

APT/NTC JOINT CONFERENCE PAPER SESSION
LARGE PUBLIC PROJECTS (Part 2)
PRESERVING AND ADAPTING EARLY 20TH CENTURY RAILROAD STATIONS

Date: Friday, October 13, 2017
Time: 10 am – 12:15 pm
Room: Confederation III – Level 4

Ottawa Union Station and Cincinnati Union Terminal are two of the largest and architecturally most sophisticated twentieth century railroad stations in North America. When constructed, both were sources of national pride and were widely recognized for their technical and design achievements. However, with the decline of passenger rail services in the 1960's and 70's, both were abandoned as passenger stations. In efforts to preserve the buildings, both were soon converted to new uses -- Ottawa as a government conference center and Cincinnati first as a shopping center, later as a museum. These uses did not fully take advantage of the historic character of the buildings.

As time passed, these uses were no longer adequate. This caused the buildings to be reevaluated and reexamined for new use programs that would make their preservation more sustainable and conform to modern historic preservation standards. This has resulted in two of the most important and largest historic preservation projects now underway in North America.

This session will examine the re-evaluation of each building through a process of historical research, building fabric examination, and documentation. Review of current building and accessibility codes as well as structural evaluations contributed to the development of a program for the conservation and restoration of the buildings while providing guidelines to the development of significant contemporary designs that complement the existing historic buildings. In both cases, significant historic features, some forgotten or hidden, will be restored and incorporated into the revitalized facilities.

Along with technical conservation issues, many of which are unique to twentieth century buildings, delivery systems involving the development of technologies and workflow to ensure quality control, adherence to accelerated schedules, and cost control will be examined. The strategies of reusing major historic spaces, as well as original service areas, for entirely different new uses will be examined. Some of the innovative funding mechanisms used to finance the projects will be discussed.

The learning objectives of the session include:

- understanding the evaluation and planning process for large and complex re-use projects,
- understanding how the evaluation of historic character and building fabric analysis can be used and exploited in innovative new design,
- understanding of how to achieve common vision and approach among the design team, client, and construction manager to facilitate decision-making,
- understanding of the many technical, conservation, and engineering issues involved in the design of the new facilities.

Presenters

Ottawa Union Station

Jan Kubanek, OAQ, OAA, CAHP

Martin Davidson, OAA, AIBC, AIA, FRAIC

Cincinnati Union Terminal

Clay S. Palazzo, AIA, LEED AP

Nancy A. Rankin, AIA, LEED AP

Session Chair

John G. Waite, FAIA, FAPT