



Waterloo Region Courthouse

An integrated justice center inspired by nature

The distinct geological character of Ontario's Grand River influenced the curvilinear composition of the atrium, site landscape and material choices of the Waterloo Region Courthouse. The team used locally sourced stone and a wavelike layout of skylights and lighting to create a welcoming judicial building that frames a new civic plaza in downtown Kitchener.

The extensive three-story atrium provides daylight, orientation and public access deep into the heart of the 30-courtroom complex. This was the first court building in Canada required to meet stringent new structural standards for bomb blast protection. It features a multiple high security courtroom, criminal, civil, domestic, and juvenile courtrooms and hearing rooms, as well as support spaces for judicial staff, legal aid, probation and parole officers, and other public services. The project achieved LEED® Gold certification and incorporates internal flexibilities to accommodate future courtroom expansion.

CLIENT	Infrastructure Ontario & Ministry of the Attorney General
PORTFOLIO	Justice
CATEGORY	Courthouse
SIZE	426,500 SF (39,624 SM)
LOCATION	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON, Canada
DATE	January 2013
SERVICES	Architecture Structural Engineering Interior Design

AWARDS

- 2014 Ontario Masonry Design Award, Winner - Architectural Design (Provincial) Institutional category.
- 2014 Ontario Masonry Design Award, Winner - Architectural Design (Ontario West) Institutional category.
- 2013 Urban Design Awards (UDA), Award of Excellence - Civil Projects
- 2013 American Institute of Architects, Academy of Architecture for Justice, Award of Merit

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. NORR's experience in the design of judicial buildings spans more than 30 years across all levels of government including courthouses, police facilities and detention and correction centers.

Multi-Faceted Design to Meet All Users' Needs

Our Justice Center of Excellence is constantly sharing and advancing our knowledge through research, study and practice. We believe that the key to effective judicial building design lies in a clear understanding of complex programs and changing processes that supports all participants. Working collaboratively with users and stakeholders, NORR uses 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. NORR's 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 Correction 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. NORR's dedicated Justice team manages all elements in close partnership with the client and community.

CONTACT

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