

GUILD HOUSE REHABILITATION

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Client: Friends Neighborhood Guild

Area: 66,000 sf

Construction Cost: \$9,768,000

Completion: 1964; 2009 (rehabilitation)

In 2009, VSBA completed rehabilitation of the landmark Guild House, one of the firm's earliest built works, designed nearly 45 years prior.

Guild House was designed to serve the elderly -- without steps, with door lever handles throughout, and bathroom grab bars. Although the structure was originally designed for wheelchair access, we modified five apartments to meet current accessibility requirements, and we equipped two units for hearing and visually impaired residents. On the first floor we located a common accessible laundry room. New amenities include offices for a social worker and visiting

care providers and a Wellness Room with exercise equipment, ping pong and pool tables, a large screen TV, and interactive fitness video games.

Our rehabilitation provided new systems throughout for heating and cooling, automatic sprinklers, fire alarm, and emergency lighting; a new security call system to the manager's office and front door; a new emergency notification system with ADA compliant pull-cord devices in all units; electrical upgrades such as new digital accessibility wiring and devices for telephone, Internet, and TV access for all apartments; and external cameras.

Exterior repairs included replacement of worn original aluminum windows with new units -- including insulated low-emittance glazing for improved thermal performance -- replacement of damaged bricks, and the addition of horizontal control joints at relieving angles. Exterior paint colors for balconies and air conditioner covers were restored to analogous brick colors. The iconic "GUILD HOUSE" sign was restored to its original font and color scheme.





Renovated front facade

“GUILD HOUSE was designed not as a Le Corbusierian slab in a park but along a street, right up to the sidewalk, in an ordinary urban setting – as a building with openings as windows in walls, in brick rather than concrete, with an opening as an arch and with a compositional duality at the entrance, with a big column in its center rather than a minimalist column. Also it contains a sign almost commercial in its quality!” — Robert Venturi



Sixth floor gathering area