



Canadian Plaza at the Peace Bridge Border Crossing

Award-winning Canadian Plaza honors cultural heritage at the border

The Peace Bridge border crossing is a major gateway between Fort Erie, Canada and Buffalo, US, handling some five million vehicle and 1.5 million commercial truck crossings annually. Border security changes, congestion and increased capacity drove the need for its redevelopment of the Canadian Plaza. Central to NORR's design was a dramatic sweeping wood canopy with extensive cantilevers evoking the shape of the Indigenous peoples' long house structure and canoe, one of the earliest forms of transportation used to cross the Niagara River at this location.

The building program included: a Travellers Operations building housing the Canada Border Services Agency; a shared facility for the Refugee Processing Unit (non-governmental organization (NGO)) and Newcomers Centre and the Peace Bridge Authority Administration Building. NORR's integrated in-house design team took into consideration the need for the efficient flow and movement of traffic with particular attention to maintaining complete operation of the existing crossing throughout the construction stage of the project.

NORR's interior design solution for the various buildings incorporates soft earth tones of wood and natural stone found throughout the project site and its immediate surroundings. A skylight running the length of the main multi-story building provides natural light to penetrate the building's timber structure creating a welcoming character rarely achieved in a security-conscious institutional building. Pedestrian bridges and canopies provide safe and barrier-free access for staff and sheltered areas for vehicle inspection. An underground air duct system provides clean air source to the Customs booths. NORR's specialized knowledge and best practices regarding secure building types is combined with a visionary design approach to create a landmark at this transition between two countries.

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| CLIENT | Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Authority |
| PORTFOLIO | Transportation |
| CATEGORY | Multimodal Transit Hub |
| SIZE | 85,000 SF (7,897 SM) |
| LOCATION | Fort Erie, ON, Canada |
| DATE | April 2007 |
| SERVICES | Architecture MEP Engineering Structural Engineering Interior Design |

AWARDS

- 2014 20 + 10 + X World Architecture (WA) Community Awards 16. Cycle, Citation by Honorary Members
- 2010 Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), Design Excellence
- 2009 AIA's Academy of Architecture for Justice Knowledge Community Justice Facility Review, Citation
- 2008 20 + 10+ X World Architecture (WA) Community Awards, 2nd Cycle, Citation by Honorary Members
- 2008 Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, Ontario Steel Design Award, Award of Merit, Architectural Category
- 2007 Ontario Public Works Association, Project of the Year Award in Transportation greater than \$10 million
- 2007 Canadian Wood Council, WoodWork Award, Institutional Wood Design Award
- 2007 Canadian Wood Council, Wood Design Awards, Merit Award
- 2005 Ontario Concrete Awards, Precast Concrete Structural Design Innovation Award

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NORR

Transportation

NORR's Transportation Studio develops aviation, transit and multi-modal hub solutions for clients around the world. We understand the needs of government and private operators to maintain, upgrade and provide new transportation services and supporting infrastructure. Our design solutions are purpose-driven to build better, more efficient and environmentally-friendly transportation nodes that incorporate flexibility for future system expansion.

Integrated Designs for Aviation

NORR has proven expertise in all aspects of airport design, engineering and operations, from curb side to airside. Our global team has designed and managed complex projects for the transportation industry, including terminal buildings, parkades, maintenance and training hangars, de-icing facilities, runways, taxiways and aprons. Our design work extends to master planning, interior reconfigurations, lounges and retail buildouts. NORR has been involved with prestigious projects located worldwide, beginning in 1964 with Canada's largest airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Managing the Complexity of Transit Projects

Public transit, including subway and light rail transit, is vital to a healthy sustainable city. At NORR, we work collaboratively with all levels of government and private operators to provide planning and programs that increase capacity, eliminate spatial and technical limitations on balance with financial realities. We have

developed a framework for detailed project phasing and staging strategies, for design implementation through to construction, that has the least impact on the system and traffic flow.

Multimodal Transit Hubs

All levels of government are looking to move people and goods through multimodal transit hubs providing more options, enhanced service and increased efficiencies. NORR has been at the forefront of planning, developing, and implementing projects that include regional transit, railway and, ferry terminals and border crossings. Our experience goes far beyond design and engineering. Today, the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, elimination of noise pollution and resolution of other environmental issues are all integral aspects of our work.

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