

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ***FIRE CHIEF MAGAZINE* RECOGNIZES FRANK G. RELF ARCHITECT, P.C. AND BETH DONNER DESIGNS WITH DESIGN AWARD FOR MERRICK HOOK AND LADDER CO. NO. 1 FIREHOUSE**

Frank G. Relf Architect, P.C., a leader in the design of fire and emergency service facilities and Beth Donner Designs, recently received a Silver Award for their professional design plans for the renovation of the Merrick Hook and Ladder Company Co. No. 1 firehouse. The firm's submission to Fire Chief Publications' 2007 Station Style Design Awards won recognition by the Station Style judges in the "Renovation-Remodeled" category. The renovation's pleasing traditional design, use of materials and scale of design helped to capture the award for the firms. The aging firehouse was renovated and transformed into a warm and open facility with enhanced functionality. The upgrade was a significant enhancement to the character of the neighborhood and allows the Merrick Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 to better meet the changing fire service needs of the community.

The project consisted of taking down the two-story portion of the firehouse built in the 1920's. The firehouse was then expanded to include a third bay in the rear and other enhancements were added. The newly remodeled facility provides the fire company with the much needed space to perform all the functions of a busy, modern fire fighting operation. The interior was designed to create a warm and comfortable environment for volunteers. The goal was to create an atmosphere that would be attractive to volunteers and provide them with a place where they would want to spend time, relax and participate in training.

"The original firehouse/garage defined the character of the neighborhood for nearly 50 years, and we wanted the new building to fit in and be embraced by neighbors. It was our goal to design a facility that would enhance the area and include modern design features that would support the fire company's operations and community service programs. We are honored to have been selected for the Silver Award. We share this award with the Merrick community and the Merrick Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1's project team who we worked closely with during the entire design and construction process," said project architect Frank G. Relf.

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“The design and renovation of our facility was much needed and was a significant undertaking. We are very pleased with the results and proud that our facility has been recognized for its exceptional design. The improved facility will certainly assist us in our recruiting and volunteer retention efforts. This award is a credit to the vision of our team Michael Abrams, Paul Waterman, Phil Sarubbi, Paul Scolieri, Frank Vanderlofske, Jr., Frank Erdmann and Jon Pallidino and the abilities of the professionals at Frank G. Relf Architect, P.C., and Beth Donner Designs who made it happen,” said Building Committee Chair and Trustee Jack Dziedzic.

This project presented the firm with some challenges related to zoning and site development. Working closely with the Department’s project team, community leaders and Town of Hempstead officials the project was completed successfully. The facility now includes more office space, a cascade room, security and sprinkler system, upgraded technology and now complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Frank G. Relf Architect, P.C., is well known for its exceptional and functional designs of firehouses and emergency medical facilities on Long Island and in the northeast United States. Over the past 25 years the firm has designed and renovated hundreds of fire and emergency service facilities. For information about the professional architectural design services offered by the firm of Frank G. Relf Architect, P.C. visit [www.fgrelf.com](http://www.fgrelf.com). To learn more about the comprehensive design services offered by Beth Donner Designs call (631) 425-0007.

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**Frank G. Relf Architect, P.C., is a full-service architectural and interior design firm. Services include the preparation of planning, design and construction documents for new and existing buildings and their overall project management requirements. Over the past 25 years, the firm has participated in more than \$1 billion worth of construction and more than 2,000 projects, including some of the most prestigious projects in the New York metropolitan area. For information about the professional architectural design services offered by the firm of Frank G. Relf Architect, P.C. visit [www.fgrelf.com](http://www.fgrelf.com).**

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## MERRICK HOOK & LADDER COMPANY NO. 1

Merrick, New York

Merrick Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 is one of three companies providing fire protection under contract with the town of Hempstead, N.Y. This volunteer department owns its firehouse but lacked funds to perform a major expansion. The unique town ownership of this firehouse also provided complexities for procurement requiring a public bond issue with marketing material prepared by Frank G. Relf Architect, PC. To provide the space on the site, zoning changes, combining parcels, and proposing demolition for an old garage allowed this 1950s building to expand and modernize.

This facility has been nestled into the community it served, bordering a residential neighborhood corner, therefore requiring a design to blend in. The existing split-level plan complicated the options for the addition of a second floor, additional bay and storage. The facility was lacking a company meeting room, cascade equipment, washer/dryer and modern classroom facilities.

The new meeting room can be used for general company meetings as well as active classroom training programs. A full commercial kitchen helps to service all members and guests. The rear addition not only provides the apparatus bay space needed, but also the cascade and laundry rooms. Newly renovated restrooms and company room alongside the new elevator for multifloor access, provide the comfort and services that this neighborhood firehouse needed. The brick exterior shingled roof and use of multi-paned windows and doors are reminiscent of the single-family residences in the area. The firehouse now has a full fire sprinkler system, smoke and fire alarm, security card access, and closed-circuit television. The building is fully handicapped accessible.

After taking down the 1920s 2-story building, adding a new bay to the rear and expanding the entire firehouse, the company has the much needed space to perform all the func-

tions of a busy firehouse. The pleasing traditional design, materials and scale have proved to be warmly welcomed into this neighborhood. A new feature staircase at the main entrance receives all who enter with access to all four levels. The design of the interiors gives department members a warm, comfortable space where they want to spend time and help's with recruitment.



**Firm:** Frank G. Relf Architect, PC

**Design Team:**

Frank G. Relf, AIA

Beth Donner, Interior Designer

**Fire Chief:** Paul Waterman

Jack Dziedzic, Trustee

**Project Area:** 12,574 sq. ft.

**Total Cost:** \$3,400,000

**Cost per Square Foot:** \$270

**Completion Date:** December 2005