

Parking Deck #3 Expansion

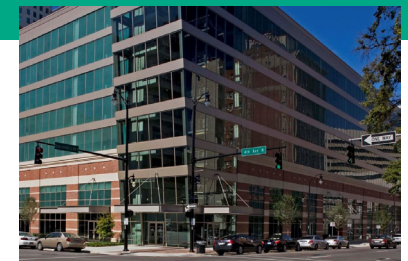
Photography by Walt Hinchman



This dusk view provides a view into the dramatic tower at the southeast corner of the deck that holds the main stair and elevator lobbies. A wash of light turns frosted glass on upper floors into a welcoming lantern.



A longer view shows how the parking deck expansion responds to its context. The stair/elevator tower provides unusual views of the 1888 First Presbyterian Church.



A daytime close-up shows how a repetition of glass and steel allows the ground floor brick storefront facades to mesh with all glass above.

By Philip Morris



In its design for a 700-car expansion of Parking Deck #3 for the Birmingham Parking Authority, Williams-Blackstock Architects combined two different building skins in response to the context. A rhythm of brick and glass storefront wraps the lower levels in response to two-story buildings and an historic church across the street, while the upper floors are wrapped in frosted glass and metal echoing nearby office towers.

Giving the nine-level deck a lively edge, the architects flared the most prominent tower element outward as it rises. The transparent steel-and-glass structure encloses the primary stair and elevator lobbies making circulation clear and providing dramatic views outward to the city and the late-Victorian First Presbyterian Church. “The narrow width of the new parking bays clad with floor-to-ceiling glass provides a pleasantly daylight interior and a safe and comfortable feeling throughout,” says Joel Blackstock.

As in other projects, Williams-Blackstock gave special attention to illumination. Particularly effective is the lighting that turns the glass cladding into a continuous glow after dark.



Steel and glass canopies hang above the main entrance and selected storefronts. Retail uses can be retrofitted as the market demands.