

BATTERY B

PROJECT LOCATION:
COLUMBUS, OHIO

SUBMISSION TYPE:
BUILT WORK

PROJECT TYPE:
NEW CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETION DATE:
MAY, 2015

USE TYPE:
RESIDENTIAL

Located on a formerly vacant lot once occupied by the Jeffrey Mining Company, **Battery B** is a new infill apartment complex situated at the edge of newly developing mixed-use urban community. Comprised of four 2- or 3-story buildings, the complex totals 48,000 square feet among 56 residential units, which line open-air corridors, forming an interior courtyard and car park.

The design goals were urban in nature and included re-establishing the street edges with minimal setbacks and locating parking to the rear of the building. The architectural aspirations were to acknowledge the physical and historical context and to create simple, compact living spaces that are both functional and affordable, while remaining desirable in the marketplace.

A pair of buildings defining the eastern edge of the development are considerably industrial in character

and aesthetic intent, with standing seam metal cladding and a repetitive sawtooth roofline. A central public entry corridor bisects the east facade creating a gateway from the street to the rear to access the apartment entrances, as well as parking. The east-facing buildings are book-ended by hand-painted murals which make reference to the site's heritage in a modern industrial graphic style. The north and south buildings make contextual reference to the simple brick-clad apartment buildings nearby with their height, bay width and materiality. Additional public access points and common area spaces are created at the gaps between the north, south and east buildings, particularly at the northeast and southeast corners, both at grade and on the elevated decks. The two-story north building provides for a commonly shared roof deck at the third level.

Apartment entrances and parking are located in the courtyard created

by the placement of the surrounding apartment buildings at the outer edge of the site. From the courtyard, the buildings express their industrial character in a more playful way via a palette of grays accompanied by a punch of orange. The colors are applied to the fiber cement board in an irregular rhythm, using the individual apartment bays and different levels of the buildings as the grid. The courtyard-facing facades are finished off with minimalist steel stairs, railings and guardrails, in addition to trees between rows of parking and planting beds along the buildings.

The 650 square foot apartment units deploy two typical floor plans that rely on translucent polycarbonate panels, both fixed and moveable, to define the sleeping and living areas while maximizing light transmission between spaces.