



ENGINE 38 FIRE STATION

4931 Magee Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2009-2012

Client: City of Philadelphia Department of
Public Property

Gross Floor Area: 12,000 sf

Structural: Ann Rothmann Structural
Engineer

MEP: MP Hershman

Landscape Architecture: Viridian Landscape
Studio

Civil: Meliora Environmental Design

General Contractor: Little Builders

Photography: Halkin Mason Photography

The City of Philadelphia was faced with the need to replace the Fire Department's Engine 38 fire station in the City's Tacony neighborhood. The site for the new station is in Tacony's Disston Park, and the building is sited in such a way as to allow the park space to pass continuously around the new station building.

The resulting 11,000 square foot facility has primary Fire Department functions on a first floor with apparatus bays and apron facing Magee Avenue. Other Fire Department functions are arranged in a surrounding u-shape. The community room and support spaces are at the second floor and more-or-less level with the existing park.

Marrying the community room to the surrounding park landscape is a sizable, inviting front porch that allows functions to expand into the outdoors. The building design brings together in contemporary construction the notions of significant civic presence, Victorian scale and context, and rich early industrial history of the neighborhood within a rare expanse of urban green space.