

Integrated Design PROTOTYPE BUILDING DESIGN

For a regional client with facilities in numerous communities, having a prototype building design can greatly increase the efficiency of both new construction and renovation of existing facilities in addition to providing a consistent brand image. I&S Group provides architecture and engineering services for ABRA facilities nationwide, including the renovation of existing buildings and the design of a new prototype facility.

PROTOTYPE DESIGN

The design process for the new prototype began with a programming phase based on information gathered from user group meetings lead by I&S Group, which were held with representatives from customer service management,

quality control, auto body technicians, account management and marketing. ABRA's former prototype of 18,000 square feet was trimmed down to 13,000 square feet, a reduction of nearly 30%, while still maintaining all areas and functions required for efficient operation. The new design includes 2,200 square feet of office area, with reception kiosks and a waiting area, customer service manager offices, restrooms and a break room. The shop area consists of 10,800 square feet, with vehicle service bays, detail bays, parts storage areas, a paint booth and paint prep areas. The flow of vehicles through the shop was carefully analyzed to determine the best locations for service bays and equipment.

INTEGRATED DESIGN

With I&S's in-house architecture, interior design and full engineering services, and the integrated design approach that this affords, various structural, mechanical and electrical systems were analyzed, and the most efficient and cost effective systems were incorporated into the design. The extensive amount of specialized work areas and equipment required careful coordination of HVAC and dust collection systems, water and air systems, electrical systems and





lighting design. A fresh, new concept for the exterior of the building was developed to appeal to various city administrations where prototypes will be built, and the exterior and interior finish materials were updated.

PROTOTYPE APPLICATIONS

During the process of gaining approval from specific municipalities, I&S Group works extensively with ABRA's consultants to adapt the prototype's exterior building design to conform to the very specific requirements of each municipality. Such adjustments will be made to cater to ABRA's needs and to each community's requirements in all prototype locations.

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

In the process of building and renovating facilities around the country, I&S Group works very closely with each client, their development consultants, construction manager, various local subcontractors and material suppliers, city administrators and building code officials. I&S Group has design professionals licensed in numerous states, with NCARB- and NCEES-certified professionals who can quickly gain reciprocity in any state as required. I&S Group also assigns a Project Manager to be the single point of contact for our client throughout the entire design and construction process. This ensures the proper lines of communication, coordination of disciplines, quality control and efficient, experience-based management of all projects.

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