JUSTICE+CIVIC

elevations

2016 Review
Wherever you have transitions in life, you’ll find a bridge to cross. Business is no different. 2016 was a year of both transition and milestones for DLR Group as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. Here are a few of our notable moments from our Justice+Civic Studio propelling us into 2017:

**Civic Responsibility**

Every year we continue to grow our long history and experience of leadership and success in our Justice-related project types (prisons, jails and courthouses). In fact, this year we proudly hold the distinction of being the [#1 ranked Court Design Firm in the U.S.](https://www.correctionalnews.com/article/140048). We also opened the door wider on the Civic side of our practice, as we took on projects to convert large government buildings into new administrative offices, including the City of Portland’s renovation of the iconic Michael Graves’ Portland Building. Joining with our Workplace Studio experts, we are excited to expand our Civic reach to match our Justice expertise by delivering unequaled working environments and community-based facilities.

**Eastern Growth**

Our family of experts grew this past year particularly along the eastern coast. With offices in New York, Washington D.C., and Charlotte, added to our seasoned Orlando team, we strategically knit together our services, with experts in Courts design and planning, specialists in Correctional facilities and an ever expanding Civic portfolio including Federal work and a large public safety master plan.

**Transcending Leadership**

I was honored to take the helm as Global Leader of our Justice+Civic Studio this October. Gratefully, I follow in the footsteps of the strong leadership of David Boehm, AIA who for the past 10 years positioned the Sector for success and expansion well into the future. You can read more about his legacy with DLR Group and the Justice+Civic marketplace in this [article in Correctional News](https://www.correctionalnews.com/article/140048).

We are proud to lead the dialogue in prison reformation, court innovation, juvenile rehabilitation, and civic transformation. Yes, it may be a year of transition, but we are building bridges to new Justice+Civic clients, and from one success to another. This is a great place to be as we continue to do what we do best -- serving our local, county, state, and federal clients in new and creative ways. Here’s to a great 2017.

- Darrell Stelling, AIA
  Global Justice+Civic Leader
Aligning the Juvenile Built Environment with Treatment Goals

The number of youth convicted and in custody today has decreased by an estimated 41% over the past 20 years, and that’s a good thing.
Most agencies agree that youth respond best to corrective intervention in community-based programs while remaining in their family home. When this intervention fails to achieve desired results, community-based programs, including housing, present a second tier option. If the individual fails to respond even in these programs, then they may face intervention that is more intensive in a corrections/detention facility.

by
Lori Coppenrath, LEED AP

The planning and design of these new facilities focus on positive outcomes by providing in-custody youth with appropriate housing and program space within a normative environment. The goal is not only to reduce stress, but also to avoid “institutionalizing” youth by dictating decisions and activities, rather than equipping them to make better decisions in the future. The more defined the treatment goals of the youth agency, the more specifically the design will respond to those goals.

In the case of the Oregon Youth Authority, they identified a treatment method known as Positive Human Development (PHD). The focus of PHD is to create constructive positive connections and participation: youth to youth, youth to staff, youth to community and staff to community. As the positive relationships grow, youth become more accountable and engage with others based on high expectations. Specific approaches and programs within this model include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Collaborative Problem-Solving, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Effective Practices in Community Supervision and Trauma-Informed Care.

To meet the goals of PHD, the design of the space works to improve outcomes for youth, reduce future victimization and maximize use of resources. These design elements include staff observation of youth, appropriate use of materials that contribute to youth safety, landscape area zoning providing a layered approach to transition from private to public areas, private enclosed courtyard space allowing youth to and with nature and the outdoor environment.

Exterior and interior design feels “normative” by using materials, furnishings and layout of spaces that communicates a comfortable environment while still providing the appropriate level of safety and security.

Working together with agencies and communities, the goal is to restore at-risk youth to the community by elevating their experience within these facilities, giving them the resources they need to become confident, contributing members of society.

Based in Seattle, Lori Coppenrath is a planning and programming expert.
The new 67,000 SF Jefferson County Courthouse, located in downtown Madras, bridges the community with City Hall on one side and residential neighborhoods to the other. DLR Group’s design responds to the site by locating the highly public functions and main entry facing City Hall and more private office areas facing the residential side. The courtrooms take their elevated place within the building on the second floor, allowing opportunity to bring natural daylight into the courtrooms. Strategic views to the outside, such as the judge’s ability to see the sky from his/her bench and long corridors ending at full-height windows, provide a day-lit connection for the public.
A Bridge in the Community
Elevating Justice through sustainable design.
Public agencies are finding creative ways to re-purpose their buildings as a win-win-win solution for government, building users, and the community at large. Several factors are driving this trend of adaptive reuse including aging building inventories, philosophies on justice, and a focus on sustainable practices. Click below to watch his video.

by
Bill Valdez, PE, DBIA
Health and Wellness for All Ages

Award winning rec-center is a point of pride for local Maryland community.
The Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex creates a safe place to be physically, mentally, and socially active, promoting its mission to improve health and wellness for all ages. The signature element of the design is a sweeping multi-colored arc of glass reflecting the surrounding neighborhood and is a testament to the community’s participation and pride in the facility. The design was named the Public Building of the Year by AIA Maryland.
Redesigning Courtroom Environments for Positive Outcomes

The structure of our society and its policies and viewpoints are ever evolving.
The justice paradigm is beginning to shift to solve these problems. Success requires political bipartisanship, reallocation of funding, programs with committed staff, and the right kinds of spaces designed to reinforce the process. Across the country, signs of this shift are emerging in the prison and jail systems. Now the courts system is following suit.

For example, the emerging trend in specialized services and courts for family, juvenile delinquency, mental health, drug, and veteran services requires new dialogue and design in programmatic functions. The architectural response creates new flexible spaces that directly address and respect the human experience of those who enter the courtroom.

So how can we design to augment this human transaction? We are designing environments to serve people who are there for a very specific business interaction. The environment can enable our citizens to have a more positive and improved experience. A respect and understanding of the individuals who will inhabit the space should alter what the spatial construct could be.

As a culture, we strive to improve the human experience, reduce waste, and elevate democracy. Similarly, our justice system needs to keep pace with the challenges that arise in pursuit of these goals. As our awareness of the importance of a physical environment to support our judicial process is elevated, we have to balance that with an expectation of economic efficiency. Central to the mission is the holistic care of the person in need.

I remember a courthouse tour that exemplified this very idea where alternative courtrooms and proceedings focused on improving outcomes by simply altering perceptions for a more personal interaction for all parties involved.

For example, in a drug courtroom, traditional proceedings would position the judge elevated above a defendant, standing at floor level. With a few modifications, the court proceedings can focus on humanizing the interactions. In this example, the traditional courtroom didn’t have the physical flexibility to alter the “court theater.” However, the judge chose to stand on the floor of the well, face-to-face with the defendant for a respectful and less threatening interaction. And the walls of the courtroom became a creative display to show case memorabilia of individual success stories of those who completed the program. The judge played a role much like a proud parent, thoughtfully disciplining, encouraging, and providing a plan for successful behavior. This change offered a more positive response from those involved and has improved the rate of successful completion of programs and reduced recidivism in the system.

In another example, the family courtroom environment may benefit from increasing the size or number of lecterns so that multiple parties represented have an equally weighted position to address the court within the courtroom well. These subtle changes to millwork and spatial adjustments to the courtroom well improve the quality of human interaction within the proceeding and reduce anxiety of the participants, while improving the efficiency of the proceedings.

These are healthy, positive examples of the new American court proceeding in specialized courts. But what should the courtroom look like? It may not be a one size fits all approach. Court designers are addressing the issue in order to elevate the human justice experience. The outcome facilitates the expedience of due process along with a focus on improving human response both during the proceedings and beyond.

I by
Ronok Nichols, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Based in Orlando, Ronok Nichols is a courts designer and planner.
1960 Structure Redefined

Adaptive reuse project delivers new home for public safety departments.
The City of Cheyenne commissioned DLR Group to help evaluate and select a new location to co-locate its municipal and county public safety departments. The design remolds a circa 1960's one-story auto dealership and adds two floors over its outdated 1960's west end addition. The vintage riveted steel column and truss structure with basement parking won city council favor to re-purpose the building for the new Cheyenne Public Safety Center.
Public safety officers live in a highly taxing environment, both emotionally and physically.
More and more, as designers of public safety facilities, agencies ask us to consider, recommend and incorporate ways to address and provide for officer wellness resources. We often assess how a police department can integrate resources and spaces to help deal with this trend toward a more holistic wellness program. So how are law enforcement and public safety facilities providing spaces for enhanced wellness that will elevate the human experience of our officers?

Just as building orientation is a no-cost common sense means of incorporating sustainable environmental goals, good tenets of design in public safety can assist in the battle for officer wellness. It begins with a dedicated staff entry that creates and represents a zone of safety and camaraderie where an officer knows the moment he or she crosses the threshold that this is a place designed with their needs in mind, secure from public or media intrusion. Access to natural light and good indoor air quality, including higher levels of oxygen can improve morale and absenteeism and drive optimism. New technology incorporated into offices can give real time measurement of relative humidity, indoor air quality, CO2, and volatile organic compounds. This technology provides peace of mind to occupants and potentially reinforces a sense of the police station as the officer’s place.

Beyond these passive and common sense approaches, dedicated spaces within public safety facilities are more frequently being developed as an approach to keeping officers healthy and minimizing down time due to physical or emotional fatigue. These may include quiet, low-light spaces for reflection that may serve double duty with sleep rooms for officers waiting for court times or following an incident-based trauma. Fitness rooms that combine physical fitness with access to daylight can greatly improve an officer’s outlook, along with improving physical fitness. Strong wellness programs combined with well-designed facilities create safe and secure environments that address the health and wellness of our officers.

Jake Davis leads the Justice+Civic studio in Chicago.
Madison Street Jail Adaptive Use | Phoenix, Ariz.

Madison Street Jail constructed in 1985, is a unique design opportunity to resurrect a decommissioned jail facility that has been vacant for 10 years and re-purpose through adaptive re-use as a Class A office building. DLR Group’s design reconnects the building to the urban context and in the process enhances the urban street and pedestrian environment.

Sonoma County Adult Detention Behavioral Health Unit | Santa Rosa, Calif.

The County of Sonoma is addressing the ever-changing population needs with a vision to provide a physical environment directly supportive of the therapeutic programs currently in place for both staff and inmates alike. The primary focus is a therapeutic health care environment with a custody overlay. The facility is organized around a secure landscaped courtyard creating an inward focused nature-based community environment with increased daylighting, improved acoustics, and expanded programming space. The goal is to reduce recidivism through evidence-based programs and treatment that will allow inmate-patients to flourish once they re-enter the community.

Oregon Youth Authority MacLaren Youth Facility | Woodburn, Ore.

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is positively transforming the lives of youth. DLR Group assisted OYA to envision new criteria for how youth should live, learn, and heal. The resulting Master Plan and Phase 1 concept plan provides improved facilities across nine OYA campus locations resulting in physical environments that support the implementation of the Youth Reformation System and Positive Human Development initiatives for youth and staff.
Energy + Engineering Solutions

Do more with less
Enhance building performance to lower operating costs. Improve indoor environmental quality to increase comfort and productivity.

DLR Group believes all spaces should be sustainably designed, high performance buildings. Our focus is to reduce energy use through design and improve building performance, and then incorporate renewable systems to produce energy on site.

The new Everett Municipal Court revitalizes the image of city government in Everett, Wash. Our sustainable design allows for decreased utility usage, which is always a fiscally responsible avenue when utilizing taxpayer funds. DLR Group also used innovative systems to assist in improving the experience of visiting and working within this judicial building. Not only is the building LEED Silver, the design is having a significant impact on comfort, productivity, and operational savings.

Solar is not the only opportunity to reduce your operational expenses. DLR Group's full suite of engineering experts provide design, commissioning, and energy efficiency services for the complete life cycle of your building.

- 28 EUI Ultra-Low Energy Building by NBI Classification
- 50% ENERGY reduction per Energy Star Target Finder for region
- 31% REDUCTION of potable water from baseline
- 23% RECYCLED material supports municipal goals
Awards

**Pueblo County Justice Center**  
Pueblo, Colo.  
Justice Facility Review Award  
AIA Academy of Architecture for Justice

**Calaveras County Courthouse**  
San Andreas, Calif.  
Award of Merit,  
Best of California Government/  
Public Buildings  
Engineering News Record  
Award of Merit, Sustainability  
AIA Central Valley (CA)  
Honor Design Award  
AIA Central Valley (CA)
DLR Group celebrated its 50th birthday on April 1, 2016. During the year, each office hosted an open house for local clients, partners, and alumni. Each office also closed for a day of service. In total, DLR Group employee-owners donated more than 6,000 hours to their local communities.

DLR Group expanded its geographic reach in 2016. The firm opened international offices in Dubai and Nairobi, a new office in Houston, and consolidated our Santa Monica and Pasadena locations in a new downtown Los Angeles office.

On September 20, DLR Group CEO Griff Davenport announced the acquisition of Westlake Reed Leskosky, ARCHITECT Magazine’s #1 ranked firm in 2014, and #2 in 2016, WRL brings market leading Performing Arts, Museum, and Healthcare practices and adds depth to the integrated services of DLR Group.

Practicing as DLR Group|Westlake Reed Leskosky in Arizona, Ohio, and the Northeast; as DLR Group|Sorg|Westlake Reed Leskosky in Washington, D.C.; and as DLR Group across the U.S. and around the globe, more than 1,000 design professionals stand ready to provide you with an unmatched depth of integrated design services and focused market expertise.