-rated transition vestibule was added between the living quarters and the bays to separate the Hot and Cold Zones. A dedicated turnout gear storage room that has climate and dehumidification controls, a decon alcove for equipment, and a personal decon toilet and shower were added adjacent to the bays.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

SATELLITE GOLD

Waco Fire Station #15, Waco, TX

Official Project Name: Waco Fire Station #15

Project City/State: Waco, TX

Date Completed: Jan. 10, 2025

Fire Chief: Robby Bergerson

Project Area (sq. ft.): 8,038

Total Cost: $4,852,514

Cost Per Square Foot: $603.70

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Justin Myers, John Smead; Civil: Kimley-Horn; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen

Waco Fire Station #15 prioritizes both functionality and community service. The architectural approach employs clean, simple forms that include single-slope roofs, which create an efficient, three-drive-through-bay facility that maximizes operational effectiveness while respecting budgetary constraints. The design team orchestrated the spatial layout to ensure rapid emergency response by positioning sleeping quarters directly adjacent to the apparatus bays. This strategic placement minimizes response time while maintaining necessary separation between operational and living areas through sophisticated airlock systems.

The station's design goes beyond basic functionality to address the evolving needs of modern firefighting. A dedicated decontamination area provides a crucial transition zone, to allow firefighters to move from potentially hazardous environments to living spaces without compromising safety or cleanliness.

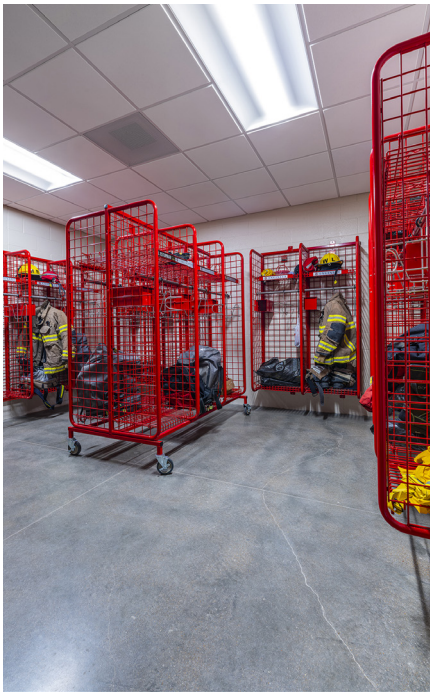
As a satellite facility, the station incorporates a training classroom with secure, independent access. The Station Design Awards judges deemed this facet of the facility's design particularly impressive.

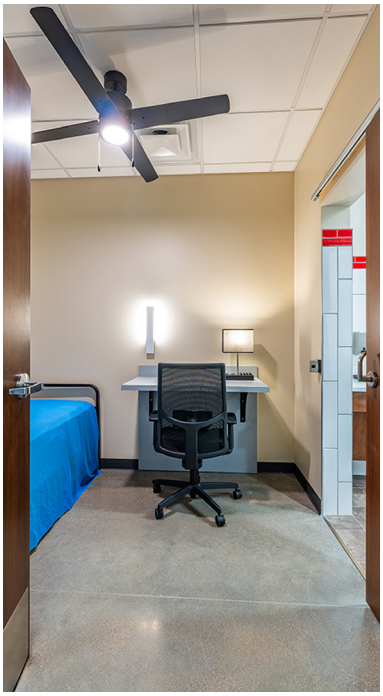
The interior embraces an open-concept design philosophy, integrating workstations for administrative tasks within communal areas rather than isolating them in separate offices. This approach not only optimized construction costs but, more importantly, fosters team cohesion and communication.

The architectural language speaks to both tradition and innovation, utilizing strategic color accents and branding elements that create visual continuity with the city's other fire stations while establishing the facility's own identity. Vibrant color applications bridge interior and exterior spaces, to reinforce departmental identity while energizing the work environment. These design choices

reflect a nuanced understanding that fire stations serve as both functional emergency response facilities and important civic landmarks within their community. The Station Design Awards judges gave an enthusiastic thumbs up to the facility's "elegant" and "dynamic" curbside appeal.

Through careful material selection and spatial planning, the design achieves multiple objectives: operational efficiency, fiscal responsibility and architectural distinction. The result is a facility that serves its primary mission of protecting the community while providing firefighters with a safe, efficient and uplifting environment that supports their demanding work. This project demonstrates how thoughtful design can enhance public safety infrastructure, creating spaces that honor the dedication of first responders while serving as responsible investments in community well-being.





FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

SATELLITE SILVER

Alden A. Mills Point of Pines Fire Station 2, Revere, MA

WINTER STREET ARCHITECTS, INC

Official Project Name: Alden A. Mills Point of Pines Fire Station 2

Project City/State: Revere, MA

Date Completed: July 13, 2025

Acting Fire Chief: James E. Cullen

Project Area (sq. ft.): 13,600

Total Cost: $12,747,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $937

Architect/Firm Name: Winter Street Architects

Website: wsarchitects.com

Design Team: Winter Street Architects; Landscape: James K. Emmanuel Associates; Structural: Simpson Gumpertz & Heger; Civil: Brennan Consulting; M/P/FP: C.A. Crowley Engineering; Electrical: Owl Engineers

The city of Revere partnered with the architectural firm to design a fire station to replace the aging and decommissioned Point of Pines Fire Station. Strategically located on one of the highest elevations in a flood-prone coastal zone, the new facility and its flood-resistant construction ensures uninterrupted emergency response capability even during severe weather events and the storm surge and flooding that can accompany them. Its placement positions it to serve a rapidly developing section of the city with improved access and coverage.

From the outset, the department emphasized the need for a resilient, future-ready facility that could support rapid response, promote firefighter wellness and serve as a community anchor. The design team responded with a solution that integrates operational efficiency, environmental resilience and community engagement.

To facilitate the quickest response times. The centrally located apparatus bays provide direct access to the adjacent roadway. The station layout minimizes travel distance from living quarters to apparatus, with clear sightlines and intuitive circulation paths. Turnout gear storage is positioned adjacent to the bays, and fire poles and stairways are placed strategically to reduce transition time.

Firefighter health and wellness were central to the design. A zoned layout separates clean and dirty areas, to reduce exposure to carcinogens and contaminants. Decontamination showers and gear extraction systems are integrated into the transition zones.

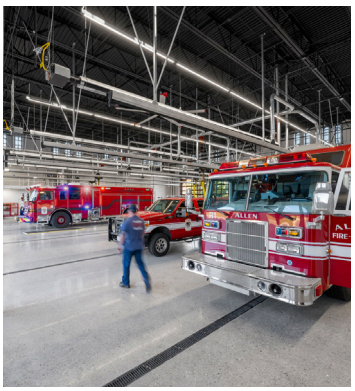
Living quarters' natural light, acoustic separation, and access to outdoor space support mental health and rest. A fitness room encourages physical conditioning. The inclusion of a multipurpose community room/Emergency Operations Center, the size of which impressed the Station Design Awards judges, fosters connection with the public and provides a space for training, coordination and outreach.

A firefighters memorial honors those who have served and sacrificed. This contemplative space reinforces the station's role not just as a workplace but as a place of pride and remembrance for the fire service and the community. The Station Design Awards judges applauded its prominent but tasteful design.

Designing for a flood-prone site presented significant challenges. The team overcame these by elevating critical infrastructure, using flood-tolerant materials and incorporating passive resilience strategies. The building envelope is designed to withstand periodic inundation, and mechanical systems are located above flood levels.

SATELLITE NOTABLE

Allen Fire Station No. 6, Allen, TX



The city of Allen's Fire Station No. 6 merges operational performance with long-term community and firefighter wellness goals. Located on a triangular site that's bisected by a creek, the station presented immediate design challenges. Nevertheless, through thoughtful planning and collaboration, the site was transformed into a strategic asset and a healing natural backdrop.

Working closely with fire department personnel, the design team developed a plan that placed the station between the creek and street, including orienting the living quarters to overlook the creek. This site strategy not only provided stunning views that support mental decompression but also allowed for a compact and efficient circulation loop that's critical to rapid response. A large culvert bridges the creek beneath the apparatus bay apron, to ensure full emergency vehicle access with minimal environmental impact.

The facility includes five drive-through apparatus bays, 12 individual bunkrooms, a fitness center, zoned locker rooms and a large kitchen/dining/dayroom area. The design prioritizes rapid response through direct, unobstructed travel paths from living spaces to the bay, an element with which the Station Design Awards judges were impressed. Each area is spatially zoned into Hot, Warm and Cold Zones. Decontamination showers, gear storage and airlock transitions provide layers of defense to protect clean spaces and ensure operational safety.

All bunkrooms and common spaces receive ample natural light via large windows that frame views of the creek. Durable, nontoxic materials support indoor air quality, and acoustic strategies throughout the station reduce auditory stress.

The station's zoned alerting system helps to minimize sleep disruption by isolating alarms to the appropriate personnel. The centrally located fitness center is easily accessible to encourage consistent physical training routines.

Although not a formal training facility, the station includes several training-supportive features: The apparatus bays double as drill space, and the culvert crossing and drive apron are designed for vehicle maneuvering practice. These informal training elements were integrated purposefully to support continued readiness without compromising the site's compact footprint.

Architecturally, the station blends civic pride with timeless design. Drawing inspiration from historic firehouses, the exterior features a mix of rich brick tones and textures, including velour, vertical scratch and smooth finishes. The design uses both full-size and thin brick to achieve depth and dimension, while cast stone accents provide visual contrast and warmth. The Station Design Awards judges were complimentary of the end result. "A beautiful design," one judged commented.

Allen Fire Station No. 6 is a high-performance environment that safeguards the physical, mental and emotional well-being of its firefighters and elevates the civic identity of the community that it serves.

HED

Official Project Name: Allen Fire Station No. 6

Project City/State: Allen, TX

Date Completed: Nov. 4, 2024

Fire Chief: Jonathan Boyd

Project Area (sq. ft.): 21,000

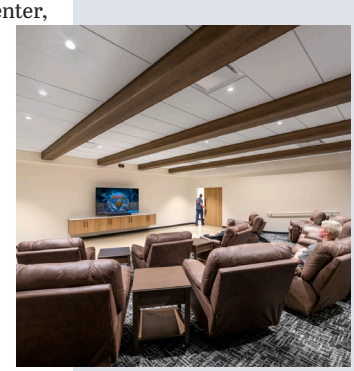
Total Cost: $11,725,000

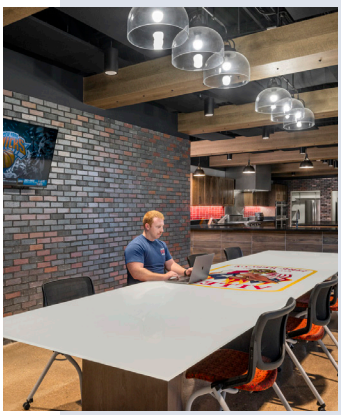
Cost Per Square Foot: $560

Architect/Firm Name: HED

Website: hed.co

Design Team: HED: Barton Drake, Principal; Mark Mortimer, Project Manager/Design Architect; Charlie Reed, Project Architect; Daniel Kirby, Architect; Structural/MEP/Landscape: Halff Associates; Civil/Survey: Pacheco Koch; City Construction Manager: Ashley McDaniel; Allen Fire Department: Fire Chief Jonathan Boyd, Assistant Fire Chief Richard Vaughn





FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

SATELLITE NOTABLE

Channahon Fire Protection District Station No. 2
Channahon, IL

Official Project Name: Channahon Fire Protection District Station No. 2

Project City/State: Channahon, IL

Date Completed: Aug. 1, 2024

Fire Chief: John Petrakis

Project Area (sq. ft.): 7,530

Total Cost: $3,900,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $518

Architect/Firm Name: FGM Architects

Website: fgmarchitects.com

Design Team: FGM Architects: Andy Jasek, AIA, Principal-in-Charge; Jason Estes, AIA, Project Manager; Patrick Moore, AIA, Project Architect; Brian Meade, AIA, LEED AP, Lead Designer/Principal; Anna Betts, IIDA, Interior Designer; Civil: Pinnacle Engineering Group; Structural: Johnson Wilbur Adams; MEP/FP: WT Group

Station No. 2 replaces a volunteer-era facility in a new location that significantly improves emergency response times in this growing but still largely rural area. The station's efficient, highly functional design simultaneously strengthens public safety, honors the region's agricultural heritage and supports the well-being of emergency personnel.

Located on a 3.82-acre site, Station No. 2 is strategically close to Interstate 55 and adjacent to planned commercial development. This proximity delivers the intended results: Deployment and response times improved by three minutes, or 23 percent. "Amazing," claimed one Station Design Awards judge.

Station No. 2's design leverages a modest budget to exert a significant architectural presence, including via a shed roof and exterior metal panels of varied hues that echo the agrarian structures that are central to the Midwestern landscape. The Station Design Awards judges were impressed with the combination of color and tradition to produce a modern look that has depth and personality in a rural area.

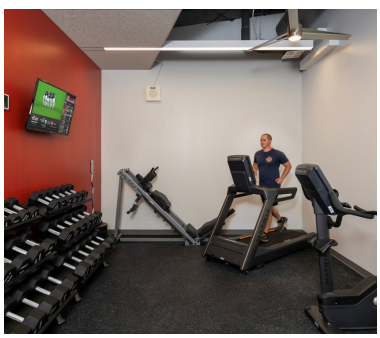
That said, more than a nod to history, these elements are key to the functionality of the station. For example, the single-slope shed roof provides generous clearance for vehicles at the front of the apparatus bay, then gracefully descends to reduce volume and energy consumption elsewhere.

Station No. 2's compact footprint houses three apparatus bays that have distinct zones to contain fire contaminants and an ICC 500-rated storm shelter.

Inside of the station, efficient workspaces support productivity, while the living quarters enhance the well-being of members. Throughout the station, natural light and operable windows ensure comfort and strengthen a connection to the outdoor world. Communal areas, such as the dayroom, kitchen and patio, are designed to foster camaraderie and team cohesion.

The living quarters include individual bunkrooms that feature natural materials, personal storage and environmental controls, to ensure that members have the autonomy and comfort that they need during long shifts.

Station No. 2's design anticipates future expansion, including the addition of a fourth apparatus bay.



FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

SATELLITE NOTABLE

Humble Fire Station #2, Humble, TX

Developed with a keen sensitivity to operational needs and practical constraints, the goal for this station was thoughtful, purpose-driven design. Within its footprint, three drive-through apparatus bays, each of which is equipped with bi-folding doors, ensure seamless ingress and egress for emergency vehicles.

The approach to the overall form is governed by utility and budget-conscious choices: a rectilinear, box-like structure that maximizes structural efficiency and simplifies material transitions. This straightforward geometry allows for the inclusion of covered outdoor areas (which are tied into the roof structure), to extend functional space for both the kitchen and fitness zone while maintaining a visually cohesive form.

Central to the station's mission is its dual role as a training facility. Purpose-built to cultivate readiness and resilience, the station accommodates an office for a training officer, an expansive classroom for ongoing education and a three-story tower that seamlessly integrates into the wider facility. The tower, with its mezzanine level, is engineered for reality-based training scenarios. Personnel can simulate ladder operations, search and rescue, rappelling and emergency breaching as well as practice hose work and water flow techniques at height.

Attention to the day-to-day well-being of crews is demonstrated in the open-plan arrangement of communal spaces. Flooded with natural light, the kitchen/dining/dayroom area offers lines of sight into the apparatus bays and out onto the adjoining patio, to forge a sense of connection both within the facility and to the outdoors. The configuration serves efficiency by ensuring that movement between communal and operational zones supports quick mobilization without sacrificing comfort or camaraderie. The Station Design Awards judges agreed.

Sleeping quarters respect the diverse rhythms of shift work. Individual dormitories, which are equipped with dual-access personnel lockers, allow for an incoming shift to stow gear or prepare for duty unobtrusively, which minimizes disruption to colleagues who are recuperating from an overnight call. Cleanliness and health are promoted by situating decontamination facilities on the opposite side of the bays, clearly delineating zones for living, working and post-incident recovery.

Altogether, the station stands as a practical, human-centric response to community safety, to provide not just a base for emergency response but a hub for training, collaboration and crew well-being. "This is a simple design that brings a lot of class," one of the Station Design Awards judges said.

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Humble Fire Station #2

Project City/State: Humble, TX

Date Completed: Jan. 13, 2025

Fire Chief: David Langenberg

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,448

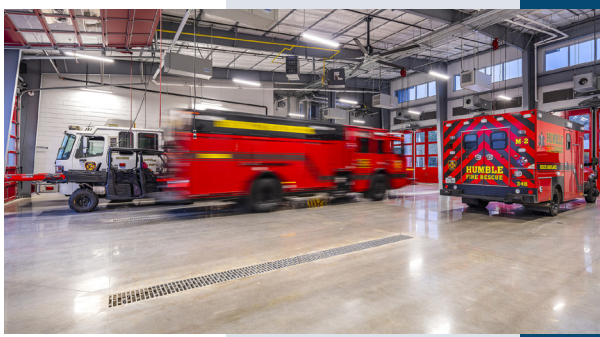
Total Cost: $6,193,481

Cost Per Square Foot: $541

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Justin Myers, Andrew Vincent; Civil: S&G; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen



FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

SATELLITE NOTABLE

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Kyle Fire Station #4

Project City/State: Kyle, TX

Date Completed: May 20, 2025

Fire Chief: Kyle Taylor

Project Area (sq. ft.): 8,933

Total Cost: $7,630,409

Cost Per Square Foot: $854.18

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Justin Myers, John Smead; Civil: UP Engineering; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen; Septic: Kimley-Horn

Kyle Fire Station #4, Kyle, TX

Set within the constraints of a challenging site, this fire station project required a thoughtful response to both environmental considerations and operational efficiency. With the site's narrow footprint complicated by significant pipeline easements and dynamic topography, the design pursues a linear building approach, a matter that the Station Design Awards judges applauded. "A lot of program in a tight box," one of the judges offered.

Living and support spaces seamlessly wrap around the apparatus bays, to enable swift, direct access for emergency response while also fostering collaboration and well-being among firefighters.

A robust stone retaining wall frames much of the site, and the exterior finishes were selected to echo the natural textures and palette of central Texas, to create a visual harmony with the regional landscape. Sustainable site strategies extend to native landscaping, which was developed in collaboration with environmental stewards to cultivate biodiversity and resilience. The serenity garden and the decomposed granite expansion parking further underscore the commitment to ecological integrity.

Environmental innovation is evident in the integration of real-time monitoring systems and research-driven features. Sensors at plumbing drain lines and pervious concrete driveways allow ongoing assessment of hazardous chemicals and the building's thermal performance, to ensure safety and to support continual improvement in sustainability practices. On-site water sampling and night sky quality measurements advance both environmental responsibility and scientific inquiry, to enrich the facility's functionality with research opportunities. Color accents that are inspired by the calming tones of nature are woven throughout the interior to promote relaxation and wellness.

The residential quarters of the facility have study desks and generous windows, complementing a centrally located dayroom and dining area.

Community connection is fostered through multipurpose spaces that are in the building. The enlarged lobby serves as a flexible venue for training and public gatherings. Instructional opportunities are designed into the infrastructure.

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

SATELLITE NOTABLE

martinez ARCHITECTS

Montgomery Fire Station #54, Montgomery, TX

Station #54's design maximizes both functionality and community integration. Situated on a space-constrained site, the station was designed based on a philosophy that centers on practicality, employing an economical structural approach that utilizes preengineered metal building systems. This framework consists of two primary rectangular volumes—one that's dedicated to apparatus bays and another that houses living and support areas—to create a clear organizational hierarchy that enhances daily operations.

Despite its cost-effective construction methodology, the design team wouldn't sacrifice aesthetic appeal or durability. The exterior is clad in masonry to ensure longevity while harmonizing with the surrounding neighborhood's architectural character. This material choice reflects a commitment to create a civic building that respects its context while maintaining the robust quality that's essential for emergency services facilities. "The exterior design is handsome for such a small facility," one of the Station Design Awards judges remarked.

The interior layout prioritizes both operational efficiency and firefighter well-being. The apparatus bays are positioned to allow for future expansion without disrupting existing operations.

The living quarters feature semiprivate sleeping alcoves, which were designed deliberately without doors to foster team cohesion, to encourage interaction in communal spaces, such as the kitchen and dayroom, and to optimize spatial efficiency throughout the facility.

Health and wellness considerations are woven throughout the design. Bay support spaces, including bunker gear storage and laundry facilities, create crucial buffers between Hot and Cold Zones. Locker areas are positioned adjacent to, but separate from, sleeping quarters, to ensure both convenience and uninterrupted rest periods.

The station's compact footprint directly contributes to reduced response times. Every design decision, from circulation patterns to equipment placement, supports rapid deployment capabilities and transforms what could be a purely utilitarian space into one that feels dynamic and home-like.

Official Project Name: Montgomery Fire Station #54

Project City/State: Montgomery, TX

Date Completed: Sept. 12, 2024

Fire Chief: Brian Edwards

Project Area (sq. ft.): 7,735

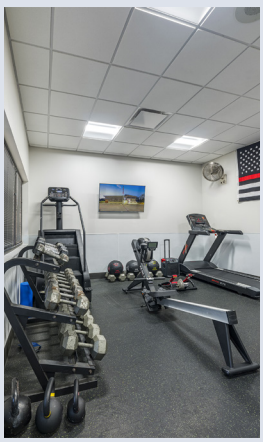
Total Cost: $3,951,598

Cost Per Square Foot: $510.87

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Justin Myers, Andrew Vincent; Civil: S&G; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen



FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

TRAINING SILVER

John Ashman Fire Training Complex, Lewisville, TX

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: John Ashman Fire Training Complex

Project City/State: Lewisville, TX

Date Completed: Dec. 2, 2024

Fire Chief: Mark McNeal

Project Area (sq. ft.): 9,080

Total Cost: $6,881,352

Cost Per Square Foot: $757.86

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: G2 Solutions (Design Architect/Owner Rep): Mark Graham; Martinez Architects (Design/Build Architect): Justin Myers, Peter Foniciello; Builder: CORE Construction; Civil: RLK; Structural: RSSE; M/E/P: DBR

The John Ashman Fire Training Complex represents a comprehensive approach to modern emergency response education, seamlessly integrating reality-based training scenarios with advanced safety features. This facility enhances the existing fire and police training campus with two purpose-built structures that are designed to simulate real-world emergency situations. The Station Design Awards judges were impressed with the array of training opportunities despite the minimal use of materials.

At the heart of the complex stand two distinct training environments: a two-story residential building that mirrors typical home emergency scenarios (in the opinion of one of the judges, the best feature) and a four-story commercial tower that includes rooftop training props.

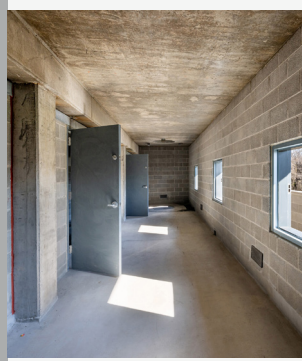
Fire training capabilities combine both Class A and Class B fire scenarios. Multiple propane-fired props that are located throughout both buildings create realistic flashover conditions. A shipping container prop that's lined with fire brick generates Class A training opportunities. The container's placement adjacent to the residential structure allows smoke to flow naturally through the masonry building, to create realistic smoke conditions that challenge trainees to navigate low-visibility environments effectively.

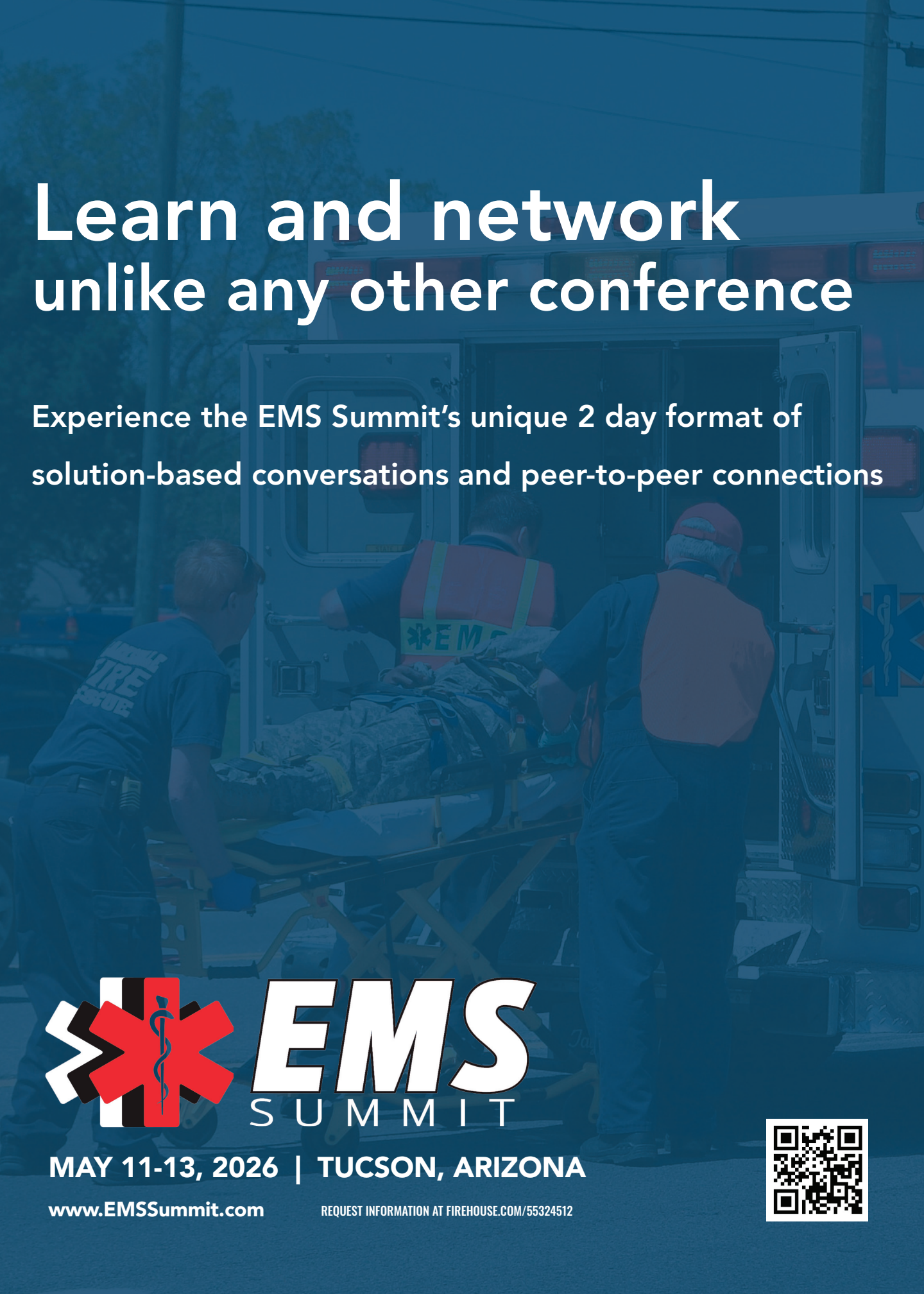
The complex incorporates numerous specialized features. Confined-space props challenge rescue techniques in tight quarters. Integrated fire sprinkler and standpipe systems provide hands-on experience with building safety systems. Rappelling stations and roof-breach props prepare teams for vertical rescue operations. Door- and window-breach areas allow forcible entry practice. Configurable maze panels enable dynamic search and rescue scenarios that can be adjusted to varying difficulty levels.

Additional training elements include advanced smoke generation systems and a dedicated attic roof prop for ventilation training. Various room configurations throughout the buildings replicate commercial warehouses, apartments and office spaces.

Environmental responsibility played a crucial role in the facility's design. Rather than directing training water into the stormwater system, the complex channels all water to the sanitary system. To prevent overwhelming municipal infrastructure, an innovative storage tank system meters the flow while serving double duty as a drafting training resource.

This facility stands as a testament to the evolving needs of modern fire departments. The integration of multiple training disciplines within a single campus creates efficiency in training delivery.





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FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

VOLUNTEER GOLD

Waconia Fire Station, Waconia, MN

Official Project Name: Waconia Fire Station

Project City/State: Waconia, MN

Date Completed: July 1, 2024

Fire Chief: Justin Sorensen

Project Area (sq. ft.): 29,050

Total Cost: $11,943,849

Cost Per Square Foot: $411.15

Architect/Firm Name: BKV Group

Website: bkvgroup.com

Design Team: BKV Group: Michael Healy, Craig Carter, Bruce Schwartzman, Ellie Ziaie, Maggie Lafferty, Katie Peterson, Siobhan Dvergsten, Alex Sawka, Mike Dugan, Ryann Eckblad, Chad Kurdi, Grant Schellberg, Brady Halverson; Bolton & Menk: Dave Rey, Bill Diede, Emme Green; City of Waconia: Fire Chief Justin Sorenson, Assistant Fire Chief Mike Dressel, Shane Fineran, Jackie Schulze

With a proud history of volunteerism, the city of Waconia and the Waconia Fire Department envisioned a station that would serve not only firefighters but the entire community—an archetypal volunteer fire hall that stands as a civic asset and a symbol of pride. The design reflects the values of the small city, drawing inspiration from Waconia's first fire station. Key architectural elements include a tower, mostly flat roofs, framed-glass apparatus doors, smaller punched windows and brick cladding with stone detailing at prominent locations. The interior maintains a commercial-institutional character, to avoid the purely utilitarian aesthetic that's typical of many volunteer departments.

Citizens are welcomed by a landscaped entry plaza that features the original fire station's bell and a small apparatus door that showcases the refurbished REO Speedwagon parade truck. Inside, the public lobby provides easy access to a 100-person community/training room, which also functions as a polling place.

The department's headquarters spaces are accessible directly from the lobby. At the same time, quick access to the apparatus bays and kitchen is maintained.

The living quarters are organized around a large great-room-style common space and include a generous outdoor area, bunkrooms, showers, lockers for duty crews and a physical conditioning room that has outdoor access. Said one of the Station Design Awards judges, "I love the natural lighting in the entire station."

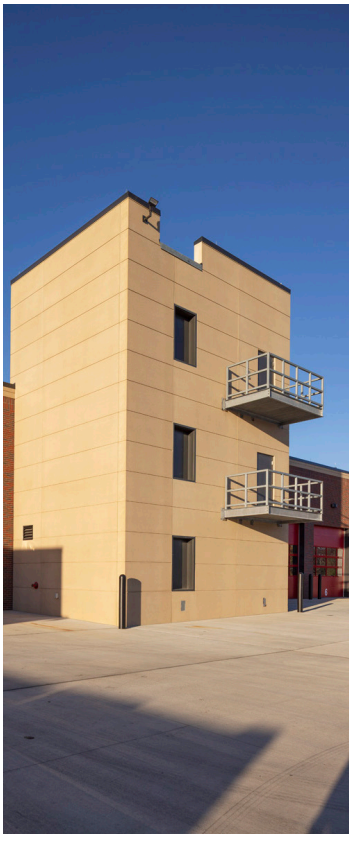
An NFPA-compliant personnel decontamination suite, which includes steam showers, creates a clean/dirty transition zone. The central location of the decon area was appreciated by the Station Design Awards judges because of how it brings the essential spaces closer to the center of the building.

The station features six apparatus bays that are split into two rooms by a central support bar. The apparatus bay roof utilizes precast double-tee structures, which were selected for their lack

of horizontal surfaces where carcinogens could accumulate. A separate apparatus return drive that doubles as parking for paid-on-call members ensures quick access to the bays and gear storage. A deep rear apron supports apparatus maneuvering and serves as a staging area that's adjacent to a three-story training tower.

Meeting required training hours is challenging, and making those hours meaningful is even more so. The old station's training room couldn't accommodate the full department. The new facility greatly improves training capacity. In addition to a state-of-the-art classroom, hands-on training elements include the training tower (with windows and balconies), a switchback stair that has a training standpipe, a large mezzanine that's configurable for search and rescue drills, indoor balconies and windows for training during inclement weather, and sewer accesses that have rappelling anchors for technical rescue training.

The building and site were designed to accommodate a future law enforcement wing, with a separate entrance and full integration into the facility's building systems.



FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

VOLUNTEER SILVER

Central Islip Fire Department Station 3, Central Islip, NY

Official Project Name: Central Islip Fire Department Station 3

Project City/State: Central Islip, NY

Date Completed: July 1, 2025

Fire Chief: Vincent Plotino

Project Area (sq. ft.): 11,109

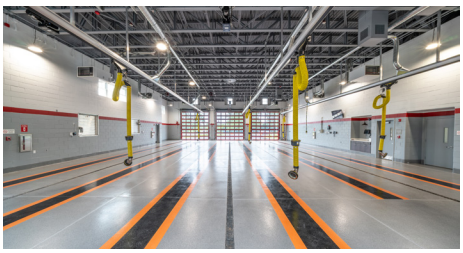
Total Cost: $6,900,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $621

Architect/Firm Name: H2M architects + engineers

Website: h2m.com

Design Team: H2M: Bob Bee, Christiana Suppa, Amanda Stachnik, Jon Muratore, Anthony Kim, James Williamson, Scott Lehn, Svetlana Fisher, Brian Murrell

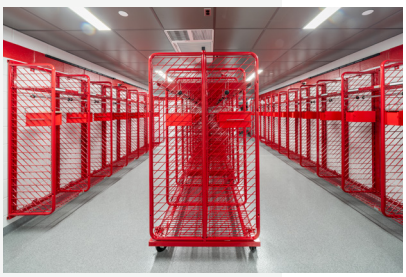


To meet the demands of a growing population and expanding service area, approximately 20 years ago, the Central Islip Fire Department embarked on a mission to enhance emergency response capabilities through the development of a new substation. Although land was donated for this purpose, initial plans for a modestly sized facility never were realized.

In 2018, the fire district brought on the architectural firm to bring the vision to life. The firm worked closely with the district and the town of Islip to develop and gain approval for a significantly expanded design. The proposed footprint was larger than previously conceived, requiring extensive coordination, presentations and advocacy to demonstrate the operational necessity of the updated plan. Furthermore, a Freedom of Information request revealed land use restrictions and a conservancy that initially jeopardized the project. The architectural firm and the fire department worked with local officials to secure a resolution. Despite delays that were caused by the regulatory hurdles and the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was completed successfully. "Admirable" was the term that one of the Station Design Awards judges used to describe the resolution of the challenges.

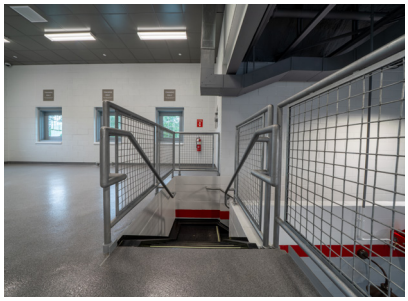
The final design is a three-bay substation. It features two drive-through bays and a mezzanine level that supports utility systems and advanced training capabilities. An indoor training classroom eliminates the need for off-site instruction; it incorporates training bailout windows and tie-offs for suspended simulations both indoor and outdoor.

A key design priority was the separation of Hot and Cold Zones to reduce contamination risks. Decontamination showers are accessible directly from the gear area in a dedicated room that's adjacent to the apparatus bays. The Station Design Awards judges' approval of this facet of the building's arrangement was important in them identifying this station as a Silver Award winner, with five of the seven judges recognizing the facility's Safety & Decontamination Features with a rating of 8 or better on a scale of 1–10 (with 10 being the best).



The project faced several site-specific challenges, including its location on a busy corner lot, particular site restrictions and fire apparatus turning radii. During site investigations, an abandoned underground steam tunnel was discovered and had to be removed.

The building's exterior was designed to harmonize with the surrounding neighborhood, featuring mansard roofs with copper-colored standing-seam material, clapboard siding, ground-face block and stone veneer.



FIREHOUSE STATIONDESIGN AWARDS

VOLUNTEER BRONZE

Northwest Fire Station #42, Houston, TX

Rather than relying on ornate complexity, the design of Northwest Fire Station #42 embraces simplicity in both form and function, aligning each choice with the realities of a modest project budget. Durable, cost-effective materials support the station's long-term resilience, while a preengineered structure ensured rapid delivery and ease of future maintenance.

The building layout responds intelligently to the operational rhythm of volunteer service. For example, a large, well-appointed pantry pairs with a streamlined kitchen and dayroom, recognizing that volunteers often gather at different times and require flexible communal spaces that suit various shifts and emergencies.

To prepare for current and future demands, the design of the station offers generous sleeping accommodations, which support everything from short rest breaks to coordinated responses during large-scale emergencies. This provides a seamless pathway should the department transition to a full-time staffing model in the years ahead.

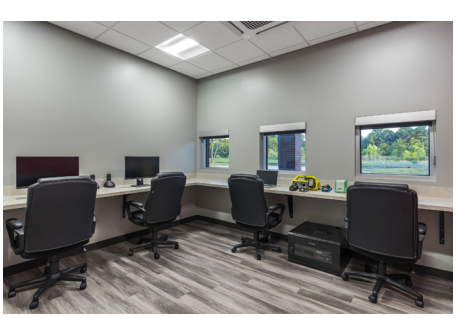
Sound control was prioritized, including placing a spacious fitness area away from resting quarters.

Shared under the shelter of the main roof, an expansive covered patio extends the building's utility, to create year-round opportunities for outdoor cooking and fitness activities, all while maximizing structural efficiency.

Within the apparatus bays, four drive-through spaces are finished with bi-folding doors, which were selected for their proven capability to enhance response times and minimize long-term maintenance. Transition spaces, thoughtfully designed as airlocks, form a buffer between active Hot Zones and the quieter, healthier living spaces (Cold Zones). The Station Design Awards judges applauded this design facet.

Dormitory lockers open from bunkrooms and corridors, which allows for efficient shift changes without unnecessary interruptions. The judges remarked that this functionality unfortunately isn't the norm.

Every detail—whether in organization of space, selection of materials or enhancement of daily routines—was considered in terms of a commitment to a holistic environment where volunteer first responders can thrive. Said one of the Station Design Awards judges, "I see a facility that will look very nice for many years to come."



martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Northwest Fire Station #42

Project City/State: Houston, TX

Date Completed: June 5, 2025

Fire Chief: Wesley Cole

Project Area (sq. ft.): 16,207

Total Cost: $6,696,288

Cost Per Square Foot: $413.17

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Andrew Vincent; Civil: S&G; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: DBR; Landscape: Evergreen

FIREHOUSE STATION DESIGN AWARDS

VOLUNTEER NOTABLE

martinez ARCHITECTS

Official Project Name: Deer Park Fire Station #2

Project City/State: Deer Park, TX

Date Completed: March 24, 2025

Fire Chief: Don Davis (former), Phillip Arroyo (current)

Project Area (sq. ft.): 14,916

Total Cost: $11,117,000

Cost Per Square Foot: $745.31

Architect/Firm Name: Martinez Architects

Website: martinez-architects.com

Design Team: Martinez Architects: Ricardo Martinez, Joe Hunt; Civil: S&G; Structural: Matrix; M/E/P: LTY; Security/Technology: COMBS; Landscape: Evergreen

Deer Park Fire Station #2, Deer Park, TX

Deer Park Fire Station #2 was conceived based on a thoughtful approach to emergency services architecture, where design becomes a catalyst for community engagement and operational excellence. The facility serves as a functional emergency response hub, a strategic recruiting tool and a gathering place that transforms the volunteer firefighting experience into something truly compelling.

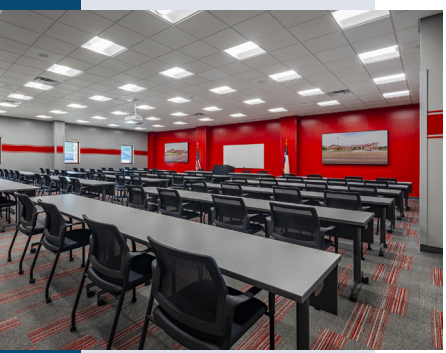
The architectural program centers on creating an environment where volunteers genuinely want to spend their time, directly addressing the challenge of maintaining adequate staffing levels and reducing critical response times. Flexible sleeping quarters accommodate the unique scheduling needs of volunteer personnel, while an expansive fitness area extends to outdoor training spaces.

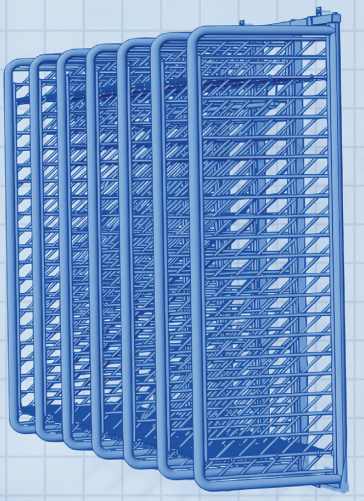
The heart of the facility lies in its social spaces, where the kitchen, dining and dayroom areas embrace bold design choices and upscale finishes. These spaces deliberately evoke the atmosphere of a contemporary sports bar combined with theatrical elements, to create an inviting environment that supports the city's mission to make volunteer service an attractive community commitment. This design philosophy recognizes that exceptional emergency services begin with spaces that honor and celebrate those who serve. "Very bold and exciting" are the words that one Station Design Awards judge used to describe the treatment. Another said, "They designed a station to attract people to the station for better response times."

Operational flexibility defines the administrative areas, where adaptable office spaces serve officers, firefighters and board personnel through a secure lobby that connects to a large training classroom, which doubles as a civic event space.

Health and safety considerations of the facility drive the strategic separation of decontamination and gear laundry areas from common spaces.

The implementation of bi-fold bay doors addresses the practical reality of an unmanned facility, reducing long-term maintenance requirements while maintaining operational readiness.





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