



District Hall

Contemporary
Architecture

75 Northern Avenue,
Boston MA

Hacin + Associates

12,000 sq.ft.

2014

Peter Dreher



District Hall is the first building of its kind. It is the world's first freestanding public innovation center. District Hall houses a series of flexible use spaces including open workspaces, classrooms, assembly rooms, a lounge and pub. The goal for District Hall is to gather innovators and share their ideas. The building was privately funded and built by Boston Global Investors as part of a 23-acre master plan for the Seaport District. An anchor in the developing area, District Hall abuts office, retail and residential developments. Fan Pier Park is situated across the street and the Institute of Contemporary Art is nearby. Easy access is provided by public transportation, including the Courthouse T-stop on the Silver Line, along with public parking.



Within its 12,000 sq. ft. footprint, District Hall offers incubator office space for many start-up companies and provides a locale to meet, plan and host business as well as social events. Designed by Boston architect David Hacin, many of District Hall's architectural features echo the Seaport District's waterfront railyard history.

The building has two basic architectural elements: a low horizontal bar references the train cars that once filled the railyards. The exterior building envelope mirrors the ships and warehouses of neighboring, historic Fort Point. A flexible interior design and beams are spaced to easily divide large rooms into smaller spaces. Walls can be easily adapted for many uses, including writable surfaces, display and exhibition opportunities.



District Hall's surrounding plaza and green space by landscape architect Reed Hilderbrand offers a connection between the building and the busy Seaport cityscape. Along Northern Avenue a plaza design provides views from the extruding restaurant to the harbor. On the west side, green space serves to soften the edge to parking and offers a passage for pedestrians. District Hall is considered a gateway structure and its program is considered pivotal in its support of emerging Seaport District talent, also known as the Innovation District.