

Project Case Study:

Juvenile Corrections - Philadelphia Youth Center



Project Name Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center

Project Location Philadelphia, PA

Project Size 160,000 s.f. – 192 Bed Facility

Building Type Juvenile Detention Center for Pre-Adjudicated Youths

Green Built to Silver LEED Certification

Project Team Norix Group, Inc.

Philadelphia Department of Public Property

Department of Human Services Division of Juvenile Justice

KMD Architects

UCI Architects



Product List Attenda® Series Room Furniture

Hondo® Series Seating

Max-Master Tables®

Integra Series Seating

Ironman® ADA Shower Seat

Dura-Vision™ Convex Mirrors

CASE STUDY

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DESCRIPTION:

The city of Philadelphia planned a new Juvenile Justice Services Center, to replace the antiquated, 50 year-old Youth Study Center. "The old Youth Study center was well beyond its useful life," said James Lowe, project Director for the city's Department of Public Property. "Changes in the operations and types of services provided for today's youth necessitated spaces that are efficient in the delivery of those services." The JJSC serves as a juvenile detention center for pre-adjudicated youths aged 13-20, and allows them to attend school while in custody awaiting disposition of their cases.



OVERALL PROJECT GOAL / PHILOSOPHY

"The city of Philadelphia really wanted to provide a facility that would address the needs of the kids in Philadelphia," said Vern Almon, principal and senior justice planner at KMD Architects. "One of the design objectives was that it not look or feel confining, like a lot of other detention facilities."



The 5-acre site is located in an urban area, and the city felt the new facility should integrate architecturally with the two-story brick row houses that dominate the neighborhood.

Furnishings Goal: The new facility would serve adolescents, many of whom can exhibit behavioral issues. The city's objective was to create an environment conducive to learning, that also addressed vital safety and security concerns.

Secure/Safe Goal: Furniture that could be securely anchored to the floor or wall, with no gaps in construction to allow the concealment of contraband.

Functional Goal: Furniture that is extremely durable, with surfaces that are easy to clean and maintain. Furnishings should have rounded edges for safety and security.

Aesthetic Goal: Create an environment where form meets function – a residential educational setting with the necessary security component.

SELECTION PROCESS:

During the design phase, consultative sales specialists Joe Eustace and Dave MacKinnon presented furniture recommendations to the design team and decision makers from DHS/Juvenile Justice, consistent with the facility's operational requirements. Specifications were established with Norix Attenda® Series molded dormitory furniture as basis of design. Throughout the multiple phases of the project, the Norix sales specialists presented the transition team with a wide variety of furniture options for sleeping rooms, classrooms, dayrooms and dining areas. Hondo® Series seating was selected for the dayrooms – based on the comfort, durability and seamless construction – along with X-Based Tables and Integra chairs. Max-Master Tables® were selected for the dining areas for superior stability and security. Norix professional installation team installed the furnishings in the fall of 2012.

THE RESULT:

The \$110 million Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center opened in December 2012. The new facility has dormitory spaces for 192 juveniles, 10 classrooms for the educational programs directed by the School District of Philadelphia, two courtrooms with judges' chambers, and conference rooms for visitation and programs administered by social-services providers. It also includes a wellness clinic, gymnasium, outdoor recreation spaces and a garden (not typical in a detention environment).

"The facility is bright and cheerful while maintaining the safeguards and welfare of the community," said James Lowe. "This education-oriented juvenile facility focuses on providing spaces where youth counselors are given the technology and environment to utilize their skills in working with youth to encourage positive behaviors."

ABOUT NORIX GROUP:

For more than 25 years Norix has provided secure furnishings and fixtures for every application. The product line has expanded to include other industries and environments such as corrections, behavioral healthcare, transportation, educational institutions, fire/police stations, commercial facilities and military installations. All furniture is designed for safety, security and extreme durability. Norix intensive-use furniture is extraordinary by design, surpassing industry standards for strength, safety and long-term performance. The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL with sales representatives and dealers throughout the U.S. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators, and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments. For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit: www.norix.com.



[Norix Blog](#)



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

KMD Architects (Design Architects)

<http://www.kmdarchitects.com/>

UIC Architects

<http://www.uciarchitects.com/projects/philadelphia-juvenile-justice-services-center>

Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services

<http://www.juvenilejustice.org/>

Daniel J. Keating (General Contractor)

<http://www.djkeating.com/>

The Temple Group (Construction manager)

<http://www.thetemplegroup.com/>

NEWS ARTICLES:

<http://www.examiner.com/article/philadelphia-juvenile-justice-services-center-set-to-transform>

<http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/y/ysc/>