

WASHINGTON SQUARE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



View of grand staircase and pergola atop parking structure from Saint Asaph Street

Client: Saul Centers REIT
Contractors: Clark Construction Group, LLC (general contractor), Green Thumb Inc. (landscape contractor)

Intent

This one square block redevelopment site occupies the site of the old Thomsville Furniture store. This is a transitional mixed-use area comprised of 19th c. houses and 20th c. industrial facilities which have been demolished and/or converted to higher grade retail and apartment condominiums. The project involves creation of a mixed-use office and retail center comprised of two buildings facing an interior vehicular and pedestrian court. LAPIERRE STUDIO's challenge was to provide a second opinion and final designs for the pedestrian area components. Without benefit of altering the project's architectural massing, a plan was developed that abandoned a previously proposed elaborate paving scheme and simplistic raised plaza planters in favor of unified brick paving reflective of the simple yet consistent nature of Old Town. This change freed up project dollars for the addition of a garden style fountain and pergola seating plaza which connects to lower retail shops and cafe terrace via a grand pedestrian staircase. The resulting design pays homage to its Old Town location, foils otherwise imposing and somewhat stark building facades, and celebrates the pedestrian experience of sitting, eating and reading the paper within a modest yet elegant urban oasis.



View of North Washington Street Entrance and Pergola