



COURTHOUSE SQUARE & STREETScape



JURISDICTION

City of Redwood City, CA



DATE OF COMPLETION

October 15, 2006



DOCUMENT LINK

<https://www.cnu.org/sites/default/files/Awards2007.pdf>



MEDIA COVERAGE

Redwood City Music on the Square
PenTV, 10/1/2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb8WN48b56w>



AWARDS

Congress for the New Urbanism |
Charter Award, 2007

American Public Works Association |
Project of the Year, 2008

Courthouse Square is the central plaza and outdoor living room for Downtown Redwood City. Mr. Zack was on the staff team that worked with urban design consultants Freedman, Tung, and Bottomley (now Freedman, Tung, and Sasaki) to develop the design. This project required the demolition of a Depression-era annex in order to restore the visibility and prominence of the 1910 San Mateo County Courthouse building. The design arose out of a series of three intensive public design workshops held by the consultants and the staff team. The new plaza, completed in 2007, was designed to accommodate formal and informal gatherings and by 2011 was hosting 83 events a year attended by more than 100,000 people. Courthouse Square features a large, decoratively paved plaza at the foot of the Courthouse portico. Two semi-enclosed pavilions flank the central plaza space, framing views of the Courthouse and Fox Theatre, while providing shade and incorporating vendor kiosks which offer food service and other activity-generating offerings. The pavilions and kiosks are surrounded by comfortable tables and chairs, and are outfitted with night lighting to allow activity to occur on warm evenings.

The project also included a complete re-design of the two central blocks of Broadway, the community's main street. The design, which dramatically improved pedestrian circulation and the aesthetic quality of Downtown Redwood City's primary thoroughfare. The project included widened sidewalks (including and enhanced queuing area in front of the historic Fox Theatre), enhanced lighting, new street streets, bulb outs, and a narrowed vehicular travel way. A particularly innovative part of the project was Theater Way, a "woonerf" style shared space that features a large dining terrace, a flexible parking/dining zone, pedestrian zones, a flush vehicular travel lane, and removal bollards for temporary vehicular closures.

This project won a Charter Award for Outstanding Urban Design by the Congress for the New Urbanism in 2007.



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