DIXWELL FIRE STATION

Location: New Haven, CT
Client: New Haven Fire Department
Area: 15,715 gsf
Construction Cost: $600,000
Completion: 1974

This building, on a corner at the edge of downtown New Haven, is big in scale but simple in form -- it contains big elements in a simple bulk. The program requires conventional facilities for a fire station, including a six-truck apparatus room, auxiliary spaces, and living quarters for firemen. The building is located diagonally on the site to permit efficient egress by the trucks and to have the living quarters face south.

The letters on the facade identify it in the traditional manner of civic buildings, but when the letters reach the corner the wall breaks away and cantilevers to make a kind of brick signboard. The corner of the building is rounded to soften its diagonal placement and to tie the two street facades together. The polychromatic brick pattern on the front enriches the facade and enhances its quasi-civic scale. At the same time, changes in color and detailing give the low building the traditional bottom, mid-level and top.