

MeritAward

COMMERCIAL REMODELING

Saving Grace

Gutted by fire in 1989, this 88-year-old masonry structure was slated for demolition before local developer Fred Fairfield, a former member of the building's original tenant, the Boy's Club of Boston, bought it. To help finance the renovation, Fairfield secured a historic designation for the structure. Along with funds, though, the designers at Luna Design Group received the added challenge of required historic sensitivity with all exterior improvements.

Those designers saw that the entryway needed to be reoriented to compensate for shifts in the street layout over time, so they designed an addition that seamlessly integrates with the existing structure with matching brick, cast stone, pre-patinated copper, and ornamental metal.

The judges cited not only the material choices but also the proportioning of the addition that "adds on without ruining the scale" as notable elements. They also appreciated the designers' creativity within the bounds of the historic renovation, particularly citing how the new entryway lends a subtle "contemporary flair" to the structure. "The addition creates interest in the large, plain municipal building but still shows respect for the original architect," one judge said. —C.W.

Category: Commercial remodeling, over \$250,000
Location: Roxbury, Mass.
Contractor: Mark DiNapoli, Suffolk Construction, Boston
Designer: Joseph L. Luna and Luis Lobao, Luna Design Group, Lynnfield, Mass.

