

The City of Cleveland's new Third District Police Headquarters is a 3-story, 60,000 square-foot facility designed to accommodate the public safety needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century urban community. The first new police station built in Cleveland since 1974, this facility sets a high bar for the design and construction of future municipal buildings. Key spaces are separated by floor, each floor dedicated to either community interaction, core police functions or citywide communications and dispatch.

**Design on a Human Scale:**

While the size of the station reflects the transfer of citywide communications functions to the Third District, it is not intended to intimidate the community, but to welcome its members. The designers of the public art at the entrance see the lighted archway and sconces to be a "lantern [... that] will be a welcoming presence and [will] humanize the building a little bit". In addition, the palette chosen for the exterior of the building is not a grim and grey, but provides warmth to those approaching it. Floor-to-ceiling windows on the community-accessible first floor communicate openness and transparency, rather than re-emphasizing the security elements of the police station. The design concept behind the building is twofold: change the perception that police are enemies, humanizing the police and staff, and to be inclusive towards the local residents.

**Provide Choices:**

The security needs of a police station require separation of the access of the general public, police and dispatch to the building. The first floor is open to the public, either in the capacity of community usage or in providing access to police functions (filing complaints, bail, and other contact with police personnel).

All police areas are secured, including the third-floor Dispatch area. Access to dispatch is provided via elevator with identity cards. Each floor also contains break areas, quiet rooms, locker space and a fitness room, offering district personnel space for destressing from their pressure-filled work.

**Encourage Mixed-Use Development:**

In the broadest sense, mixed-use development is any development – or even a single building – which blends a combination of uses, where those functions are physically and functionally integrated with pedestrian access. In the past, the times and social environment of Cleveland dictated that police stations in the City were designed like bunkers, with the safety of police personnel of the foremost importance, and public access limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish police functions.

This station has a different ethos. As a City Councilman said during the opening of the facility, "The building is meant to tell the public, 'Come on in.'" Most importantly, it offers community

space for meetings and events, along with a "safe space", creating an openness that didn't exist previously, and inviting the surrounding area to interrelate with the station for reasons other than the usual interactions with the police. The building's intent is to enhance the Department's partnership with the community and to make the neighborhood a better place.

**Preserve Urban Centers:**

Cleveland's MidTown Community Is a major movement meant to enhance and grow a previously underdeveloped area of the City. This station is an important element of that movement, and has developed four acres of abandoned property, previously the site of Ward Bakery, which was demolished in 1979. Placement of the station in this location infills a now-remediated brownfield area that was formerly filled with debris. It also places police presence in a central location, making other sections of MidTown more appealing for potential future development.

**Vary Transportation Options:**

The new station is located on Chester Avenue, a main thoroughfare in Cleveland. WalkScore gives the address a "Somewhat Walkable" rating, a "Good Transit" rating and a "Bikeable" score of 60, citing the street in the area as flat as a pancake and having bike lanes. Bike racks were also used to make the site enticing to bikers. The station is approximately 2 miles from downtown, which also takes in the Bike Rack, the Cleveland area's first bike parking and commuter center.

The station's placement on the site allows for distinct parking areas to the West, North, and East. Visitors park in the West lot, accessed via Chester Avenue. Landscaping naturally defines the boundaries of the visitor lot, separating it from the properties that border it on the west and north. Employees, police, fire, and EMS access the North and East lots via the less-heavily-travelled Perkins Avenue.

The general transportation situation in the neighborhood is good and will continue to change and grow as MidTown is developed.

**Build Vibrant Public Spaces:**

The station's exterior includes attractive, eye-catching public art, including a welcoming archway, which is illuminated after dark. The design motif of the archway includes elements similar to those in the surrounding community, including churches and local architecture. There are also steel and glass sconces, the design of which was driven by input from the officers and staff who would inhabit the building after completion. The history of policing was reflected in their iconic global design. The 8 foot tall, 300 lb. sconces have "Protect" on the left-hand side and "Serve" on the right; the words wrap the lights and reflect the station's mission to the people in the neighborhood.

Other elements that bring in the community include benches, lighted bollards, bike racks and vibrant landscaping, including Zelcova, Irish juniper, Sugar, Red and Hedge maples, Eastern redbud, Monkey Puzzle, and Blueberry willow trees, Dwarf Violet Iris, Arums, Starwart and Yellow Bartsia flowering plants, and Blue Fescue grasses.

**Create a Neighborhood Identity:**

The site occupied by the station was once the location of Ward Bakery, a local employer. In 1979, the then-abandoned bakery building was demolished, leaving behind debris and an unused lot. By building this station, and including design elements that reflect the area, this new facility is a beacon to the community, and has become a symbol of the resurrection of the MidTown district.

**Protect Environmental Resources:**

The building was designed to achieve LEED Silver certification. The exterior construction was modeled to make certain the mix of materials and the means of construction and systems used all contributed toward achieving optimal energy efficiency while still maintaining visual appeal. Selections for interior finishes made extensive use of recycled materials including linoleum flooring and quartz counter tops and windowsills.

Beyond the energy efficiencies addressed within the structure itself, a bioswale at the front of the property was designed to capture and retain rainwater during storms. The landscape design choices were influenced at least in part by the availability of water captured and filtered by the bioswale.

**Conserve Landscapes:**

The building is located on the southern edge of the site, giving its strongest street presence on Chester Avenue, one of Cleveland's busiest thoroughfares. Chester Avenue connects the Playhouse District to University Circle and also provides a direct connection to the Innerbelt. Because the new facility is built on a brownfield site, the architect worked closely with environmental engineers to determine the building placement that required the least amount of remediation. Landscaping around the perimeter of the property contributes to the facility's street appeal.

**Design Matters:**

Understanding how the building program was divided into clearly-designated functions by floor, the design team pushed and pulled each floor independently to create interest with the massing and materials. The building's exterior envelope was designed as three distinct masses of building material stacked one on top of another. The building features a blend of cast stone, metal panel, porcelain tile and glass in a cantilevered design that includes public art elements.

The exterior material selections reflect the usage of each floor. The ground level, which features a community room and other public spaces, is enclosed by appealing light-colored masonry and features floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on Chester Avenue. The second floor houses core police functions and is wrapped in a collage of earth-toned tile. On the west side, this floor extends beyond the rest of the building, creating a shaded gathering space outside the community room below. On the East side, this floor is recessed, adding texture and dimension to the building's silhouette. Exterior metal panels encase the top floor, reflecting the high security of this sensitive communications area.

The center of the building is grounded by a public entrance that features a glass enclosed vestibule surrounded by an illuminated archway designed by a local artist. Curved glass panels on the second and third floor provide natural light for an open office and conference room.

The color palette used throughout the building is neutral and soft, favoring earth tones with some blue accent walls for contrast. A total of four colors are used, which minimizes maintenance needs.