



CAREER  
**NOTABLE**

## Fire Station No. 37

Houston, Texas

More than just a place of work, Fire Station No. 37 is a home away from home to our city of Houston firefighters and a cultural, environmental and safety beacon for its community. In the heart of Bellaire, this new station replaced the 1950's two-bay obsolete station blocks away. Poised with site challenges such as a tight site, polluted structures and recent change in flood plain (requiring FFE 12 above the 500-year elevation), the architect and team worked early in the process to maximize site usage while creating sustainable features outside and in. Stormwater filtration and collection thru the use of rain tanks underneath the parking were provided to allow for on-site detention while providing maximum fire truck access and operations. Other sustainable features include low-flow

fixtures, no-VOC materials, use of recycled/regional materials, 14.7% efficient HVAC and cool roof.

A unique aspect of the station is also its public-art commission, which dedicated 1.75% of construction costs to art. Jeff Smith designed two beautiful abstract pieces — the front or public one and the back private piece. The front-entry design abstracts a collage of a fire hose, fire helmet, water droplets and other iconic fire elements into a beautiful colorful piece, while the back tree with a squirrel gives the fire fighters the nostalgic remembrance of the old fire station trees and the squirrel they personally cared for throughout their years there. This project exemplifies a true collaboration of art, architecture, sustainability, functionality and aesthetics.

### NATEX Architects

Design Team: M. Carolina Weitzman, LEED AP, Principal in Charge; Jesus Martinez, Project Manager; Gilbane Inc., Contractor; Henderson Rogers Inc., Structural Engineer; DBR Inc., MEP Engineer; Rekha Inc., Civil/Surveying; Lauren Griffith Associates, Landscape Architect; DBR Inc., Commissioning Agent  
 Fire Chief: Phil Boriskie (at time of completion)  
 Project Area: 10,800 sq. ft.  
 Total Cost: \$5.2 million  
 Cost Per Square Foot: \$480  
 Completion Date: September 2009

