

The Green
Charlotte, NC

Architect:
Wagner Murray
Architects, P.A.
Charlotte, NC

General Contractor:
Batson-Cook Company
Charlotte, NC

Masonry Contractor:
Pyramid
Charlotte, NC

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Downtown Charlotte Urban Complex Is An “Oasis Of Tranquility”

Bridging 400 years of architectural history and translating it into a 21st century setting was a welcome design challenge for David Wagner, principal design architect for The Green. Located in downtown Charlotte, The Green is an urban mixed-use project that includes retail, office, and residential components. “The Green was designed to be a true urban park,” Wagner says. “A well designed urban space is a catalyst for growth, planning, and urban open space as a design tool.”

The Green is a complex of historical and contemporary buildings

“Brick had a distinct advantage in this project because of its ability to create a complimentary structure to the historic building.”

David K. Wagner, AIA, Wagner Murray Architects, P.A.





surrounding a skillfully landscaped urban park. Located within walking distance of the Charlotte Convention and major international business headquarters, The Green is a highly visible “oasis of tranquility” amidst the fast pace of a rapidly growing urban center.

The primary challenge facing the design team was how to architecturally incorporate the brand-new Annex Building into a complex that already includes an 18th century gable-end church and an early 19th century convent. “Because the Annex Building is primarily an office/retail structure, we had to balance a contemporary need with an integration of design into a historical context without being trite,” Wagner says. One thing was certain: It had to be brick.

The brick selection was intended to match as closely as possible both the shape, texture, and masonry joints of the existing buildings. “The Annex Building uses brick to establish a color, scale, and tactile relationship with the other buildings,” says Wagner. “Detailing, such as sol-

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Take a closer look at how the Architect detailed this section.

Of course, this depiction is not to be construed as an exact detailing recommendation by the Brick Association of the Carolinas.

cities. A distinctive sculpture made completely out of brick, titled “Life Is An Open Book,” greets visitors at its Tryon Street entrance.

The harmonious ensemble of the three buildings creates both an aesthetic and shaped progression from the oldest building – the church – to the newest building – the Annex. The park, complete with open lawns, terraces, lush planting, water features, and artistic flair reflects both the creativity and dedication of everyone involved in the project. “The masons paid enormous attention to detail and skillful execution,” Wagner says. “It really enhances the overall appearance of the project and elevates it to a high level of quality.”

The Green opened in 2002 and has been met with enthusiastic praise on local and regional levels. “It is considered by many in Charlotte to be the best public space within the Center City, and it’s often on the list of places to see when visitors come to Charlotte,” Wagner says. The Green provides both tourists and residents an imaginative, whimsical escape in the center of the busy Charlotte business district.

THE DETAIL FILE

