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Eastern Illinois Chapter



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LANSING VILLAGE HALL

Category: Commercial
 Building Type: Renovation/Remodeling
 Project Location: Lansing, Illinois
 Client: Village of Lansing
 Building Area: 14,000 Square Feet
 Cost of Construction: \$3.0 Million
 Date of Completion: April 2009
 Architect: Linden Group



Project Description:

The project is a 14,000 square foot renovation of an existing one-story brick building in downtown Lansing, IL. Significant improvements were made to the interior and exterior of the building as well as the site landscape. The designing architects organized a charrette in the building that would become the new Lansing Village Hall. Working with Lansing public officials, designers utilized cross-sectioning sections to determine elements that they needed to preserve with the new design. Participants then used group programming exercises to determine non-ordinary spaces and appropriate spatial adjacencies. The architects invited Lansing officials to critique designs by placing dots next to architecture elements they liked and disliked. The design charrette proved essential for the success of Lansing and its new Village Hall.

Dramatic changes to the exterior appearance of the building create a place that pronounces itself as the municipal center of the village. The new look offers an identity to Lansing.

Since the Lansing airport was built in 1924, it has been essential to the development of the Village of Lansing. The airplane has become a representative icon for Lansing, and one that Villagers connect with. Several airplane sculptures, painted by community members, can be seen scattered throughout the Village. Thus, Lansing history is expressed in the architecture of its new village hall, as residents enter beneath a canopy that represents the wings of an airplane.

The new Lansing Municipal Center features a generous entrance lobby with transaction desks for general village business and the planning/building department. The lobby is designed to be welcoming and features displays of village heritage and current community events.

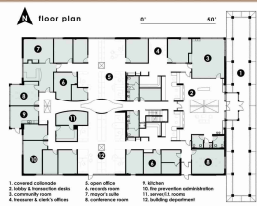
There is a community meeting room off the main lobby facing Ridge Road that serves Village business during the day and various community groups in the evening.

A central corridor runs through the village staff office area and leads to the mayoral office. This corridor acts as a gallery that exhibits the identity of the village. The design maximizes natural light for staff throughout the building with added skylights in areas to reduce energy cost and the need for artificial light. This makes the new municipal center a more enjoyable place to visit and work.



Jury Comments:

"The front entry and canopy created a great focal point to this building. The colonnade is a balanced solution for the civic building. The use of daylighting and planning of conference spaces for public use ensures expanded visitation of this building by the residents."



"Involvement of public officials and residents at the beginning of the project exemplified the outcome of this re-use and renovation of the city hall. The Lansing Village Hall creates an elegant contemporary design to hide the existing mansard roof structure. This was an amazing transformation for the budget."



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