

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT NORTH

LAVALLEE BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS

Hillsborough County Superior Court North - Architectural Design Narrative

Project Data

Existing Facility:
Original Construction 1969
3 story/77,825 SF +/-
Steel Frame, Granite Veneer

Proposed Improvements:
Complete renovation and reconfiguration of
existing space

Proposed Renovations and Additions:
90,672 SF

Proposed Schedule Includes:
Proposed Completion: September 2011

Design Intentions:

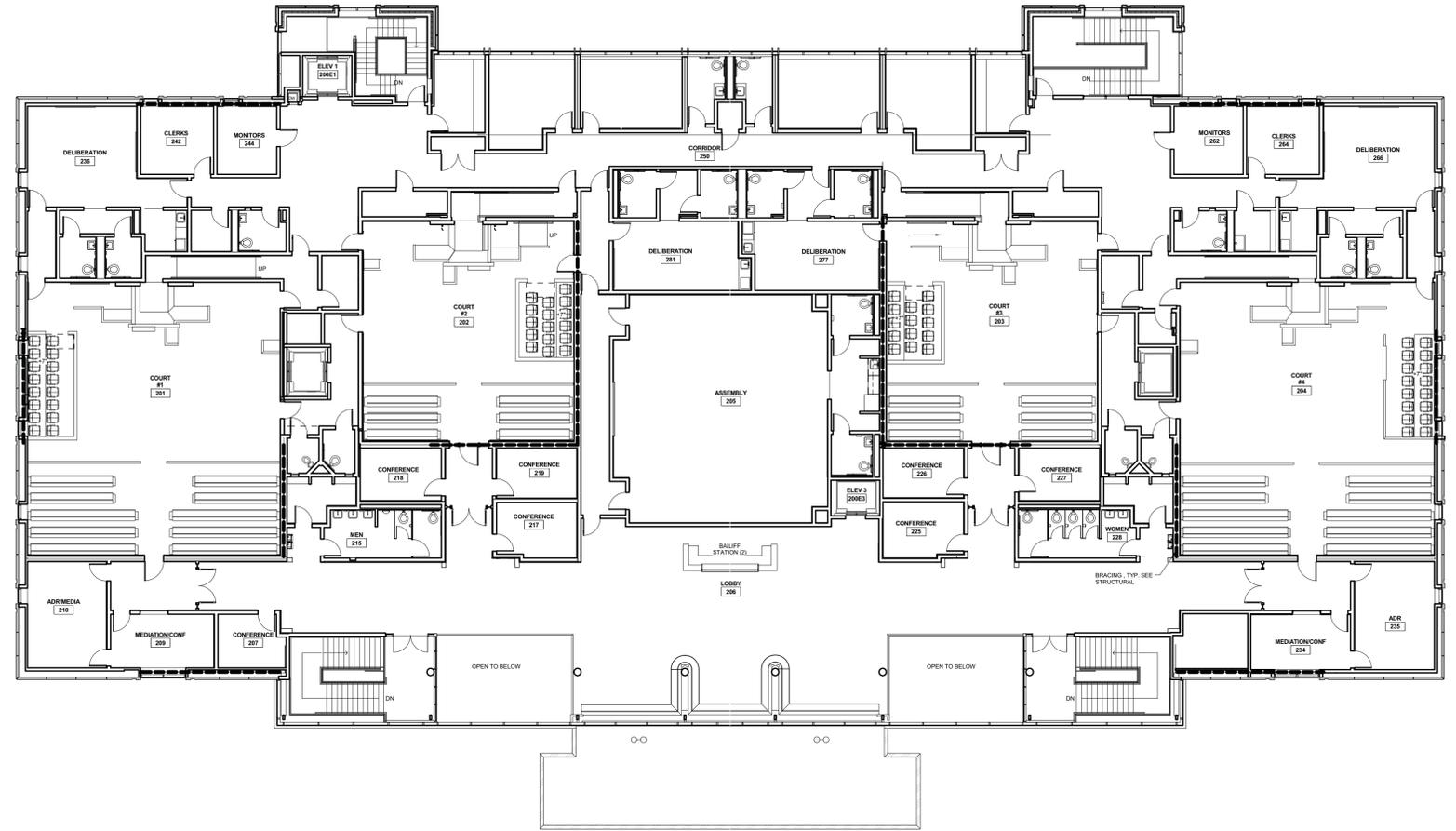
The Hillsborough County Superior Court North is a key State judicial facility serving the superior court jurisdiction for the northern half of Hillsborough County. The busiest court in the state, it is also a key civic facility in Manchester, centrally located adjacent to the Norris B. Cotton Federal Building, and nearby the Manchester Police and Fire Departments. It is situated at the eastern end of Veterans Park, Manchester's most prominent downtown park, and a venue for dozens of civic events each year.

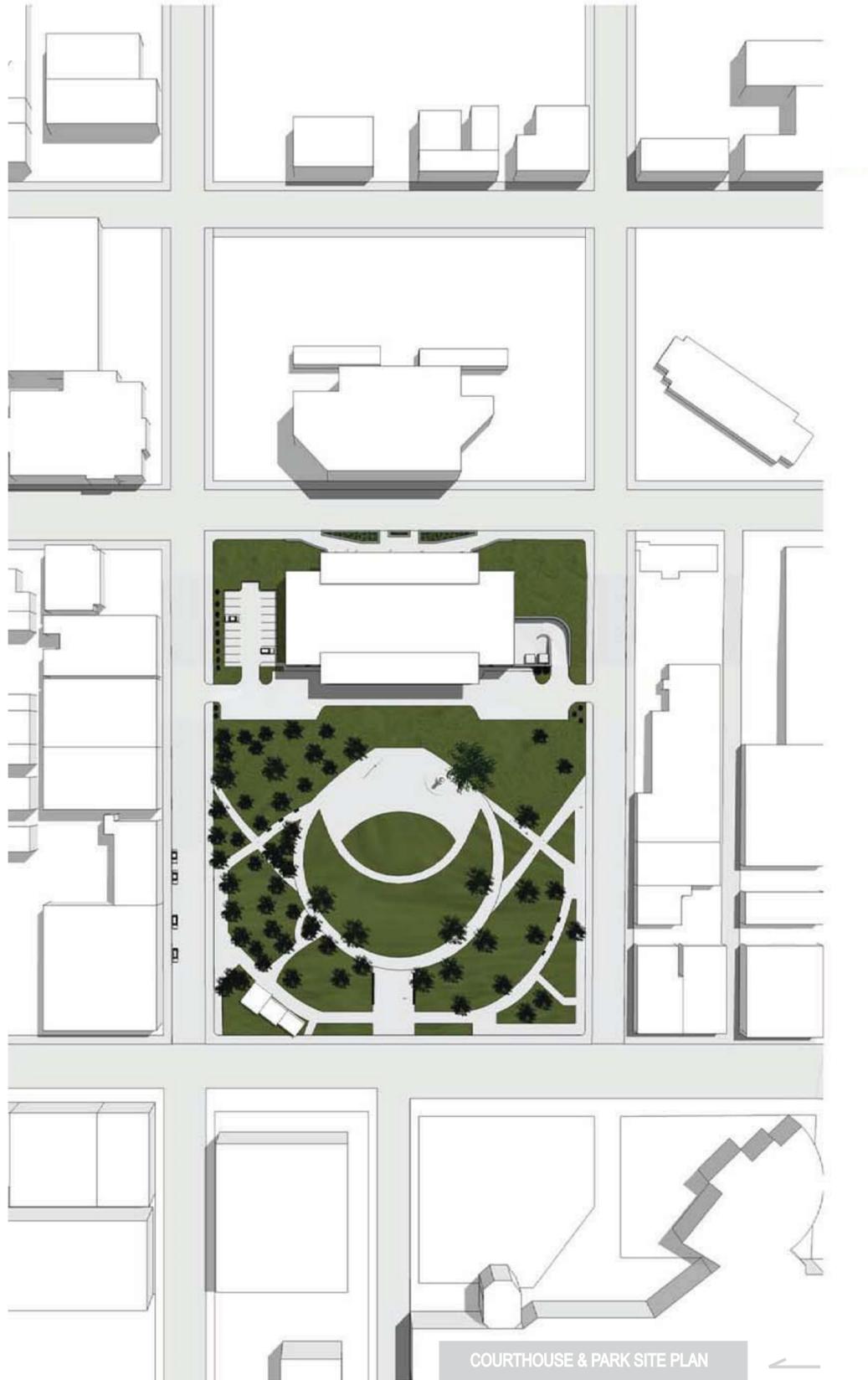
The design of the existing facility, when measured against current civic design standards, is cold, stark, and unapproachable. Its light grey granite facade expresses very little character, when observed from a distance, and its minimal window area render the interior dark and the exterior uninviting.

The proposed design transforms the interior, exterior, and site to create a facility that meets contemporary court standards, and expresses a refreshed, reserved, and friendly civic presence. The interior is re-organized to effectively separate public, court staff, and prisoner zones to facilitate both security and functional court operations. A sallyport is added to allow the transfer of prisoners within an interior secure zone. The public lobby and entrance is significantly expanded to manage queuing and processing of visitors through security checks, and the court waiting areas are sized and positioned to provide appropriate environments for those awaiting hearings and trials. Window walls and skylights provide all spaces, including courtrooms, with abundant natural light.

The granite exterior cladding is largely preserved, but is rendered a secondary material by the addition of expansive curtainwalls at the public entrance (Chestnut Street Side), and at the staff entrances (Veterans Park Side). These "glass box" additions provide the court with a welcoming public presence and enlivened civic presence. The glass will receive a variety of interior and exterior treatments to address security, energy use, and aesthetics.

The site will be restructured to provide sallyport access and additional parking. The west side entrance of the site will "reach out" to Veterans Park to clean up the park edge with new fencing and landscaping, while the Chestnut Street side receives security improvements and a new public plaza.





COURTHOUSE & PARK SITE PLAN



EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK ELEVATION