

# Steinbach Firehall

Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada

## Cost Consultant

GWH Construction Management Services Ltd.

## Architect

Harold Funk Architect, Inc.

The Steinbach Fire Hall represents a major expansion to an existing fire hall facility in Steinbach, Manitoba. The new building incorporates a significant portion of the original structure through selective demolition and adaptive reuse. The blend between the old and new structures was achieved seamlessly and the result is a simple but elegant structure that will meet the needs of the community for many decades to come.

The design was developed in a collaborative process between the design team led by Harold Funk Architect Inc., and the City of Steinbach's Fire Department and City Representatives. The goal was to upgrade the capacity and efficiency of the existing facility in order to meet the needs of the rapidly growing community. Emphasis was also placed on creating a state-of-the-art training facility that would attract new recruits to the volunteer department, while also providing 'hang-out' spaces to facilitate the community-building activities conducted by the department.

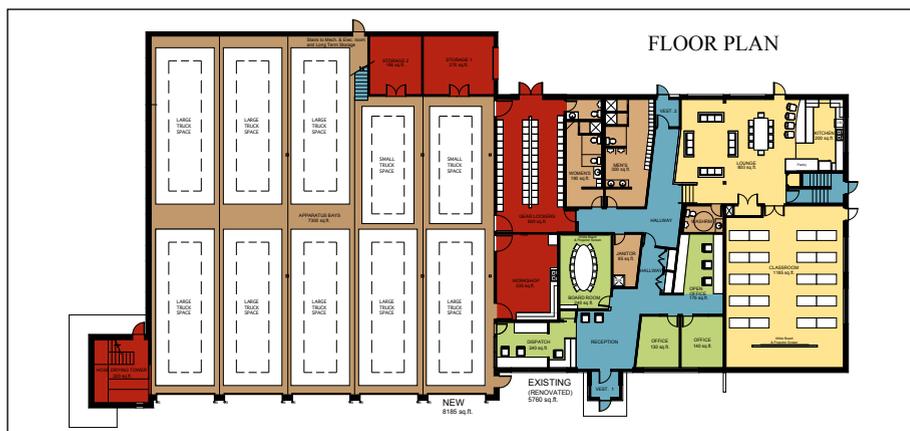
The existing truck-bays were reconfigured into new offices, a control room, washrooms, workshop and gear rooms, whereas the existing administrative area was reconfigured into a large light-filled classroom and open-planned kitchen, dining and lounge area. The existing basement is now used for department training drills and a gym.

The new fire hall provides a visual terminus to the downtown by accentuating the corner location of the hose-tower, which serves as an anchor to Main Street and a symbol of civic importance in the community. The tower also serves a functional role as a location for drying fire-hoses and is equipped with a staircase, doors and exterior landing for department training exercises.

At the request of the fire-department, glass doors (low-E) with Tyndall® Stone arches were incorporated to show-case the fire trucks to the community, drawing attention to the five new double-deep truck bays. The bays are filled with natural light and feature radiant in-floor heating, providing rapid and even reheating of the space when doors are opened for emergency calls during winter months. Floor drainage is provided by one-inch wide 'slot-drains' in each truck bay, providing good drainage without the drawbacks of conventional trench-drains.



Courtesy of Gareth Simons



The firehall had to remain completely operational for the duration of construction, which necessitated that the new portion was completed prior to commencing work on the existing portion. This provided some logistical challenges, but was successfully implemented by the Contractor.

Both the new and existing exterior concrete masonry walls were finished with a new 4-inch barrier of rigid insulation, and a mix of concrete masonry, Tyndall Stone and metal cladding veneers. Combined with large amounts of daylight and efficient use of Mechanical and Electrical systems, the result is a high-performance air-tight building.

As a small community it was vital to maintain tight budget control and reuse the administration area and basement from the original fire hall. Completed in April 2009, both community objectives were fulfilled with the new Steinbach Firehall that is a blend of old and new in a new, modern facility.

### Product Information

Roofing: Soprema  
Building Envelope: Henry Glass: PPG  
Architectural Aluminum: Alumaticor

### Extended Product Information

Glass: PPG  
See advertisement on page 3.