



Surrey Courthouse Renovation and Expansion

Renovation and expansion bolsters busiest courthouse in Western Canada

The existing Surrey Courthouse building is a concrete and glass brutalist facility typical of the period providing an expression of institutional solidity. It is part of a campus of concrete and glass government buildings set in a lushly landscaped suburban location, within the Metro Vancouver regional district and metropolitan area in British Columbia, Canada. It has for the most part stood the test of time and is a respectable and dignified courthouse in the modern style of the period. However, it no longer has the capacity to meet the needs of the growing case load, necessitating an addition and renovation to provide additional court capacity and changing support space requirements.

In partnership with Ratio Architecture, NORR was selected as the Architect / Prime Consultant to guide the renovations and an expansion to Surrey Courthouse. The design provided three new courtrooms, including one high-security courtroom, one initial appearance room, four settlement conference rooms, 11 holding cells, five interview rooms, seven judicial chambers, in custody consulting cubicles along with related connections to the existing public, private, and secure circulation systems.

The approach to the new addition responds to the growing desire for a justice system more transparent and welcoming. It has a layered approach that matches the layered security circulation is an outer layer, an extension of the existing perimeter system but transformed into surrounding landscape. The inner layer is a concrete volume containing the courtrooms and relates to the adjacent concrete mass of the existing building and has the qualities associated enduring solidity of the judicial system while the glass public atrium speaks to a more transparent that is accessible to all members of society.

The new addition is positioned in a prominent position on top of sloping landscape adjacent to a main road intersection shielding the rear loading and service area and presenting a new animated façade that provides greater visual presence to the local community as well as providing a view of Mount Baker in the distance.

The balance between security and quality of environment continues in the courtroom design. The surrounding concrete courtroom container is lined with horizontal bands of micro perforated Douglas fir embedded flush into the concrete shell of the walls providing acoustic performance as well as warm character. The ceiling is inflected focusing attention on the dais as well as allowing sunlight to penetrate deep into the courtroom through an opening in the concrete shell that allows borrowed light in from the adjacent public atrium. The large south-facing three-story façade of the atrium was designed with a horizontal terracotta sunscreen or "baguette" system that helps mitigate heat-loading effects of the sun. Air is introduced into both the public atrium and the three new courtrooms by an underfloor displacement system taking advantage of underfloor plenum that was required for IT, Power and AV wiring. Both strategies created a more energy-efficient solution and allowed for a smaller and more cost-effective mechanical plant.

CLIENT	Shared Services BC & Provincial Court of British Columbia
PORTFOLIO	Justice
CATEGORY	Courthouse
SIZE	27,000 SF (2,500 SM) – New 19,000 SF (1,800 SM) – Renovated
LOCATION	Surrey, BC Canada
DATE	June 2018
SERVICES	Architecture Interior Design

AWARDS

- 2018 The American Institute of Architects Academy of Architecture for Justice, Justice Facilities Review
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Justice

Justice architecture demands multi-faceted design to uphold and express the legal process, and achieve efficient and functional operations, while maintaining a safe and secure environment. NORR's experience in the design of judicial buildings spans more than 30 years across all levels of government including courthouses, police facilities and detention and correction centers.

Multi-Faceted Design to Meet All Users' Needs

Our Justice Center of Excellence is constantly sharing and advancing our knowledge through research, study and practice. We believe that the key to effective judicial building design lies in a clear understanding of complex programs and changing processes that supports all participants. Working collaboratively with users and stakeholders, NORR uses both traditional and new techniques of visualization and simulation to communicate and collaborate in the design process.

Courthouses

The design of a new courthouse must be accessible, dignified, safe and functional. Detailed design of public circulation, waiting areas, settlement rooms, holding quarters and judicial chambers is undertaken to support the needs of the courts system. NORR has completed more than 50 courthouse projects including programming assessments, standards development, accessibility studies, renovations and new-build designs.

Police Facilities

The design of a police facility must respond to the increasing demands for service and security in an evolving world. NORR's Justice team works with multiple police organizations across the globe to realize designs that achieve efficiency, functionality, integrate technology and provide a safe environment for officers and the public that is integrated into the community they serve.

Detention and Correction Centers

The design of a new detention or correctional center, or overhaul of an existing facility, must emphasize elements such as rigorous security standards, operational requirements, enhanced rehabilitation potential and adaptability for future growth and services. NORR's dedicated Justice team manages all elements in close partnership with the client and community.

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