



New Toronto Courthouse

Amalgamating Toronto's Ontario Court of Justice Courts

NORR, in partnership with Renzo Piano Building Workshop as part of the EllisDon Infrastructure Team, were selected to design the new Toronto courthouse, which is currently under construction. Once completed, it will be the largest courthouse in Ontario. Situated in Toronto's downtown core, the new state-of-the-art facility amalgamates several existing facilities and will become a key element of the downtown civic precinct.

The collaborative design process has produced a strong architectural vision for the site by maximizing exterior public space, improving the streetscape and strengthening the links and relationship between the courthouse and the City's downtown core. In particular, a 20-meter-tall atrium enclosed by a highly transparent glazed facade creates an immediate and strong image which extends the public realm into the building and expresses the public nature of the courthouse within the City's downtown core. The project includes 63 courtrooms, as well as 10 conference settlement rooms. In-custody transport, prisoner holding facilities and security provisions are in accordance with provincial ministry standards. The design meets high standards of barrier-free accessibility and includes a number of specialty courts including drug, mental health, Indigenous and youth courts. Archeological discoveries as well as noteworthy aspects of the history of the site are displayed in the grade level public realm of the project, while the top levels feature a two-story landscaped courtyard surrounded by the judicial chambers, all under a roof of photo voltaic panels.

CLIENT	Infrastructure Ontario & Ministry of the Attorney General
PORTFOLIO	Justice
CATEGORY	Courthouse
SIZE	775,000 SF (72,000 SM)
LOCATION	Toronto, ON, Canada
DATE	2022
SERVICES	Architecture Interior Design

AWARDS

- 2020 AIA Justice Facilities Review Award
 - 2019 CCPPP's National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships - Silver
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Justice

Justice architecture demands multi-faceted design to uphold and express the legal process, and achieve efficient and functional operations, while maintaining a safe and secure environment. Our experience in the design of judicial buildings spans more than 30 years across all levels of government including courthouses, police facilities and detention and correctional centers.

Multi-Faceted Design to Meet All User Needs

Our Justice Center of Excellence continually advances design through research, technology and practice. We believe the key to effective judicial building design is a clear understanding of complex programs and changing processes to support all participants. Working collaboratively with users and stakeholders, we use both traditional and new techniques of visualization and simulation to communicate and collaborate in the design process.

Courthouses

The design of a new courthouse must be accessible, dignified, safe and functional. Detailed design of public circulation, waiting areas, settlement rooms, holding quarters and judicial chambers is undertaken to support the needs of the courts system. NORR has completed more than 50 courthouse projects including programming assessments, standards development, accessibility studies, renovations and new-build designs.

Police Facilities

The design of a police facility must respond to the increasing demands for service and security in an evolving world. Our Justice team works with multiple police organizations across the globe to realize designs that achieve efficiency, functionality, integrate technology and provide a safe environment for officers and the public that is integrated into the community they serve.

Detention and Correctional Centers

The design of a new detention or correctional center, or overhaul of an existing facility, must emphasize elements such as rigorous security standards, operational requirements, enhanced rehabilitation potential and adaptability for future growth and services. We manage all elements in close partnership with the client and community.

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