

Arch 401: Adaptive Reuse of Historic Fire Stations

Designing Reuse Models that Honor Fire Stations as Community Landmarks

Overview

In this studio, you will work with representatives from the City of Seattle's Fleets and Facilities Department, as well as its Historic Preservation Program to design an adaptive reuse for three different historic fire stations. These stations will soon be sold on the open market, and yet they have untold symbolic value in their respective neighborhoods. Your task will be to conceive a new use for each building that also honors its distinctive architecture and prominent spatial location, complies with zoning and historic preservation constraints, and is economically viable. In addition, you will document your progress on the project.

The fire stations are as follows:

- **Fire Station #6**, an Art Deco/Moderne structure designed by George Stewart in 1931, located in the Central District on a .47-acre site.
- **Fire Station #37**, a Mission Revival structure designed by Daniel Huntington in 1925, located in the Southwest Seattle on a .22-acre site.
- **Fire Station #38**, a Mission Revival/Moderne structure designed by George Stewart in 1930, located in the Ravenna neighborhood on a .21-acre site.



Photo by Steve Crothers

Teaching Methods

Goals

You will learn to

- Conduct background research;
- Develop a program of spaces based upon this background research;
- Develop a design concept to accommodate the program, as well as sustainable design features;
- Make an effective presentation of your work in a public setting; and
- Reflect critically on the progress of your own work.

Design Process

You will work in a team to conduct background research, including interviews with city officials and analyses of historical data, zoning and historic preservation requirements, and architectural precedents. Based upon this research, you develop a program for one of the three fire stations, and then you will work individually to create alternative site and building designs that accommodate the program and incorporate sustainable features. You will also keep a journal and document your progress on a weekly basis. The schedule and evaluation methods are organized to allow sufficient time for feedback from city officials and for community outreach.

Products

You will collectively produce three reuse programs, one for each station, and three-four alternative designs for each of these programs. You will also produce a journal.

Human Resources

Erin Paysse in the Real Estate Services Division of Fleets and Facilities will serve as your primary contact person. She, in turn, will arrange for other contacts and will also coordinate attendance for your in-progress and final presentations.

From left to right are photos of Fire Stations #6, #37, and #38.



Photo by Steve Crothers



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