

BRONX HOUSING COURT / CIVIL COURT OF NEW YORK

Bronx, New York, USA

RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS



April 2016

The Bronx Housing Court was built on a narrow, mid-block lot in the Special Grand Concourse Preservation District in the Bronx, New York, an area which is famous for its Art Deco and Art Moderne apartment buildings and civic landmarks such as the Bronx County Building and the Bronx General Post Office. In concert with these iconic neighboring buildings, the new Bronx Housing Court stands as a model for how to integrate a modern structure with a large and complex program into a sensitive urban context.

The Bronx Housing Court building comprises two volumes—a five-story main volume at ground level, matching in height the adjacent apartment block to the south, contains the 13 courtrooms and other public areas; a narrower six-story tower rises out of this main volume and is set back from the construction line to align with the neighboring structure to the north. The tower contains judges' chambers and other non-public spaces, including the judges' library. A clock, rendering in abstract stainless steel, is mounted on the façade of the extruded volume that houses judges' chambers and is canted slightly to face vehicular traffic crossing the Harlem River from Manhattan into the Bronx.

FACTS + FIGURES

Completion

1997

Size

6,970 gsm

Awards

Professional Service Award, City of New York Department of Design and Construction, 1993

Media Coverage

New York Sun, "New Life on Grand Concourse Avenue," January 2006

Awards

Winner, Professional Service Award, City of New York Department of Design and Construction, 1993

Client

New York City Department of Design and Construction

Consultants

MEP Engineer

Syska Hennessy

Structural Engineer

Severud Associates

Court Planning

Walter H. Sobel

Graphics Consultant

Wojciechowski Design

Lighting Designer

Syska Hennessy

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