

# DURRANT DESIGN IS ATTRACTIVE SOLUTION TO GROWING PRISONER POPULATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7/11/07

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Madison, Wisconsin—Durrant, an internationally recognized architecture, engineering and construction management firm, is pleased to announce the completion of one of the largest justice centers in the Midwest, the Winnebago County Justice Center, north-west of Chicago in Rockford, Illinois.

The complex, which measures just shy of 588,000 square feet on a 12-acre downtown site, opened its doors earlier this month to county staff, residents and inmates alike. With over 1,200 beds, secure underground parking, four secure courtrooms with necessary related functions and new Sheriff's offices, the facility houses multiple areas law enforcement and county functions in a single building. To facilitate coordination, the Justice Center will also soon be connected to other nearby county buildings via an underground tunnel.

The need for additional correctional space in Winnebago County arose in response to a growing number of incarcerations throughout the County. Following a needs assessment, master plan and conceptual design, Durrant assisted Winnebago County in a successful jail bond referendum to fund the new County Justice Center that would meet the growing needs of the county, yet blend into the city fabric of downtown Rockford.

Durrant delivered a unique solution that integrates the building into the surrounding City landscape. The project site sits at the edge of the Downtown district and the complex is next to several low to mid-rise structures along with a transitional residential neighborhood. The complex of buildings is positioned away from the street edge to ease the transition from the urban environment to the less-dense residential neighborhood and features a pedestrian friendly park-like plaza at the southeast corner. This strategy, along with varying the mass of the building components of the complex, contributes to the warm, friendly feel of this large County justice center. Of course, this was accomplished while maintaining a secure perimeter and responding to homeland security concerns as a result of 9/11.

The palette of materials chosen for the exterior of the complex were meant to be warm in color, scaled appropriately to pedestrian users and inviting.

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The abundant use of glass and day lighting throughout the facility makes the environment worker friendly and approachable while the use of buff colored precast concrete and terra-cotta colored masonry gives a warm glow that blends well with the surrounding structures. Generous glass and masonry canopies celebrate the building entrances for users and staff and a glass atrium provides public access to the Sheriff and court facilities.

In addition to architectural design, Durrant also provided engineering design and construction administration. The County benefited from Durrant's in-house capabilities offering complete coordination through online communication and public meeting forums for a series of design charrettes that made the process more effective and assisted in gaining public support.

Beyond traditional services, Durrant's Data Center Design Studio provided information technology and information systems design which features include a 2,000 square foot data center, video visitation, video arraignment, multiple data rooms, courtroom audio-visual technology, building wiring infrastructure and Jail Management Software coordination.

With more than 200 justice projects over the last ten years totaling more than \$3 billion in construction costs and 20 million square feet, Durrant is a leader in justice facility design. The firm is specifically familiar with downtown justice center projects, having been involved with the construction of Milwaukee's secure detention facility, a modern nine-story tower as well as the renovation of the Maricopa County jail in the heart of Phoenix, Arizona.

At Durrant, design is our passion and our clients are our inspiration. We fuse expertise with innovation to deliver vibrant and functional designs, positively shaping the community and our environment. Durrant has been a leader in the A/E/C industry for nearly 75 years, and our 11 locations offer complete services for the built environment worldwide.

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