



**Janet Wilmoth**  
*Special Project Director*

**F**irehouse is pleased to present the sixth annual showcase of fire and emergency services facilities. Fifty-four entries, in eight categories, were submitted by 44 architecture firms from across the United States and Canada.

The purpose of the Station Design Awards is to educate *Firehouse* readers on trends and innovations in new public safety facilities across North America. These emergency response and training facilities also serve to offer the work of specialized architectural firms. Keep in mind, with a national collection of facilities, prices vary greatly depending on the region, styles vary depending on the locale and size by budget, department responsibilities and the community served.

As each portfolio was received, I knew this year would be more difficult for the judges than last year and I was right. It was obvious that fire chiefs, project managers and municipal leaders invested the time and effort at conferences to learn how to build more efficient and effective fire stations for their departments. I believe their confidence in working with architects and construction professionals is evident in the quality of the entries submitted to the Station Design Awards this year. Take a look at the stations in this section and I think you will agree.

Our judges this year included one judge from last year; four architects, a fire chief who is also an architect, and a fire chief experienced in new and renovated stations. No judge had an entry in the award program. Instructions were purposely kept simple: based on their experience and knowledge, review each entry by category and bring their top three choices in each category to the judging. In some categories, judges were unanimous in a Gold winner, but for others, some intense discussions were held, especially when the finalists were wide-ranging. It was a real learning experience to hear the pros and cons on each of the finalists discussed by a determined group of judges.

One request the judges made during the judging process was to reinstate the Training Facilities category. Two large training facilities entered in the Mixed-Use category were significantly different from other entries. We agreed and will also reinstate the Training Facility category for next year.

With the introduction of the Hot Zone design just four years ago, the concept was included or adapted in many of the fire station entries. Judges agreed research and data on firefighters' high cancer rates tied to exposure to carcinogens and coupled with apparatus manufacturers' clean cab efforts have supported the issue of how to isolate contamination in the apparatus bays and in the living areas. Floor plans of entries were also reviewed for airlocks or transition areas between apparatus bays and living areas to prevent cross-contamination. We expect to see an increase in two-door transitional areas.

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Station 45, Snowmass Village, CO, was commended by the judges for addressing the issue of recruiting personnel in an expensive housing market. The fire department's floor plan addressed the issue by including six resident studios with ample storage and separate exterior entries. Judges suggested the department deserves an "Innovation" award by dealing with firefighters who cannot afford to live in the village. In past years, we've seen a couple areas on the East Coast that have provided affordable housing for first responders located above the fire station. This is another trend we'll likely see more in future entries.

There were discussions about natural lighting in the stations. Many entries featured sleeping rooms along exterior walls with windows, however, day rooms located on the interior were without windows. In a 2019 Station Design Conference presentation "Immersive Design for Reduction of PTSD and Suicide," Paul Erickson, FAIA, and Jennifer Cramer, M.E.D, LPC, suggested how "Biophilic design strategies utilize natural materials and daylight to enhance the sense of orientation, security and safety for firefighters and emergency responders." It could be a challenge to include more windows and natural light, but worth considering.

Every entry is a "winner" for the department, the personnel and the community served. You also have a valuable resource of trends and ideas to help with your next fire station and excellent examples of the work of architects who specialize in designing fire and public safety facilities.

Plan to attend the 2020 Station Design Conference, May 12-14, in Rosemont, IL, and begin or continue your journey to your next station!

—Janet Wilmoth, Special Project Director

Save the date



**May 12-14, 2020**  
**Rosemont, IL**

**FHStationDesign.com**

## JUDGES



### **Matt Bickel, AIA, LEED AP**

As an architect and partner, Bickel has spent his entire 18-year career at Wold Architects & Engineers working with municipal and government clients across the Midwest to plan, design and implement their public safety facilities—both new construction and renovations. He is proud of relationships that are forged as Wold partners with communities to successfully translate their unique goals and realize their shared facilities visions.



### **Mark Bushhouse, AIA, LEED AP**

Bushhouse joined Williams Architects in 1987 and is a licensed architect in the states of Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. He has a Bachelor of Architecture/Design from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is an LEED® Accredited Professional. In 2007, Bushhouse was named president of the firm. In addition to his responsibilities as president, he leads the firm's Municipal Sector, assisting communities in the planning and design of their facilities with his 25+ years of fire station insight, knowledge and expertise.



### **Ralph DeLuca, Jr., Fire Chief**

DeLuca is a 30-year veteran of the Oakbrook Terrace, IL, Fire Protection District where he presently holds the rank of fire chief. During his tenure with the district, DeLuca attained a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois and is presently licensed in multiple states. He also is an instructor for technical rescue and structural collapse response within the state. Presently, DeLuca holds a position on IL TF-1 (urban search and rescue) as a structures specialist.



### **Johnny Fong, AIA, NCARB**

Fong studied architecture at the Berkeley campus of the University of California and earned his bachelor's degree in 1979. In 1995, he became a full-time firefighter for the City of Reno, NV, Fire Department. Currently, he is fire equipment operator/engineer of Engine 2, one of the busiest engine companies in the city. Urged by company and chief officers, Fong started FireHouse Designs in the late 1990s, with a goal to successfully blend the needs of the architecture and fire service disciplines, resulting in a fire station design satisfying to both the architect and fire service personnel. He has frequently judged fire stations since 2002 for *Fire Chief* and *Firehouse* magazines.



### **Joe Leone, Fire Chief**

Leone is a 29-year veteran of the Addison, IL Fire Protection District. He started his career with Addison as a firefighter/paramedic and during the last 29 years was promoted through the ranks to his current level as chief. He has a master's degree from Southern Illinois University in homeland security and fire service administration, is an approved instructor for the National Fire Academy for incident command and serves as a professor for Southern Illinois University, where he instructs on labor relations and government aspects of public safety. During his time with Addison, Leone has experience with construction of a new station and renovations of existing fire stations. He is active at the local and national levels, advancing fire and EMS concerns.



### **James B. Schmidt, EFO**

Schmidt, a retired career fire chief, is the senior emergency services specialist with Wendel's Five Bugles Design, Eau Claire, WI. This year marks his 40<sup>th</sup> year in fire and emergency medical services and with experience after retirement as an interim chief and member of both volunteer and combination fire/EMS departments. He has experience on the owner's side of four projects and as a design professional with more than 30 station projects to his credit. Schmidt's educational experience includes an associate degree from Fox Valley Technical College, business administration program from Lakeland College, and completion of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.



### **Dean Sparaco**

Sparaco is the director of Government, Multi-Family and Senior Living for CR architecture + design, Denver, CO. He is responsible for client interaction, company culture and all things to do with project delivery. Sparaco has a master's degree in architecture from Montana State University and studied in The Netherlands and Germany. He has a passion for sustainable design and construction in the Rocky Mountains that is reflected in the body of work that he has carefully crafted over the last 25 years. Sparaco has studied under, worked with and learned from some world-renowned planners, authors and architects.

## 2019 STATION DESIGN ARCHITECTURE FIRMS

Allen & Hoshall, Inc.  
Architects Design Group  
BKV Group  
Blalock and Partners  
Bray Architects  
Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects  
Brown Reynolds Watford  
Architects, Inc.  
Brunton Architects & Engineers  
Charles Cuniffe Architects  
CJW Architecture  
Context Architecture  
Dewberry  
DGBK Architects/S2  
DLZ  
FGM Architects  
George, Miles & Buhr, LLC  
H2M Architects + Engineers  
HCMA Architecture + Design  
Hughes Group Architects  
Jeff Katz Architecture  
Keller, Inc  
Kirkpatrick Architecture  
KZF Design  
LeMay Erickson Willcox Architects  
Mackenzie  
Manns Woodward Studios  
Martinez Architects  
Menlo Park Fire Protection District  
(CJW Architecture)  
Miller Boskus Lack Architects, P.A.  
Mitchell Associates Architects, PLLC  
Mull & Weithman Architects  
OZ Architecture  
Pacheco Ross Architects  
Perlman Architects of Arizona, Inc.  
Resin Architecture  
S2 Architecture  
Slattery Tackett Architects  
Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects  
Sweet Sparkman Architects  
TCA Architects  
Thomas Roberts Architect  
TPH Architects  
WBRC Architects Engineers  
WLC Architects, Inc.





**B**eachwood Public Safety Center is a new mixed-use public safety facility that combines the four-bay Fire Station 2 with a 911 dispatch center, police office, EOC/training room and firefighter training facility. The 27,000-square-foot facility is organized around a two-story lobby that identifies the entrance from the main road and provides direct, secure access to the multiple user spaces. The lobby includes a 9/11 Steel Memorial that serves as a reminder of the heroism and sacrifice of our nation's first responders.

Firefighter response time, health/safety and practical training were priority considerations that shaped the design and layout of the station. The residential and operational spaces are located on the first floor along a central corridor that



provides a safe and direct response path. Hot Zone design principles are applied in the fire station bays and decontamination spaces, and a single-bay door at the side of the station is designated as the vehicle

return and decontamination entrance. A two-story exercise room provides space for a wide variety of cardio and strength training exercises. Practical training facilities are located at the rear of the





# Beachwood Public Safety Center Fire Station 2

BEACHWOOD, OH



center that would strengthen the partnership of the fire and police departments and would provide an opportunity to provide improved dispatch and EOC capabilities. The 911 dispatch center and police office share a suite at the front of the building with secure access from the lobby. The EOC/training room is a multipurpose space located on the second floor above the dispatch center that can serve as the city's emergency operations center during crisis situations or as a large training room for any of the city agencies.

**Official Project Name:** Beachwood Public Safety Center, Fire Station 2  
**Project City/State:** Beachwood, OH  
**Date Completed:** August 21, 2018  
**Fire Chief:** Steven Holtzman  
**Project Area (sq. ft.):** 27,000  
**Total Cost:** \$9,696,000  
**Cost Per Square Foot:** \$359  
**Architect/Firm Name:** LeMay Erickson Willcox Architects  
**Website:** lewarchitects.com  
**Design Team:** Architect: LeMay Erickson Willcox Architects; Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Cost Estimating: AECOM

building and include a four-story training tower with exterior balconies, an open interior stairwell, and adjacent roof levels to create a variety of training scenarios.

The city leadership, fire chief and police chief strongly valued the opportunity to provide a mixed-use public safety

