



Janet Wilmoth
Special Projects Director

Firehouse is pleased to present the eighth annual Station Design Awards showcase of fire and emergency services facilities. Sixty-four entries, across seven categories, were submitted by 45 architects/construction companies from across the United States. Nineteen architectural firms are first-time entrants.

Because the 2021 showcase is a collection of nationwide facilities, remember, cost per square foot can vary greatly depending on region, and styles vary based on locale, size, budget and department responsibilities in the community that's served.

Every year, the Station Design Awards judges are asked to review each entry carefully before selecting three finalists in each category. Listening to these discussions always is quite a learning experience. I wish there was a way to capture the analysis of the entries and invite others to participate.

The Station Design Awards judging once again was graciously hosted by Chief Scott Walker at the Addison, IL, Fire Protection District. This year's six judges included a mix of fire chiefs and architects who are experienced in emergency response facilities.

This year, the Gold winners in three categories were unanimous decisions. That said, all of the 2021 Gold winners exhibit particular commitment to the health and safety of personnel. Since formally introduced in 2015, the Hot Zone design concept has changed fire station floor plans substantially. If this year's entries serve as an appropriate example—and we suspect that they do—the trend continues in full force. Joining this design effort, many of the stations that are recognized in this year's competition have their decontamination areas located on the far side of apparatus bays. Further, airlock hallways, for the transition from Hot Zone to Warm Zone to Cold Zone, emerged as more prevalent than previously.

Several 2021 entries included a return to watch rooms off of apparatus bays, a concept that was popular among the judges. On the flip side, because the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) affects all fire stations and emergency response facilities, a lack of elevators and/or ADA-compliant parking and building accessibility created a downgrade of an entry.

Most entries paid increased attention to the physical and mental health of department personnel. Natural lighting was predominant among this year's entries, particularly in meeting areas and dayrooms, but also in fitness rooms, which represented an evolution in thinking by designers. In a few fitness rooms, overhead doors opened to the outside. (Notably, one fitness room included a “panic button” in the event of a workout accident.)

An increase in mega natural disasters the past few years caused millions of dollars in disruption to communities and, unsurprisingly, to emergency services entities in those communities. Given the effect that a major disaster can have on a fire department, the Bay County Fire Services' Southport firehouse, which is in Panama City, FL, created a lot of discussion among our judges, including how critical that it is for a fire department to re-establish a facility and continue operations.

In 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall in Bay County, and three fire stations were destroyed. Because it would take years to design and build permanent stations, the decision was made to construct temporary facilities. The Southport station was erected in six months. The structure meets strict building codes and is designed to meet Miami-Dade County's requirement regarding hurricane-force winds. (See page 104.) An added benefit: After the completion of permanent stations, the temporary structures can be relocated if needed.

Over the past 10–15 years, fire station designs have changed quickly. What's the reason? Three, in fact: increased responsibilities, a focus on firefighter health and safety, and a dedication to research on the part of fire chiefs, project managers and building committees.

The 2021 Station Design Awards showcase is a keeper. It's filled with ideas and trends from fire and emergency departments across the nation. Furthermore, with its inclusion of the names of the fire chiefs of the departments that benefited from a new or renovated facility, as well as the architectural firms that were responsible for a facility's design, this section is resource for you and your department now and into the future.

Save the Date

STATION DESIGN
CONFERENCE

May 23–26, 2022

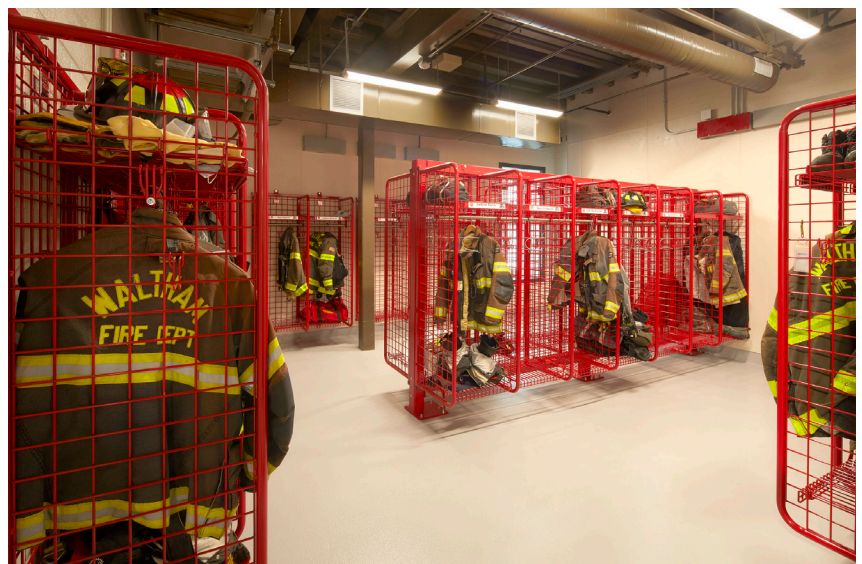
Crowne Plaza,
Rosemont, IL
FHStationDesign.com



Having been in continuous use since its construction in 1890, the historic Moody Street Fire Station is an excellent example of Queen Anne/Romanesque Revival styling. Hence, the primary design challenge was to renovate the existing structure carefully to maintain its National Register of Historic Places credential while incorporating an addition that meets the modern requirements of a 21st century fire department that's located in a densely populated urban neighborhood.

The solution was to first create an addition that takes design elements from the original building while allowing the latter to remain the focal point of the station. The two-story structure consists of four new apparatus bays and an administrative and operations center that are on the first floor and individual living quarters, a study and support facilities that are on the second floor.

Once the addition was operational, the historic building could be renovated.



Moody Street Fire Station

WALTHAM, MA



Saccoccio & Associates
ARCHITECTS

www.sa-architects.com

Official Project Name: Moody Street Fire Station

Project City/State: Waltham, MA

Date Completed: May 30, 2021

Fire Chief: Thomas MacInnis

Project Area (sq. ft.): 20,440

Total Cost: \$9,338,300

Cost Per Square Foot: \$457

Architect/Firm Name: Mark Saccoccio/Saccoccio & Associates Architects

Website: sa-architects.com

Design Team: Saccoccio & Associates Architects: Mark Saccoccio, Principal-in-Charge; Kyle Robinson, Project Architect; OPM: Steven Habeeb, Habeeb & Associates; Contractor: Krystal Burrows, M. O'Connor Contracting; MEP: Marc Plante, Building Engineering Resources; Structural: Thomas Grafe, C.A. Pretzer Associates, and Domenic Quaraglia Engineering; Civil: Brandon Carr, DiPrete Engineering



The interior was completely modernized while maintaining the existing three apparatus bays and the gear and decontamination rooms that are on the first floor. A remodeled dayroom, kitchen, dining room and gym are located on the second floor. The exterior of the historic building was renovated fully and restored to its original 1890 design. This included the dismantling and reconstruction of a portion of the 70-foot-tall hose tower.

The renovated station provides the Waltham Fire Department with the amenities and space of a modern station while remaining connected to the department's past, which began on the site during an age when firefighters responded on horse-drawn apparatus.

