

# LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

CONTACT ME :

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Danielle Mihna AIA, NCARB

8+ Years of Architectural Experience

2024

# PORT FO LIO

Let's take a look at my work.

# I CONSIDER MYSELF A :



# Hello, I'm Danielle Mihna.

## **HOW I UNDERSTAND DESIGN:**

Design is a science. It's more than the angle of a wall or the placement of furniture. The science is the people: the ones who weave the fabric of the places and spaces that are crafted with attention to human connection. Above all else, I see myself as a problem solver. I assess every situation with tenacity, confidence, and targeted motivation. I lead teams from within and ensure voices are heard and ideas are sparked — ever inspired by the nostalgia of the napkin sketch, the simplest of mediums, that sometimes becomes the grandest of designs.

Design is not something one can simply turn on and off, like the flick of a switch. My mind is constantly searching for how I can make my environments better suitable for those who inhabit the spaces and places around them. The most beautiful part of architecture is the continuing beauty and service it provides the community; maybe not at first, but over its timeline, the true value of architecture, old and new, is realized.

Design is a story, a theatrical performance. The program sets the stage (poses the problem), the architects and engineers write the script, the contractor handles set design, and the client provides the review. In the end, we all show up for the final curtain call.

# Project History.

Since my first day as an Architecture student to my first day as an Architectural Intern, I have been shaping myself into the Architect I am today. Positioning myself at two established firms within the past 8+ years, the never-ending mission of intentional design utilizing human-centric relationships and the transformative environments we create has become my passion.

## K2M - CLE

2016 – 2017

**Architectural Designer**

### RETAIL + HOSPITALITY

Cleveland Marriott Downtown

*Cleveland, Ohio*

*[Award Winning Design]*

### CORRECTIONAL

*During my time at K2M Design, I worked on a series of correctional facility projects in which I took on Architectural Designer / Designer I roles in completing redlining, MEP + S clash detection and interior design collaboration and selection.*

### AVIATION + CIVIC

*I had a hand in several small civic and public use projects that hold a place in K2M Design's portfolio; a handful of these being located in the Key West offices.*

## Strada - PGH

2017 – Present

**Project Manager**

### RETAIL + HOSPITALITY

Waterfront Visioning

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Hunters Station

*Nashville, Tennessee*

Salvation Army ARC

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

AAA Independence

*Independence, Ohio*

Cranberry Square

*Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania*

Get Go

*Various Locations*

Drury Hotel

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

### CORPORATE

The Beauty Shoppe Coworking Fitout  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

SAP Ariba Office Building

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Dollar Bank on Fourth Avenue

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

5th & Halket Office Building

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

**[Under Construction]**

Bakery Square 3.0, Office Building

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Cira Centre Laboratory

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

## K-12 EDUCATION

St. Edmund's Academy  
Addition + Renovation  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## NON-PROFIT

Washington Area Human Society  
*Eighty Four, Pennsylvania*

## HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh  
Posvar Hall, Classroom Renovations  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

West Virginia University  
College of Law Addition & Renovation  
*Morgantown, West Virginia*

West Virginia University  
Steptoe Courtroom Renovation  
*Morgantown, West Virginia*

## MIXED-USE

420 Boulevard of the Allies  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

WAL Oakland Crossings Parcel A  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Delaware Generating Station District  
Master Plan  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

City's Edge Tower  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## URBAN DESIGN

Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheater  
Riverfront Park  
*Morgantown, West Virginia*

Iron City Brewery Master Plan  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## MULTI-FAMILY + RESIDENTIAL

Schenley Apartments  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

RJ Reynolds Apartments  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Camp8 - Fairfax Apartments  
and Renovations Due Diligence  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

WAL Collective Southside - The  
Tower Apartments  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*  
**[Demolition Phase I]**

**MULTI-FAMILY + RESIDENTIAL**

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**Tower Apartments** 01

**Fairfax Apartments + Renovations** 02

**CORPORATE**

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**Cira Centre Laboratory** 03

**5th & Halket Office Building** 04

**RETAIL + HOSPITALITY**

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**Salvation Army ARC** 05

**K-12 EDUCATIONAL**

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**St. Edmunds Academy  
Addition + Renovation** 06

**URBAN DESIGN**

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**Hazel Ruby McQuain  
Amphitheater Riverfront Park** 07

“Danielle began her career at Strada as a summer intern. She has since been involved with many community-oriented projects that work to implement progressive design solutions to shift the urban fabric. Armed with her master’s degree in architecture and experience working with various organizations in the industry, Danielle has the leadership skills and drive to handle any challenges that come her way.”

# SELECTED WORKS

The following projects have taught me confidence, creativity, perseverance, leadership, and grace.

# 01

## TOWER APARTMENTS

### An Adaptive Redesign of the Historic Roesch Taylor Building Welcomes Residents Back

Completed in 1958, the Roesch Taylor Building was originally training and boarding to nurses who worked at the connected South Side Hospital. Finding the original drawings in the depths of the basement, it was evident that this building has had many lives over the past 60 years.

Palette Selections for the Newly Renovated Lobby

Option 1



Option 2



Updates to an Existing Sunroom with a Roof Deck overlooking Pittsburgh!

## A WORK IN PROGRESS

Beginning in September of '23 and currently undergoing Phase I Demolition, there are many milestones the Tower Design Team has already overcome; including pushing out Construction Documents for bidding just this past month.

I have always been told that the nature of an Existing Building can bring more challenges than even the most complex of New Construction, yet this is what retains my intrigue — there is always a new puzzle and I am first in line to find the missing piece.

Existing Exterior - Black & White BIM Model



Still There Today!



1968 Architectural Render of the Original South Side Hospital

# 02

## FAIRFAX APARTMENTS + RENOVATIONS

A 9-Story High-rise Apartment Building Located in Pittsburgh's Oakland Neighborhood

The Fairfax is a 9-story high-rise apartment building located in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood and is primarily occupied by students from Carnegie Mellon University. The team worked with the Carnegie Mellon University, the developer, and the contractor to create a student residence that reflected CMU's standards for student housing.

A palette of Nostalgic Nouveau is a generous nod to the roots of the originally titled Fifth Avenue Apartments, era (Jacobethan Revival 1926) and an honor to its place on the National Register of Historic Places est. 2021.



Renovated Lobby + Existing Marble Flooring



Newly Programmed : Collaboration Corner



Once a Conference Room, Now a Community Kitchen

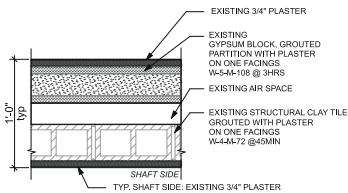


Fitness Room or a Run Through the Forest?



Devotion to the Developer: CAMP-Site Lounges





### EXISTING SHAFT WALLS: TYPE S2

IBC 2015 TABLE 721.1(2) ITEM NUMBER 3-1.2

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2

**TYPICAL EXISTING WALL CONSTRUCTION**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-54-108 TIME @ 3HRS

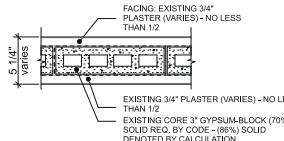
IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-44-72 TIME @ 45MIN

TOTAL SHAFT RATING TIME : 3HRS 45MIN

**TYPE E' GENERAL NOTES**

1. REPLACE MISSING PLASTER WITH 5/8" TYPE X GWB WHERE NECESSARY

2. WHERE REQUIRED DUE TO EXPLORATORY DEMOLITION AND/OR EXISTING OPENING, PROVIDE 2(HR) RATED ASSEMBLY. UL415 OR SIMILAR TO MAINTAIN ADJACENT 2HR WALL CONSTRUCTION.



### EXISTING: TYPE H

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2

**1.TYPICAL EXISTING NON-LOAD BEARING CONSTRUCTION**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 TIME @ 2HR

**2.WHERE BOTH FACES ARE FINISHED:**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 TIME @ 2HR

**TYPE E' GENERAL NOTES**

1. REPLACE MISSING PLASTER WITH 5/8" TYPE X GWB WHERE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN RATING

2. MINIMUM 12 INCH — 1/3 SANDDED GYPSUM PLASTER ON BOTH FACING

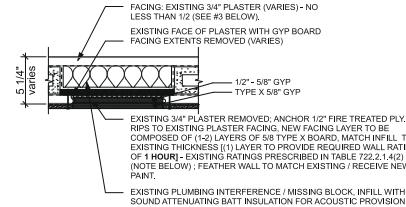
3. LAMINATE SANDDED GYPSUM MORTAR - VOIDS IN HOLLOW NOT TO EXCEED 30% REQ. BY CODE - NOT EXCEDING AT 14% PEER CALCULATION

4. INFILL (1/2" AND 1/4") WOOD FIBER SOUND ATTENUATING BATT INSULATION

5. WHERE PATCHING IS NECESSARY, PROVIDE BLOCKING/RACINGS AS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT MATERIAL SPAN LIMITATIONS.

**EXISTING CONSTRUCTION DETAILING & TYPES, typical**

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



### NEW PATCH: TYPE H2

IBC 2015 TABLE 721.1(2)

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2

**1.WHERE ONE FACING IS FINISHED:**

**EXISTING IN-FACT WALL CONDITION:**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 PROVDES 2HR. DEMISING REQ 1 HR

**EXISTING FACING GYPSUM/PLASTER AND LATH (CONDITIONS VARY):**

IBC TABLE 722.2.1(2) TYPE X GYPSUM WALLBOARD 1/2" = 25MIN (OR)

IBC TABLE 722.2.1(2) TYPE X GYPSUM WALLBOARD 5/8" = 40MIN

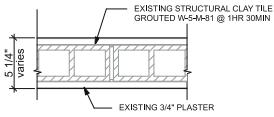
**ONE LAYER ON ONE SIDE OF EXISTING DEMISING WALL TO PROVIDE 40 MINUTES OF PROTECTION + EXISTING WALL FACING FOR A TOTAL (IN EXCESS OF) 60 MINUTES REQUIRED.**

**TYPE H2' GENERAL NOTES**

1. REPLACE MISSING PLASTER WITH 5/8" TYPE X GWB WHERE NECESSARY

### EXISTING CONSTRUCTION DETAILING & TYPES, typical

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



### EXISTING: TYPE E

IBC 2015 TABLE 721.1(2) ITEM NUMBER 3-1.2

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2

**1.TYPICAL EXISTING LOAD BEARING CONSTRUCTION**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 TIME @ 1HR

**2.WHERE BOTH FACES ARE FINISHED:**

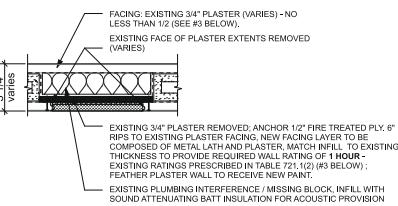
IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-81 TIME @ 1HR 30MIN

**TYPE E' GENERAL NOTES**

1. REPLACE MISSING PLASTER WITH 5/8" TYPE X GWB WHERE NECESSARY

**EXISTING CONSTRUCTION DETAILING & TYPES, typical**

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



### NEW PATCH: TYPE H1

IBC 2015 TABLE 721.1(2)

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2

**1.TYPICAL EXISTING NON-LOAD BEARING CONSTRUCTION**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 PROVIDES 2HR. DEMISING REQ 1 HR

**2.WHERE BOTH FACES ARE FINISHED:**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 PROVIDES 2HR. DEMISING REQ 1 HR

**3.SOLID GYPSUM PLASTER:**

6-1.2 TIME @ 2HR. NON-BEARING PURPOSES ONLY

6-2.1 TIME @ 2HR. NON-BEARING PURPOSES ONLY

### NEW PATCH: TYPE H3

IBC 2015 TABLE 721.1(2)

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2

**1.WHERE FACINGS ARE REMOVED, PLUMBING OBSTRUCTION:**

**EXISTING IN-FACT WALL CONDITION:**

IBC 2015 TABLE 1.1.2: W-4-M-86 PROVIDES 2HR. DEMISING REQ 1 HR

**EXISTING FACING PLASTER AND LATH (CONDITIONS VARY):**

IBC TABLE 722.2.1(2) TYPE X GYPSUM WALLBOARD 1/2" = 25MIN (OR)

IBC TABLE 722.2.1(2) TYPE X GYPSUM WALLBOARD 5/8" = 40MIN

**ONE LAYER ON FACE OF NEW DEMISING WALL TO PROVIDE 40 MINUTES OF PROTECTION + PATCHING SURFACE OF EXISTER PLASTER AND LATH (50MM) OR 5/8" TYPE X GYP FOR A TOTAL (IN EXCESS OF) 60 MINUTES.**

**TYPE H3' GENERAL NOTES**

1. REPLACE MISSING PLASTER WITH 5/8" TYPE X GWB WHERE NECESSARY

**EXISTING NEW 1/2" STUD WALL ON EITHER SIDE PER OPENING AND CASEWORK EXTENTS AS NOTED BELOW. LAMINATE 5/8" TYPE X GYPSUM WALL BOARD, SEAL AT CORNERS AND FLOOR WITH A BEAD OF FIRE CEMENT, AND CONTINUOUS PLASTERING AS NOTED BELOW.**

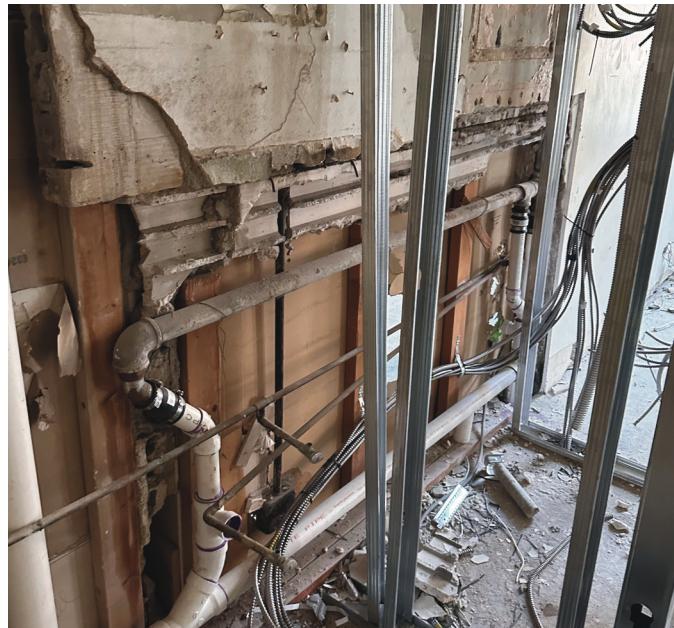
**EXISTING PLUMBING INTERFERENCE / MISSING BLOCK, INFILL WITH SOUND ATTENUATING BATT INSULATION FOR ACOUSTIC PROVISION**

### PATCH/NEW CONSTRUCTION DETAILING & TYPES, typical

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"

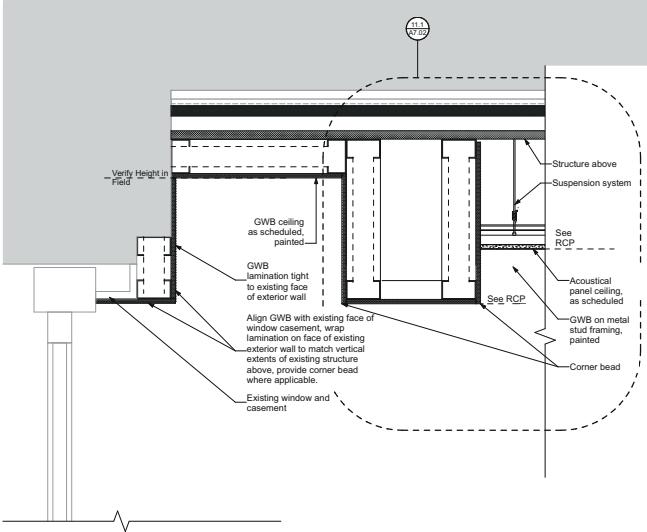
### PATCH/NEW CONSTRUCTION DETAILING & TYPES, typical

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



## EXISTING WALL ASSEMBLIES

Attempting to maintain an Alteration Level of Level II, according to the IEBC, the existing wall construction of clay tile, brick and gypsum block with metal plaster and lath revealed many unsolved puzzles. While many Architects and Designers would traditionally look up a UL Wall Assembly for fire protection design, the nature of this project called for extensive research into the IBC and crafting wall assemblies based on their prescriptive performance.

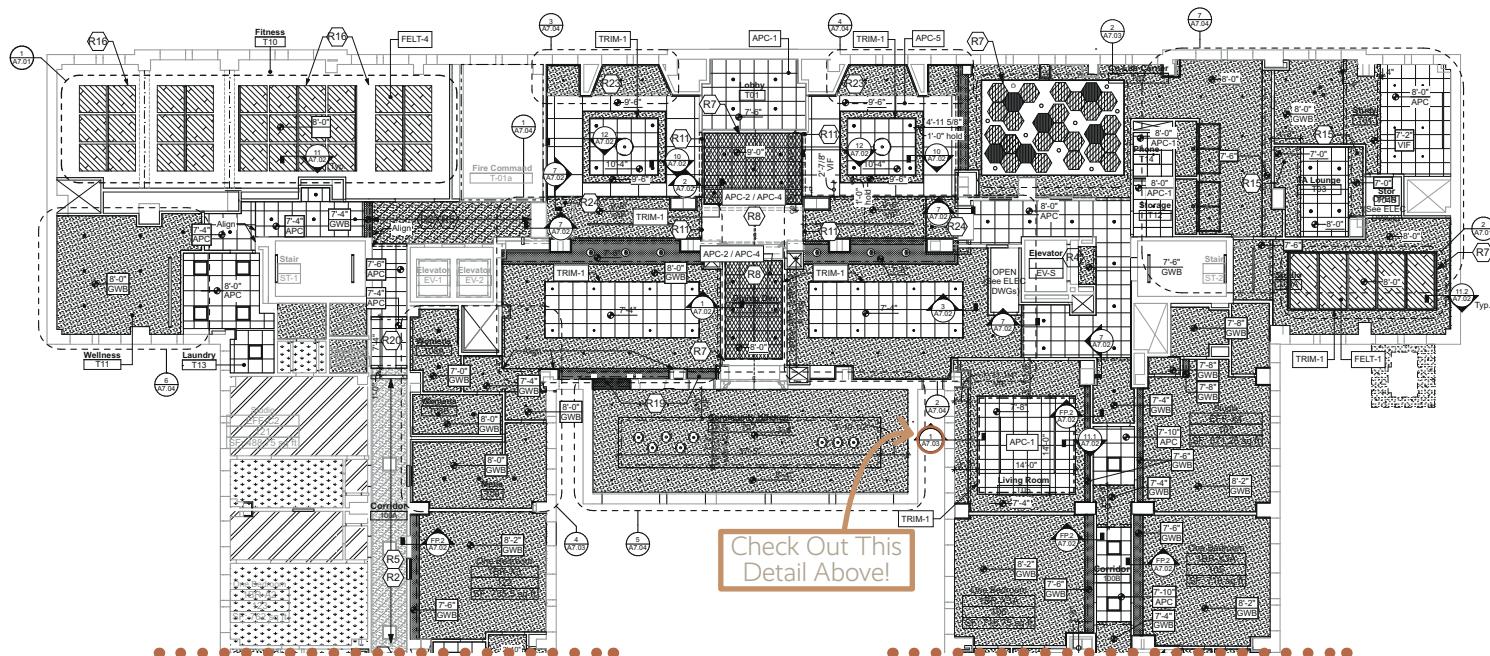


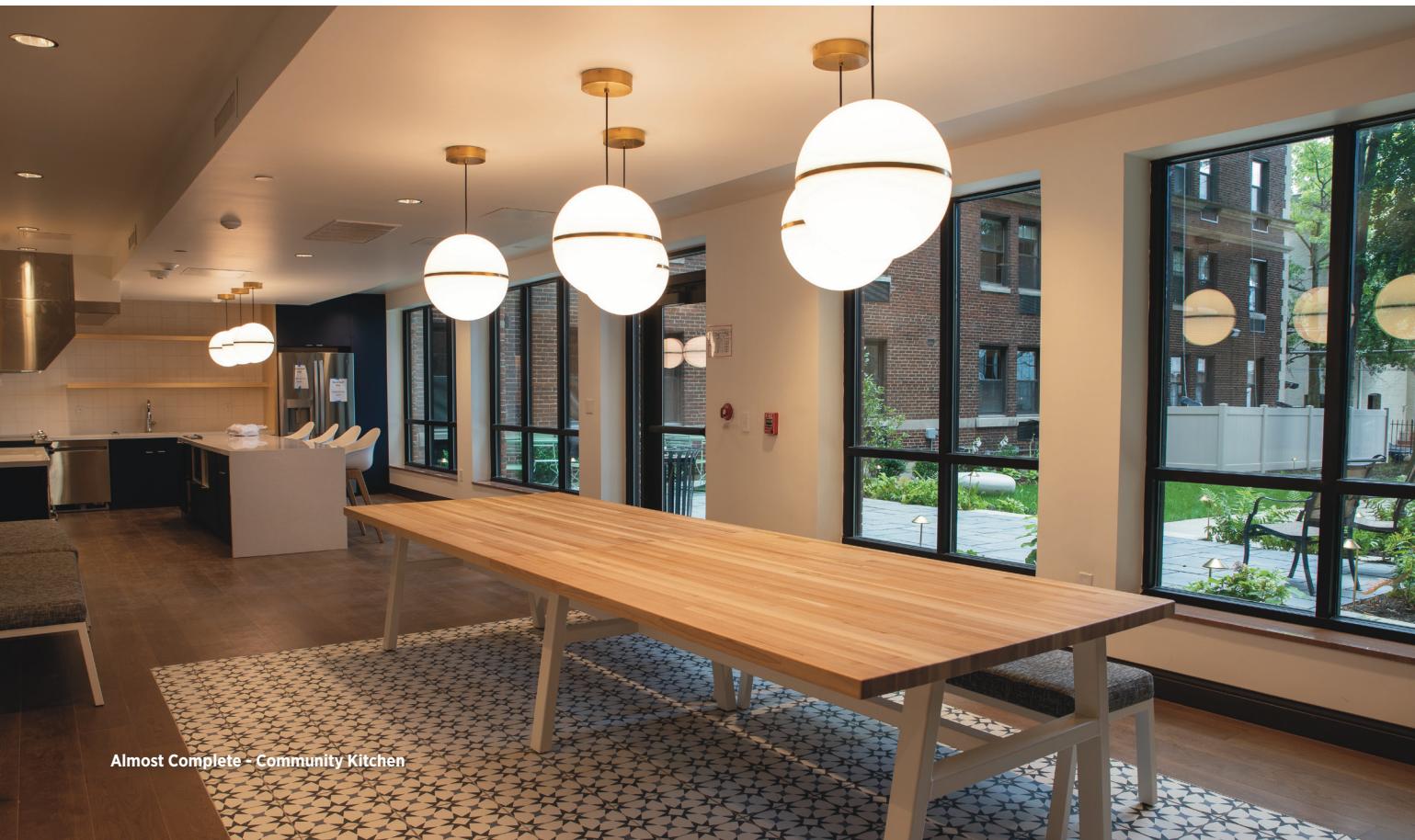
1 Living Room Lightwell Detail  
A7.03

## RCP COORDINATION & HISOTRIC CHARM

An artfully crafted ceiling was nothing short of what the building needed to help tell its story; yet, the existing ribbed pan slab construction and intricate structural grid proved challenging. Crossing over and under obstructions, it was a tactful operation to weave in the new building systems while maintaining the historic design intent.

Execution of the detail shown to the left allowed the required systems to be installed below the structure while the existing window headers were left intact — inclusive of their historic trim and crown molding.





Almost Complete - Community Kitchen

“

For all you have done to support the transformation of The Fairfax, thank you. Your trust, support, energy, dedication, and hardwork made it possible. We could not have done it without you. For all of this and your partnership we are deeply grateful.”

*- David Gefsky and the Camp Eight Capital Team*



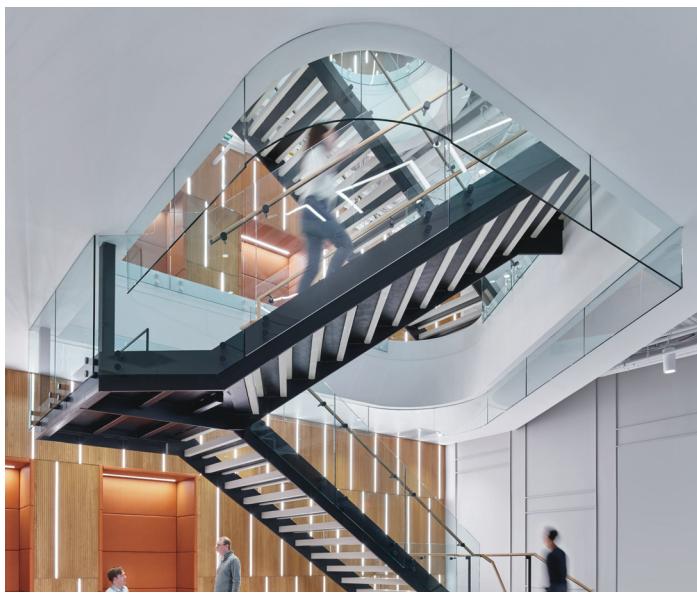
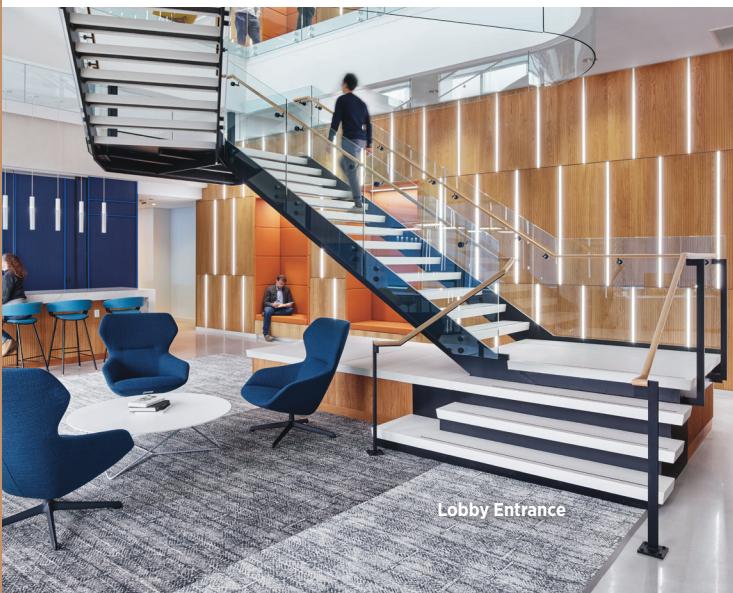
A historic gesture to the formality of an Apartment Hotel — The Dining Den

# 03

## CIRA CENTRE LABORATORY

An Innovative Life Science Incubator in the Heart of Philadelphia

Brandywine Realty Trust's "B.Labs" is a 3 story, 60,000 GSF, life science incubator located in Philadelphia's iconic Cira Centre tower. The incubator laboratories feature shared support spaces, equipment, and offices. Amenities include lounge, presentation, and conferencing facilities. The completed incubator overlooks Schuylkill Yards and serves as a gateway to the emerging knowledge community.



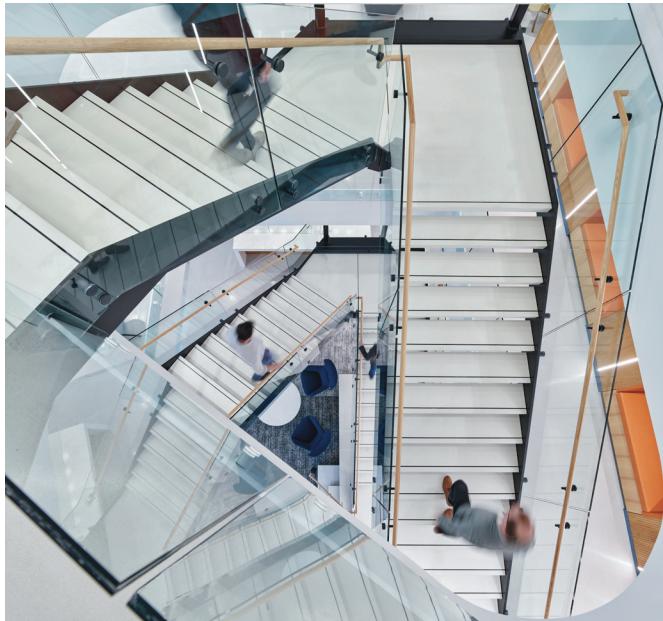


## CENTRAL STAIR DESIGN

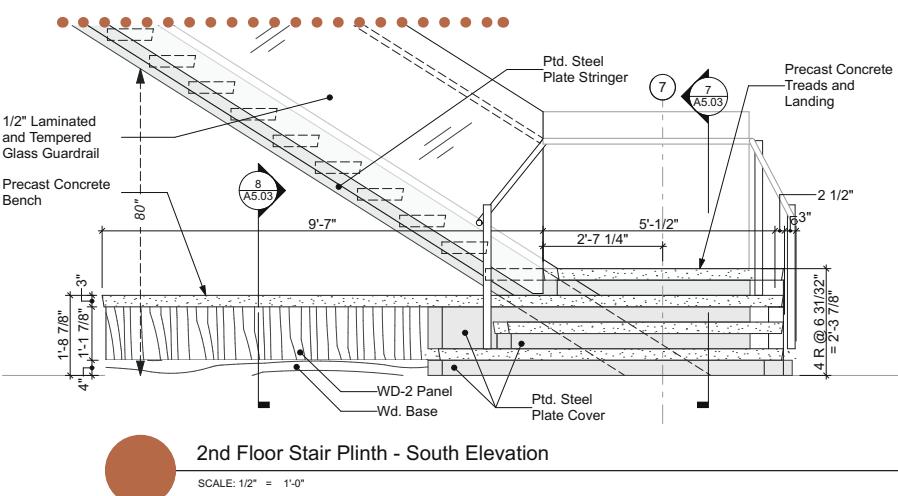
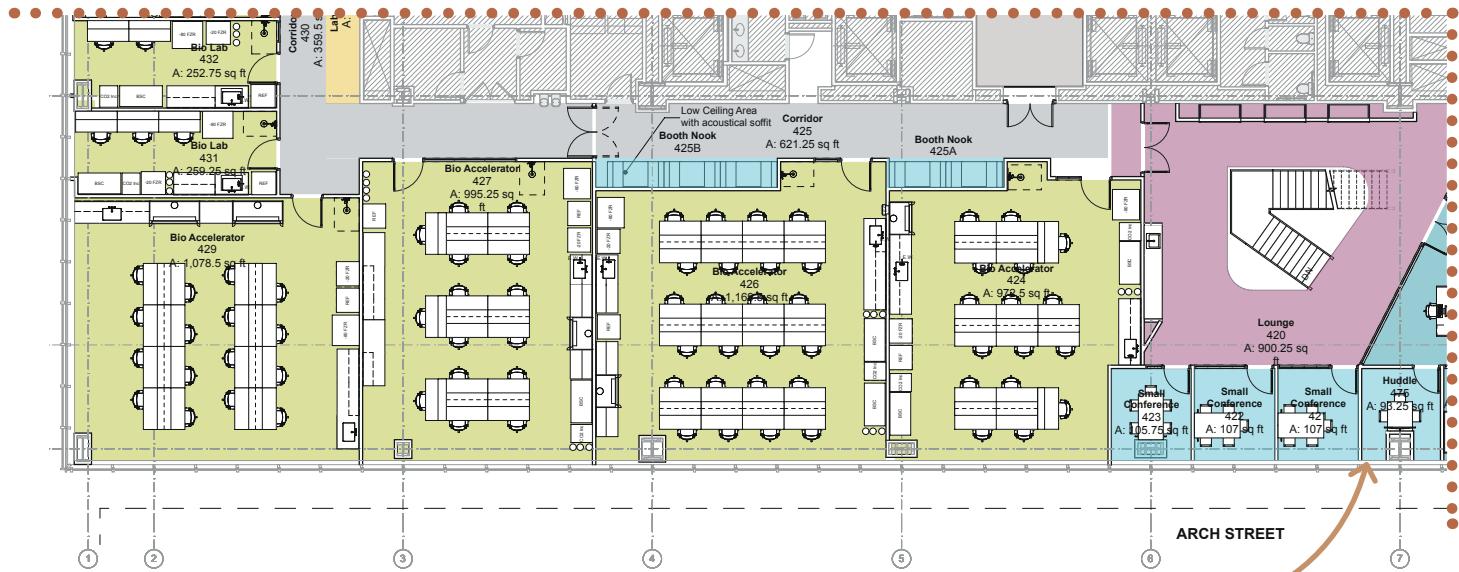
A highlight to the design is the central communicating stair which spans a total of three floors. The unique design, which was intentionally refined through levels of iterative sketching and studio-wide charettes, seems to float within the atrium opening.

The purity of a clean, crisp lab coat is traced through the labs themselves, the floor and wall finishes, and the repeating stair treads. In opposition to this is the rich hues of biophilic wall treatments, communally shared program areas, and private nooks for the building users to pause.

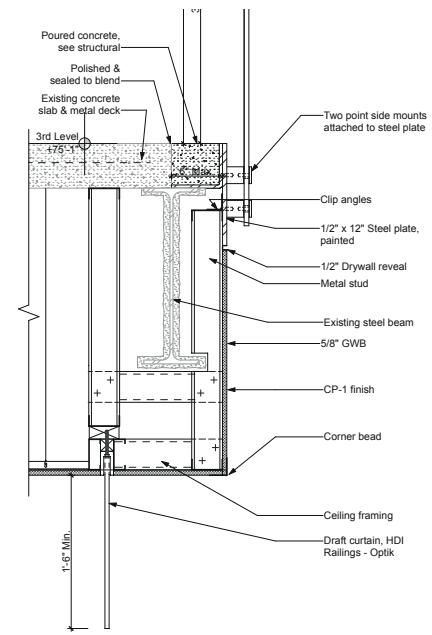
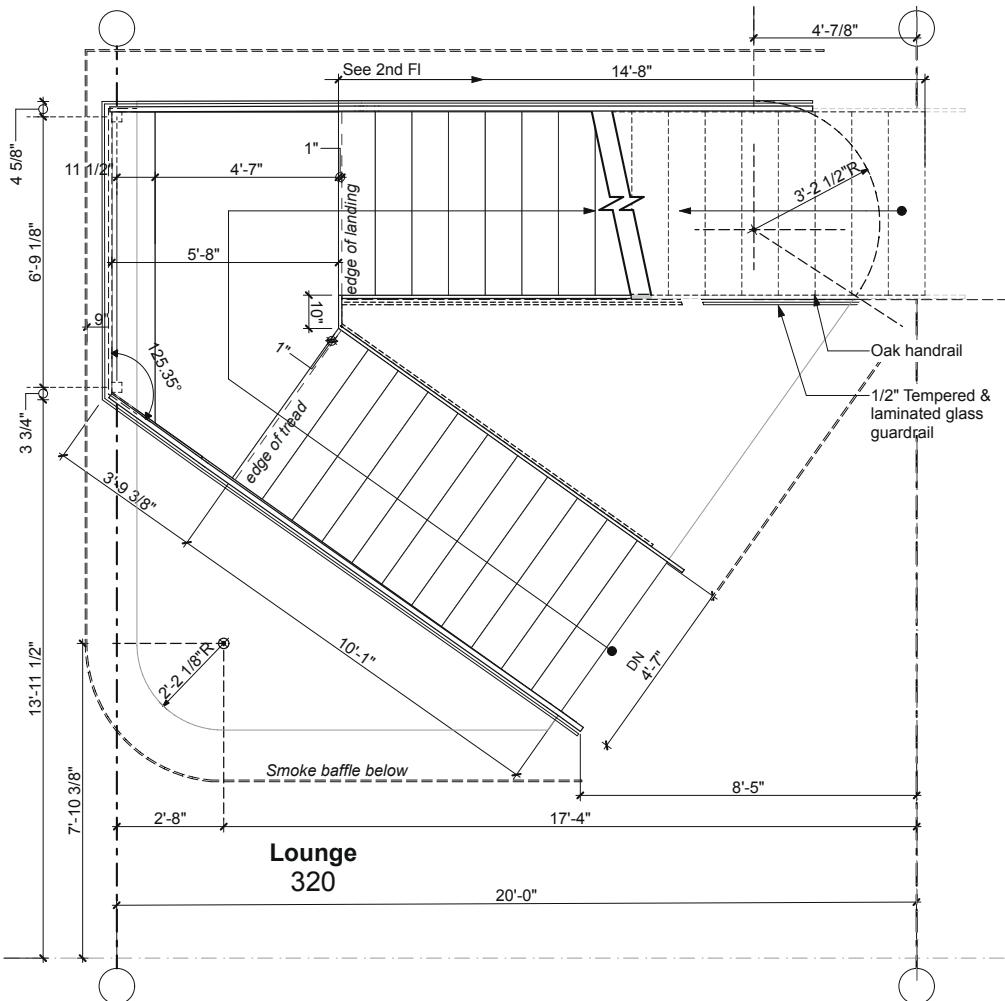
The stringer of the communicating stair draws a line upon user arrival connecting views and movement upwards through the space.



## CENTRAL STAIR DESIGN, CONT.



An alternate approach to a code required cane guard under the stair provides both an aesthetic and usable solution.



Stair Guardrail & Ceiling

# 04

## 5TH & HALKET OFFICE BUILDING

A Catalyst for Pittsburgh's Rapidly Growing Innovation Economy

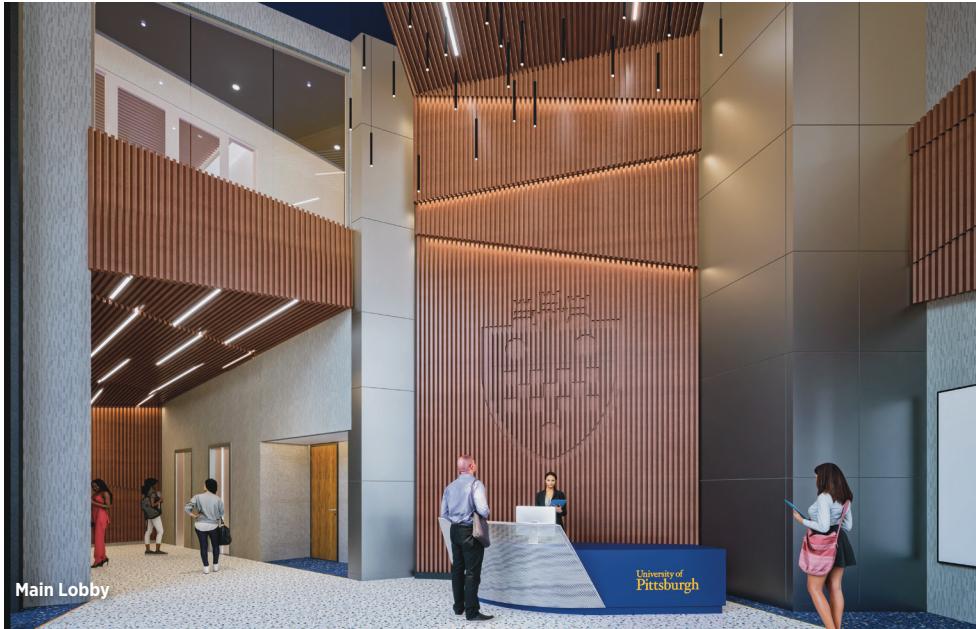
The first of its kind in the heart of the new Pittsburgh Innovation District, Pennsylvania's R&D capital, the originally named 5th & Halket Innovation Research Tower, a 10-story building featuring ground level retail, will now be home for University of Pittsburgh studies.

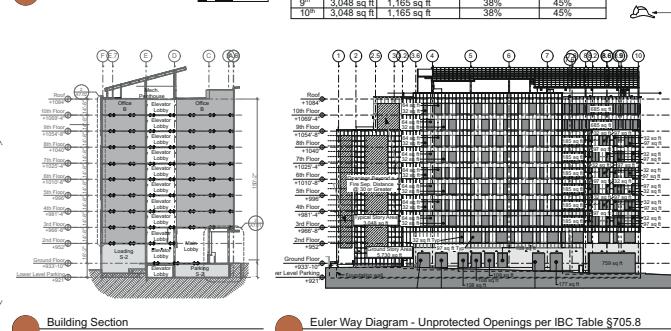
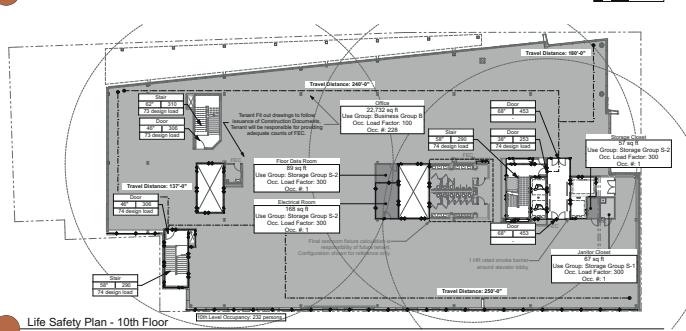
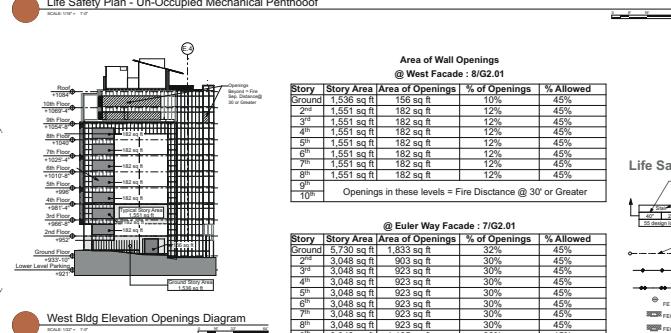
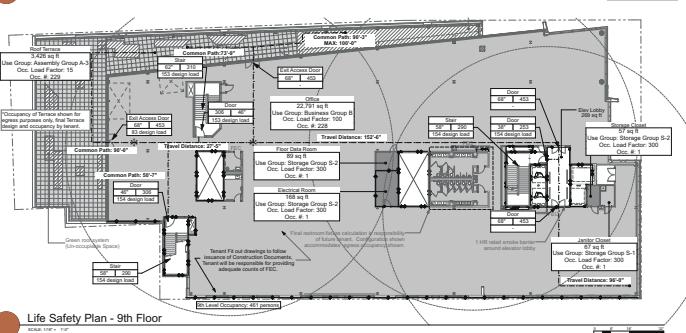
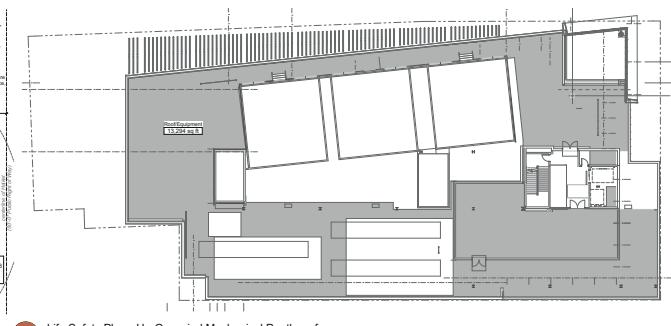
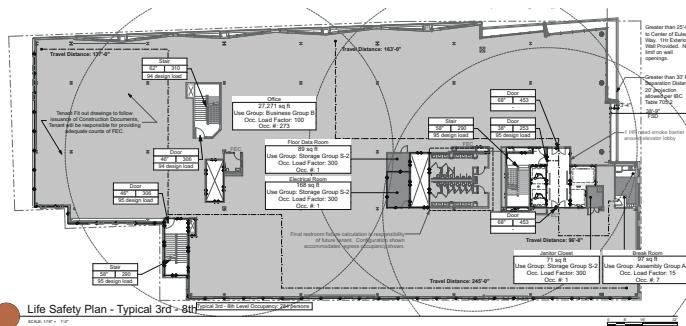
Proximity to premier medical institutions and the inclusion in the Oakland Innovation District sets the stage for groundbreaking research within the Tower.

The modern design features metal panel cladding with a continuous glass corner that provides stunning views to the surrounding neighborhood and creates a sense of connection with the local fabric.

The solar PV array on the roof will provide power for the core electrical demand of the building as well as contribute to the LEED Gold certification that the project is striving for.

Having a strong role on the Core & Shell design, most of my efforts were towards exterior detailing and Life Safety | Code Research & Drawing Production.





# 05

## SALVATION ARMY ARC

Historic Rehabilitation Providing Pittsburgh's South Side a Second Chance



### PALETTE & DESIGN SCOPE

What started as a manufacturing plant for the US Glass Company is now an Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) for the Salvation Army.

While the client had a close relationship with the Principal on the project, it was soon that everyone on the Design Team felt like family.

Inspiration for this renovation stemmed from creating a calming, "zen", atmosphere that allows the user (Beneficiary) to inhabit the space with a sense of peace and belonging. There is an attempt to draw nature indoors with the rigidity of stone textures paired by soft tones and patterns. Keeping in mind the materials will have a good deal of wear and tear, all were chosen considering the ease of install, use , and maintenance.





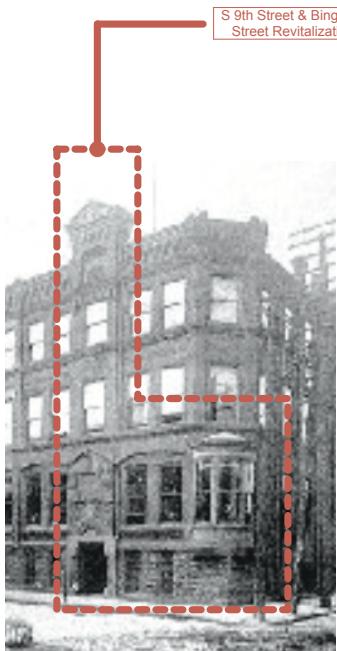
Rendering of the Future Dining Hall



#### Reclaimed Wood

Throughout the existing building, the Design Team uncovered a layer of existing wooden ceiling treatments that had been hidden under drop ceilings for countless years. In order to incorporate these into the new design, a window/bulkhead detail was drafted, the wood was refurbished and reinstalled in high traffic locations — as well as the rooms for the ARC Beneficiaries.

Completed Dining Hall — The Heart of the Center



Ripley's Factory (US Glass Company)

1891 - 1920s

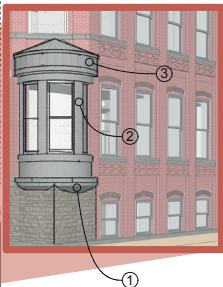


Existing Corner (S 9th Street & Bingham Street)

1954 - 2017

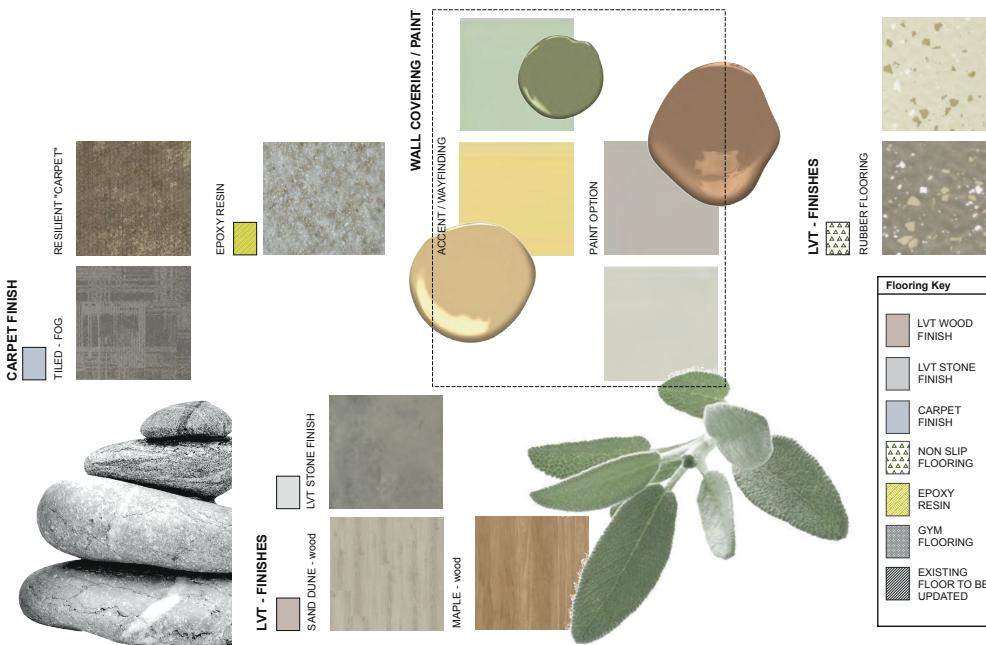


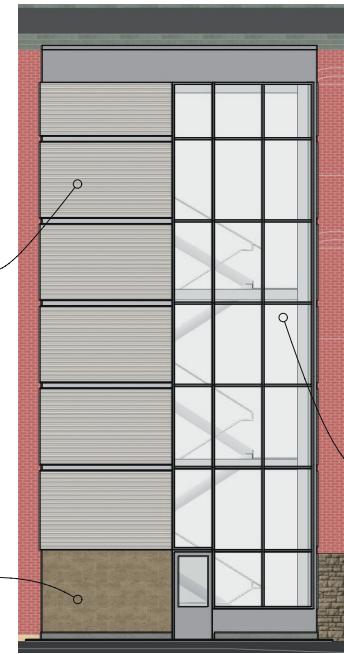
Proposed S 9th Street & Bingham Street



- Materials**
- ① Restore existing stone base
  - ② Metal cladding with windows
  - ③ Metal cladding to form cap

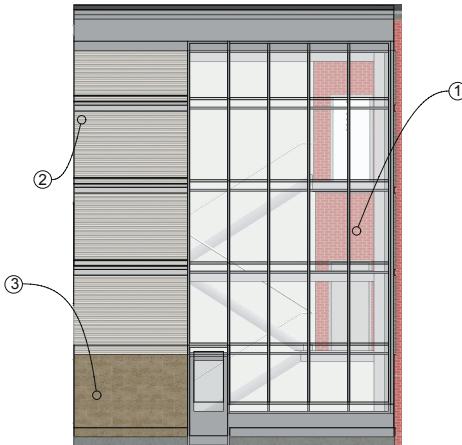
2017 - Proposed





*Proposed Egress Stair #1 South Elevation*

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



*Proposed Egress Stair #2 South Elevation*

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



*CerraStone Structural Glazed Tile Patterns*

#### Materials

- ① Curtain Wall
- ② **Corrugated Metal Panel** is a traditional, economical wall or roof panel. It is installed horizontally or vertically with exposed fasteners. The panel is available in smooth or stucco embossed texture, depending on material. Ideal applications are walls, mansards and equipment screens. (Found on [atas.com](#))



- ③ **CerraStone** is a structural clay brick with an ultra matte ceramic finish. This cost-effective masonry product offers the durability of brick and presents the classic appeal of stone. Available in a variety of sizes and colors, CerraStone offers a unique alternative to natural stone for beautiful wall designs that will last a lifetime. (Found on [elginbutler.com](#))

#### ORIGINAL



#### NAVAJO



## HISTORIC REVIEW COMMISSION SUBMISSION

With over 50,000 sqft of programmed area, the rehabilitation project endured structural constraints, aesthetic critique, and construction delays once the Covid-19 Pandemic beginning in 2020 became a reality.

An extensive submission to the Historic Review Commission elaborated on the intended finish materials, both inside and outside of the building, location of PV Solar Array — so as not to disrupt the skyline for transient bridge users, and the ornamental impact that the two new stair towers as well as the reconstructed ‘corner office’ would provide to the community.

# 06

## ST. EDMUND'S ACADEMY ADDITION + RENOVATION

Transformational Renovation Balancing Academic & Community Needs



Flex-Lab Overlooking Coach Gathagan Gymnasium

After a series of engaging meetings & charrettes, the Design Team developed a solution that prioritized the academic needs while still integrating those of the community and students' parents to achieve a truly transformative project.

Traditional classroom spaces were redesigned to support the innovative educational process and hands-on learning curriculum for the students. Crafting the space for the school and their rigorously immersive curriculum required some difficult decision making and intensive design thinking of available and convertible space.



New Forbes Avenue Lobby



Forbes Avenue New Elevation



Signature Experience Maker Space

## FIELD HOUSE TO FLEX SPACE

The newly renovated spaces integrate themselves seamlessly with the existing school — a unique condition in that the area of renovated space took place within the extents of an existing field house which at one time was home to a hockey rink and multipurpose gymnasium.

# 07

## HAZEL RUBY MCQUAIN - AMPHITHEATER RIVERFRONT PARK

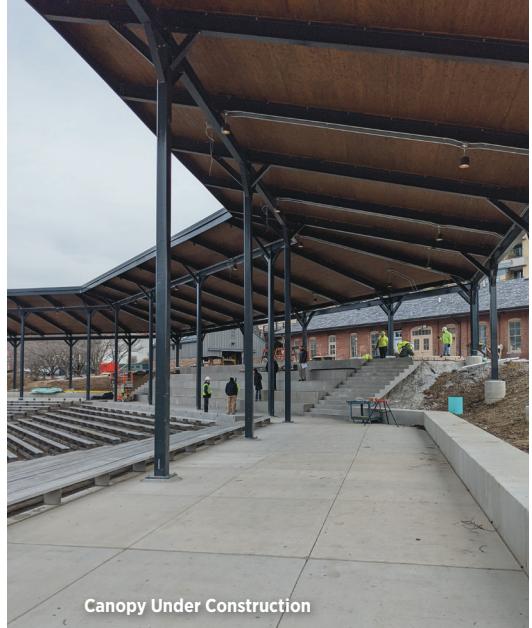
An Anchor, Connector + Catalyst for a Beloved Historic Train Depot and Gathering Hub



Gratitude is extended to the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust for providing a combined gift of \$4.1 million to make this dream into a reality.

Teaming with Thrasher Engineering and March - Westin, the Design Team crafted a transformative landscape that not only paid homage to an existing historic landmark, but gave life and enhanced programming to an area of town that was facing neglect.

The project was inclusive of expansive regrading with permanent stone seating, enhanced accessible access to various points of interest, restroom renovation and addition, and a transformation of the train depot to provide the community with a place for local meetings and events.

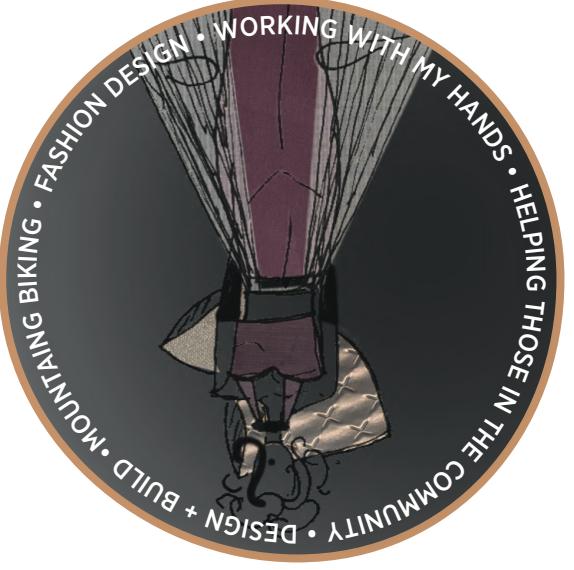


LET'S  
HAVE  
FUN.

REMEMBER TO GO THIS WAY!



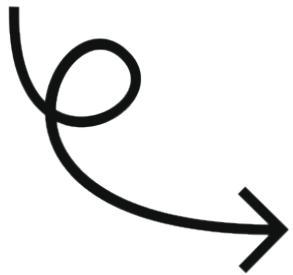
[FLIP THIS PORTFOLIO UPSIDE DOWN]



# I FIND ENJOYMENT THROUGH:



[GO AHEAD AND FLIP IT ONE MORE TIME]



Throughout my life I have received two pieces of advice that I will forever use as channels to motivate and drive my decisions — “Never be afraid to ask questions” and “Flip it.”

Asking, rather than assuming, creates an opportunity to perceive situations through multiple lenses; it increases agility and makes it possible to anticipate and resolve complications before they occur.

Pausing to ask questions and consider the hidden opportunities, and unspoken assumptions, can break down adversarial relationships and set the stage to connect, perform, and create with contractors, developers, the community, clients, end users, and even our own Design Teams.

Flipping the script means reconsidering situations or solutions without being bound by preconceived rules or values. Not only does it changes one’s perspective, but also allows unique relationships and integral concepts to come into the light — providing everyone with a seat at the table.

# BACK TO THE GRIND.