Fire Station 51 is located on Southcenter Parkway at South 180th Street. The neighboring buildings in the Southcenter commercial area include big box stores, chain restaurants, and a movie theater, which do not encourage frequent pedestrian activity. Station 51 will therefore be viewed primarily from cars driving by or stopping at the adjacent traffic signal, which inspired the bold patterning of the glazing “slots” along the facade and the oversized signage.

Fire Station 52 is located on the City Hall campus and is otherwise bordered by low-rise, residential properties. The site will be experienced by visitors driving to the station, people walking up the sidewalk from Southcenter Blvd and 65th Avenue, neighborhood dog-walkers, and employees from City Hall and other local offices crossing through the site on lunch breaks.

51 & 52 BUILDING CONCEPTS

A FAMILY OF BUILDINGS

Fire Stations 51 and 52 were conceived of as a “family” of buildings that would be recognizable within the community. They have been designed to establish a strong civic presence in their respective neighborhoods and represent a sense of permanence, safety, and reliability, by means of their architectural language and materials.

Both stations will have primarily brick exteriors with some areas of aluminum panel rainscreen and glazing. The dark brick at Station 51 is meant to stand out in commercial Southcenter, while the red-purple brick at Station 52 has been chosen to suit its residential surroundings. Iconic “fire station red” doors surrounded by clear glazing will afford views into the apparatus bays at both buildings.
The signage on the Southcenter Parkway facade is scaled to relate to people viewing the station at different speeds. The "51" on the building is oversized so that it can be clearly read by people driving by, whereas the "Tukwila Fire Department" signage is scaled for people stopped at the intersection, and the "Fire Station 51" signage above the door is intended to be viewed by visitors approaching the building on foot. Together, the building signage establishes a strong station identity that celebrates the firefighters and supports the greater community.

ROM Pricing: $22,500
GATHERING AND ACTIVITY

A tapered front walk and entry plaza lead visitors to the main building entry alongside a depressed rain garden that celebrates the process of on-site stormwater management.

The walkway is bordered by a low concrete wall with built-in wood bench seating that invites visitors to pause or gather. The slots in the concrete echo the full-height glazing slots within the brick facade, reinforcing the established architectural language.

This integrated seat wall strategy is used throughout the site to define space, including at the rear of the building in the firefighters’ private courtyard.

ROM Pricing: $35,000
A custom display wall in the Lobby provides space for curated art displays that can easily be updated over time. Art exhibits could include fire department memorabilia, historic photographs, and other artifacts of significance to Tukwila, and could be curated by the Arts Commission in collaboration with the Fire Department.

ROM Pricing: $10,000
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Wood from the fallen maple tree at the Foster Golf Course has been salvaged for use in several custom art installations within the new Public Safety Program buildings. The Fire Station design team is working with experienced craftsmen to develop installations that celebrate the life of the tree and provide opportunities for both the public and the firefighters to interact with these slabs.

ABOUT THE FABRICATORS:
NK BUILD

NK build is a two-man, design/build team in Seattle, Washington, specializing in custom furniture and built-ins. With a focus on reclaimed and sustainably sourced materials, we work primarily with locally salvaged woods and steel. We both have a long history in the building trades, as well as with artistic visual mediums. As Seattle natives, we are very connected to the region and its unique identity. Much of our aesthetic is informed by tying together the distinct characters of industry and nature and portraying the contract between the two. We hope that our compositions offer much more of a story than just their function.

Collaboration with our clients allows for the best outcomes. Some of our most gratifying work in the past has been with community-focused organizations, especially those with goals of preservation and public well-being. This list includes The Bullitt Foundation, King County Public Libraries, Forterra, Greenfire Campus, and Rainier National Park.

We are very enthused and honored by the chance to collaborate with the Tukwila Fire Department. We deeply appreciate the importance of their work, and look forward to being a part of their new stations. It is our hope that the department feels a connection and ownership for these pieces. It is a special opportunity to build things that will serve as gathering places within the stations, and mark that space for many years. Additionally, we understand that part of the new station design is for the greater community of Tukwila, and an opportunity for the public to feel welcome. We are further inspired to create works that will help serve this purpose.
Representatives from the Fire Department, along with the design team and fabricator, have selected a wood slab from the fallen Foster Maple Tree for a cantilevered bench in the station lobby. This art piece will be used by members of the community who visit the fire station for activities such as blood pressure checks.

A larger slab from the Foster Maple has also been selected to hang on the corridor wall in a composition with “Tukwila Fire Department” signage. Visible through the glazing at the Vestibule, this installation will greet visitors to the station. The installation of the slab running from floor to ceiling will give the impression the tree is growing out of the floor and will celebrate the unique size and shape of the Foster maple.

ROM Pricing: $19,500
The kitchen table is the heart of the station, where crews share meals and enjoy downtime together. It was important to the firefighters that this space have a special significance, thus they decided to incorporate a wood slab from the Foster Maple tree as a nod to the history of their city. An appropriate slab has been selected and the fabricator will work closely with the firefighters to design a custom steel base for the table, which will be large enough to seat the current crew and that of a future expansion. A sibling table is also being fabricated for Station 52, which will be sized to fit the crew and leadership housed at the Battalion Station.

ROM Pricing: $10,000 per station
A local graphic designer is working with the Tukwila firefighters to develop a series of murals to be located throughout the two new stations. These murals will playfully illustrate aspects of the firefighters’ work and provide moments of inspiration and levity, as well as another visual link between the two buildings as crews, administrative staff, and the general public move through or visit the stations.

The majority of the murals are based on a series of photographs that the designer took of the Tukwila firefighters in action. The image developed for the fitness room wall at FSS1 invokes the themes of body, team, and movement, reminding the firefighters why they put so much effort into their physical conditioning.

ROM Pricing: $8,000
HISTORY AND MEANING

The mural designed for the Lobby wall behind the wood bench is inspired by the Foster Maple and acts as an interpretive guide to the bench below and adjacent, wall-mounted slab. Developed with input from the City of Tukwila and the Fire Department, the art reinterprets the tree's rings into a timeline for the City and Tukwila FD. The text calls out key events and dates in their organizational histories, starting with the year the tree was planted and finishing with 2020, the year the building will be opened.

ROM Pricing: $8,000
EXPERIENTIAL ART

The entry plaza for Station 52 will be utilized by firefighters and administrative staff, as well as building visitors. The entry plaza identifies and activates the main building entrance and provides a unique place within the site to relax or socialize.

Offset benches and landscaping create smaller clusters of seating and frame the primary entry pathway. The site constraints required the inclusion of a hammerhead for visiting apparatus to turn around in when arriving at the station. Rather than devote a large swath of pavement exclusively for this infrequent use, the design team created a continuous surface of patterned paving between the front apron and the building entry, demarcating the turn-around area with small, concrete plinths rather than ubiquitous steel bollards.

The language of the benches and plinths is a permutation of the site walls and benches designed for Fire Station 51, which again echoes the language of the building facade.

ROM Pricing: $55,000

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

The memorial garden provides a destination and place of respite for both City employees and neighbors. Seat walls will be located so that small groups can gather or individuals can enjoy a quiet moment. The garden has been designed as a framework for future memorial installations coordinated by either the Fire Department or Arts Commission, which would add layers of meaning to the public’s experience of the space.

ROM Pricing: $20,000
Station 52 is accessed off 65th Ave S via an internal access road and has minimal street frontage. Only the northern-most portion of the building will be visible from 65th Ave S and will be highlighted with a red, oversized “52” mounted on the brick end of the apparatus bay. This signage serves two purposes: it identifies the station to people driving by and also welcomes firefighters home when they return from a call. The “Fire Station 52” signage above the main entrance is located and scaled to be viewed by people approaching the building on foot.

ROM Pricing: $22,500
**CURATED DISPLAY**

As at Fire Station 51, a custom display wall in the Lobby provides space for curated art displays that can easily be updated. Art exhibits could include fire department memorabilia, historic photographs, other artifacts of significance to Tukwila, or exhibits by local artists. This display wall also incorporates a "concealed" wood door that leads to the uniform storage closet beyond.

*ROM Pricing: $12,500*

**PUBLIC INTERACTION**

Wood slabs from the fallen Foster Maple Tree have also been selected for two cantilevered benches in this station lobby. These benches will be used by members of the community who visit the fire station for activities including blood pressure checks, both while waiting in the entry vestibule and once inside the secure lobby.

*ROM Pricing: $10,000*
MURAL CONCEPT

The two staircases will each include a multi-story mural. These designs are still being developed under the guidance of the Fire Department, but will again draw from the photographs taken of Tukwila Fire Department members in action.

The mural in the fitness room will continue the themes of body, team, and movement. The design for this room uses the images of the firefighters in action to reinterpret an iconic album cover in a playful way.

ROM Pricing: $34,000