



Crowned by the Richmond Fire-Rescue logo debossed into the cast-in-place concrete, the hall's hose tower at once designates the function of this public safety facility and stands as a beacon for the city's civic precinct. The massing and material expression of Richmond Fire Hall No.1 Brighthouse reflect its dual role as a four-bay facility with dormitory quarters for 14 firefighters, as well as the administrative headquarters for all Richmond Fire-Rescue operations.

The hose tower serves the traditional function of drying hoses, but is also designed as a valuable training infrastructure, offering firefighters an array of typical building conditions for practice exercises—balcony with sliding door, bedroom window, and stairs. Additionally, an expansive patio off Level

3 provides another area for ladder- and ground-based training operations.

In the apparatus bay, 16-foot tall bi-fold doors were specified on the exit side of the drive-through bays for maximum safety performance, offering drivers an unmistakably clear response path out of the hall and into the flow of traffic (some drivers have been known to try exiting the bay while conventional roll-up doors are still in the process of being raised, inadvertently colliding with the doors, causing damage and a delay in response time). The new fire poles were rendered in brass for a symbolic continuity with the pole in the original hall.

Internal organization of the facility makes turnout time paramount—layout of dormitory rooms and firefighter support spaces are arranged for optimum emergency response, and for visual access to the apparatus bay. Sleeping quarters are arranged around a core of washrooms and feature one sliding pole at each side. Firefighters emerging from their beds and into the corridor follow clear and direct paths to these points of descent, aided by floor-to-ceiling windows at hallway ends that offer clear views to the apparatus bay below.



**Official Project Name:** Richmond Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1  
**Project City/State:** Vancouver, BC, Canada  
**Date Completed:** July 16, 2018  
**Fire Chief:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Project Area (sq. ft.):** 25,240  
**Total Cost:** \$18,295,000  
**Cost Per Square Foot:** \$724.84  
**Architect/Firm Name:** HCMA Architecture + Design  
**Website:** hcma.ca  
**Design Team:** Darryl Condon, Managing Principal; Jay Lin, Associate, HCMA Architecture + Design; Steve DiPasquale, Architect, HCMA Architecture + Design



**Official Project Name:** Cambie Fire Hall No. 3 and Ambulance Services  
**Project City/State:** Richmond, BC, Canada  
**Date Completed:** April 27, 2017  
**Fire Chief:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Project Area (sq. ft.):** 26,000  
**Total Cost:** \$16,000,000  
**Cost Per Square Foot:** \$615  
**Architect/Firm Name:** DGBK Architects, Additional Firms: Assembly Architecture (Now S2 Architecture)  
**Website:** s2architecture.com  
**Design Team:** Assembly Architecture (now S2 Architecture): Robert Lange, Principal; DGBK Architects: Amy Cheung, Senior Architect; Peter Sickert, Associate; Walter Dales, Senior Technologist; Kevin Leung, Technologist; Stephanie Matkaluk, Intern Architect, Interior Designer, BAID; Larry Mac, Intern Architect; S2 Architecture: Linus Murphy, Principal

The new fire hall is the first combined urban fire and ambulance station in British Columbia. The facility consists of two bays for ambulance vehicles, two bays for fire rescue vehicles, two emergency vehicle technician bays and support spaces include recovering rooms, training classrooms, administrative spaces, kitchens and exercise space.



This project represents the type of design response we are passionate about. The term response being fundamental to providing the client with a solution that satisfies their functional and operational needs but does not lose sight of design integrity.

As a fire station, the building has very specific functions that are critical and measurable. As a building, it must fulfill additional, more notional concerns. The design fulfills the practical functions of fire response, firefighter training and

provision of a comfortable living and working environment where inhabitants spend a good part of their day and night. It seeks to do this in a way that is not pretentious, not superficial and not exorbitant. It solves the functional criteria with a practical approach.

As a building that carries the responsibility of providing a neighborhood service, the design was also crafted around issues we felt were important to the



representation of the building. These included: security; safety; standing as beacon and anchor for the neighborhood; and expressing its purpose.

The design acknowledges the representational language of a fire station but attempts to reinvent and reinterpret this. Visibility is used to provide views of the fire apparatus, and truck bays, the clearest and most compelling representation of the building's purpose. The building looks out over the neighborhood to provide a sense of protection. The design evolved from a response that listened carefully to the client's needs and provided an architectural expression that was rooted in a concern for the quality of the built form.

