



Fort Edmonton Park allows the contrasting tension between urban and rural development to be on display by the intentional arrangement of streets and buildings beside active farms and working industry.



Accessibility within the park and into the buildings and displays is seamlessly integrated in a manner reflective of the era: including boardwalks, washrooms, and amenities to support an inclusive environment for the benefit of all ages.

FORT EDMONTON PARK

Fort Edmonton Park, located in Edmonton's river valley, is a heritage theme park featuring historic and replica buildings arranged and programmed to engage visitors through representations of urban form relevant to significant eras of Edmonton's past.

Recent rehabilitation efforts required a significant review not only of aging structures and site infrastructure, but of the public realm experience, site accessibility and visitor safety. The resulting upgrades to the park enhance the user experience, creating seamless interventions that prolong the life of the buildings while allowing visitors of diverse ages and abilities safe access to experience spaces that provide insight into our shared heritage.

Working closely with the City of Edmonton, Construction Managers, Heritage Planners, and other interested parties allowed the interventions to the park to carefully balance historic authenticity with current best practices in public realm access. Research and utilization of traditional building techniques is showcased through timber joinery, stretched-skin window coverings, forged iron-work, and the reintroduction of once-forgotten log-chinking recipes. New washroom facilities were introduced alongside improved walking connections while previously inaccessible spaces are available for exploration or use as public venues with modern accessibility, life-safety, lighting, and mechanical systems.

Overall, the project has given Fort Edmonton a renewed lease on life, offering a more comprehensive educational experience within these existing, cherished assets. The rehabilitation prioritized preservation and retention as much as possible, downplaying or contrasting necessary upgrades in ways that respect authenticity and reinforce the feeling of stepping onto a street in 1885, 1905, or 1920 or exploring the labyrinth of a fur-trading 1840s fort along the banks of the North Saskatchewan.



Each structure required a unique approach in context of program, construction methodologies, and state of repair; yet, all come together to form a tapestry to represent the huge step forward Edmonton was taking in the 1880s.



Upgrades to meet current safety standards allow visitors to engage and experience spaces that were previously closed off or unsuitable for the general public.



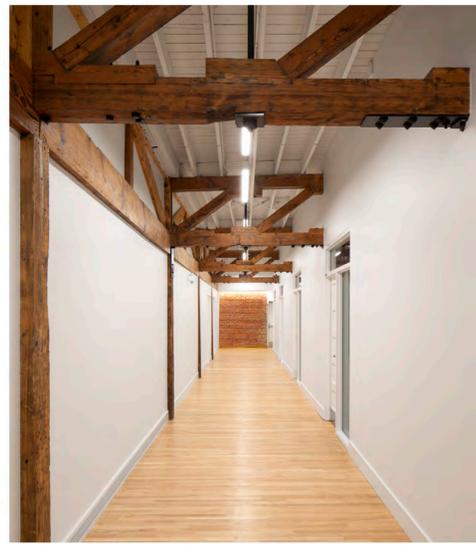
The meandering experience through the fort provides opportunities for delight and discovery.



Traditional building techniques and material patina allow visitors an appreciation for how the original fort was truly built.



Exterior heritage details preserved in the design.



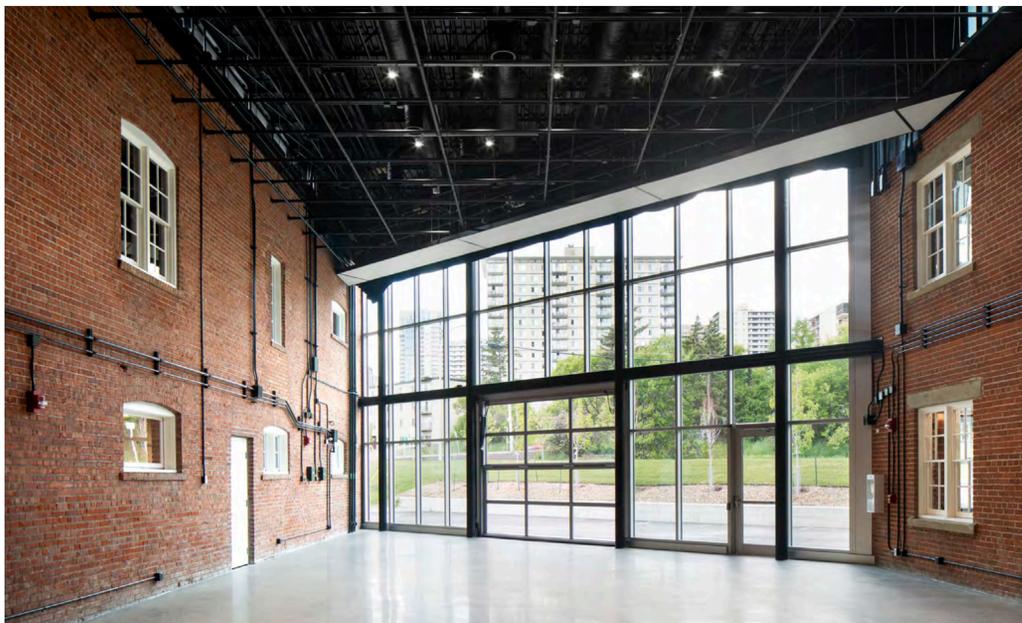
Interior heritage details preserved in the design.



Rendering of exterior plaza.



Studio space.



Interior courtyard that opens to the exterior plaza.



Plaza at night.



Ortona Armoury Rehabilitation

Heritage Projects - Revitalization & Conservation

The Ortona Armoury Rehabilitation is a comprehensive renewal of a municipally designated historic resource in Edmonton's Rosedale neighbourhood. Originally built in 1914 for the Hudson's Bay Company, the building has since served diverse roles—from industrial warehouse to naval base to its most enduring identity as a vibrant arts hub for the past 40 years.

Recognizing its cultural and architectural significance, the City of Edmonton acquired and designated the building as a historic resource in 2004. Its heritage value lies not only in its historical fabric but also in its deep connection to Edmonton's artistic community, which has long animated its spaces.

This rehabilitation project restores and reimagines the Armoury with architectural sensitivity and ambition. Core interventions include the restoration of historic windows, abatement of hazardous materials, improved energy performance and comprehensive upgrades to meet contemporary building codes. The project balances preservation with innovation, carefully distinguishing new interventions from the original structure while supporting long-term functionality.

Adaptive reuse is central to this project. The former courtyard is enclosed with a contemporary glazed infill, offering the occupants much-needed performance space and adaptability to fulfill their shifting program needs. In addition, this space offers a convivial meeting space for resident artists, fostering a coming together of cultural perspectives and a cross-pollination of worldviews to enhance the community's experience. The glazed infill improves the building's energy efficiency while also critically celebrating the heritage material culture.

The design delivered a restrained and legible material palette, a strategy to foreground the heritage material culture in the experience of the architecture. Where possible, original wood structure, flooring, and cladding were exposed and reconditioned as a key animator in the everyday use of the spaces. The original masonry was also highlighted similarly. New insertions were strategically designed with a different material and tectonic presence in order to make legible the interplay between existing and new.

The project thoughtfully integrates with the public realm through new landscaping, outdoor amenities, and pedestrian links. These elements support year-round programming and align with the City's River Crossing plan, contributing to Rosedale's future as a cultural and civic destination.



Top image: Exterior of building.
Bottom image: Site section.