



Project Title: Dilworth Park

Client: Center City District

Built ☒ **Unbuilt** ☐

Completion Date: 2014

Cost/Budget: Withheld **Sq.Ft:** 175,000 SF

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Type: Civic Park & Transportation Hub

AIA Philadelphia



DILWORTH PARK

The public space bordering Philadelphia's City Hall has been transformed into a fresh landmark that re-captures city founder William Penn's original vision for a welcoming town square.



BEFORE

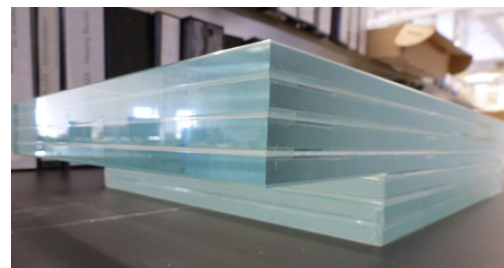
Originally built in the 1970s as part of an urban renewal initiative, the earlier design for Dilworth Park was plagued by hard surfaces, walls, barriers and inexplicable changes in elevation. The renovation of Dilworth Park restores its stature as a place of great civic engagement, while bringing the urban infrastructure of its transporation network into the modern day.

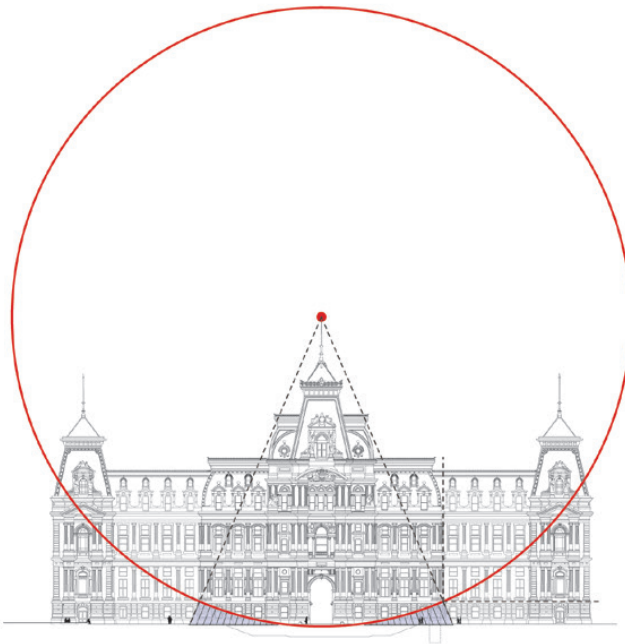


SITE PLAN



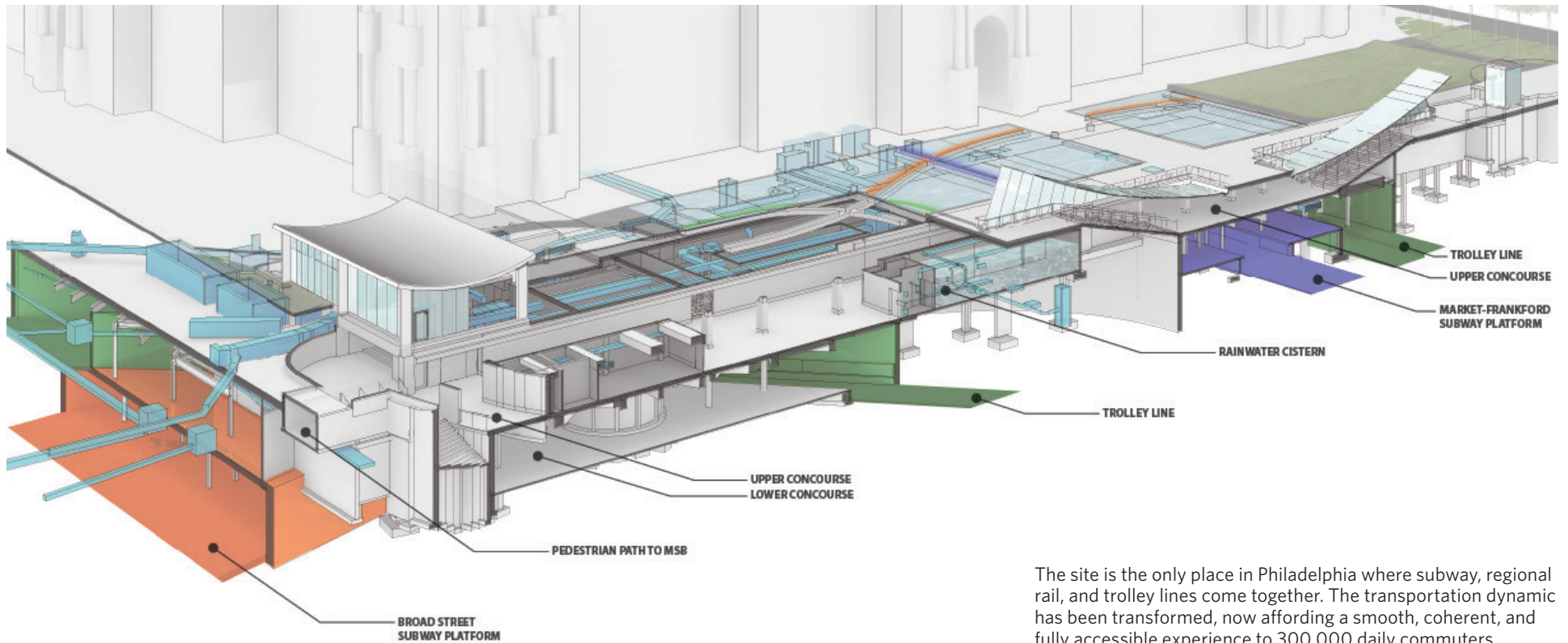
Two large glass pavilions signal their entrance to four levels of public transit below. They are constructed solely out of uninterrupted laminated structural glass as an homage to the singular materiality of City Hall, which is one of the nation's largest examples of all-stone masonry.





The pavilions are 20 feet in height and span the 17-foot width of the stair access to the transit hub. They are defined by the arc of a circle that completes itself at the top of the west facade of City Hall, creating an elegant frame for a line of sight that remains intact down the length of busy Market Street.

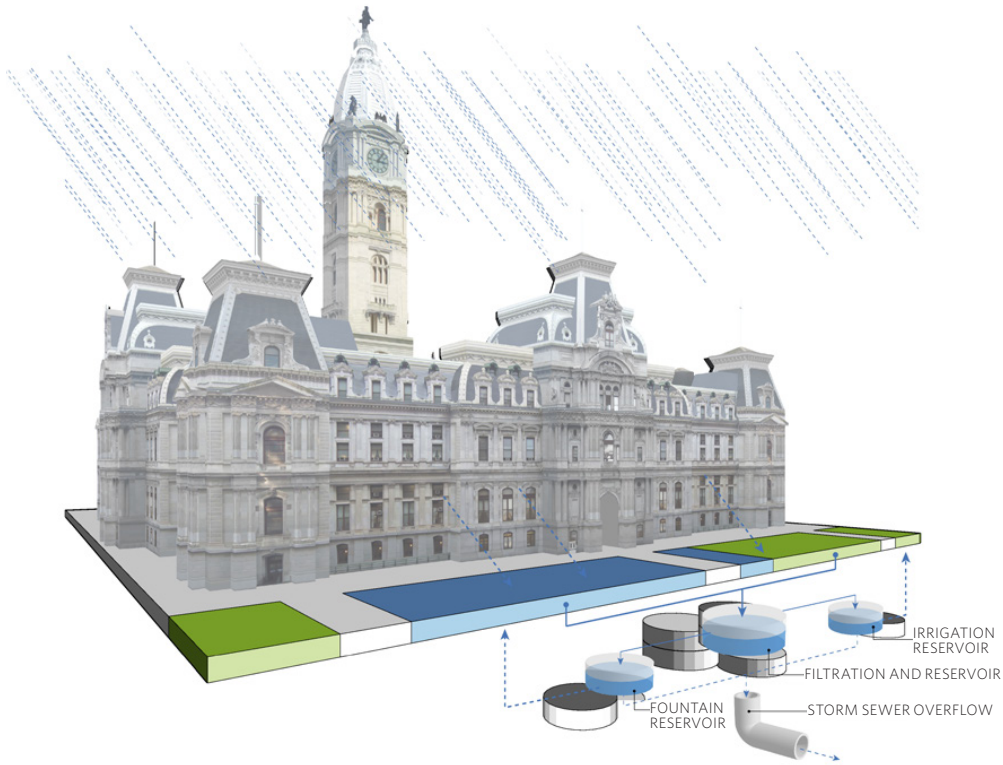




The site is the only place in Philadelphia where subway, regional rail, and trolley lines come together. The transportation dynamic has been transformed, now affording a smooth, coherent, and fully accessible experience to 300,000 daily commuters.



Before, the concourse was dark, uninviting, and exposed to the elements. Now, pedestrians are protected from inclement weather and are able to see clearly. Illuminated access points and a new way-finding system also contribute to safer and clearer passage.



The park includes a splash fountain in honor of the site of Philadelphia's first water works and public fountain. The 180x60-foot fountain is housed within the single-grade granite surface of the park. It is made up of "pixels" that can be programmed to make way for events such as farmers markets, performances, and an ice skating rink in winter. The fountain system cycles collected and purified rainwater, which is also used to irrigate the greenery on site.





The 21,000 SF of new plantings consist of native Pennsylvania trees, hardy all-season shrubs, and ornamental groundcovers and grasses such as switch grass and fragrant low-grow sumac. Verdant alcoves in the landscape provide peaceful respite in the midst of bustling city activity.



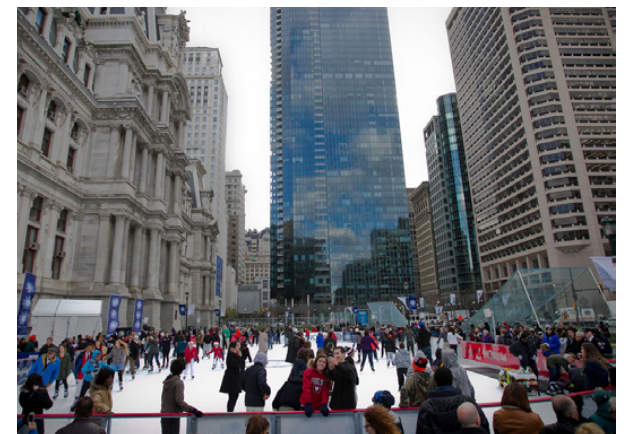
Low stone walls allow for impromptu seating while creating groves that separate the park from the street, forming smaller-scaled spaces such as the café terrace and lawn panel.



The café and its terrace are located at the north end of the site for optimal sunlight. Its roof reflects the geometry of the curving site walls. The structure also houses a visitor center that provides information on upcoming events, such as yoga classes, concerts, or outdoor movies.



The new park reinforces the center of William Penn's original plan for Philadelphia as a place where people from diverse backgrounds are welcome to convene, observe, and enjoy the vitality of the city. In planning, the team acknowledged the site as both a gathering place and a crossroads.





Operating in a network of newly rehabilitated urban green spaces along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Dilworth Park fosters a sense of arrival and destination to all.