

designLAB operates within a philosophy we call Critical Stewardship. It is an approach to design based on the universal responsibility to history and the environment as valued through the lens of community. The stewardship of our valuable resources (environmental, built or cultural) is emboldened by creativity, which is critical in both senses: essential yet offering critique. We must trust ourselves to make both bold and nuanced determinations about change based on research, analysis and context over dogmatic requirements (strict preservation techniques or environmental rating systems).

We celebrate and leverage the past for tomorrow. Critical Stewardship reflects that the architecture of today is part of a historical and environmental continuum. With each intervention, be it a revitalization or new construction, **we guide an evolution.**

Check out our video [here](#).

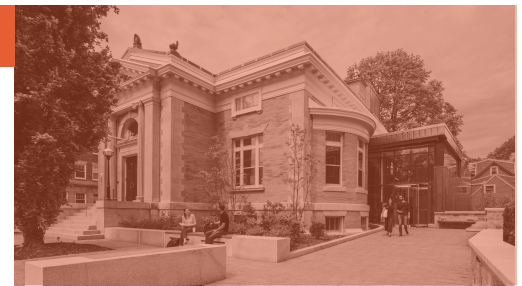
history

COMMUNITY

environment

HISTORIC

One of our passions is the rehabilitation of historic structures, including listed/landmark buildings. This includes the blending of old and new, preserving what's best about an existing place and upgrading what no longer works well. In our minds, the best result is a solution in which new and old could not be imagined without the other.



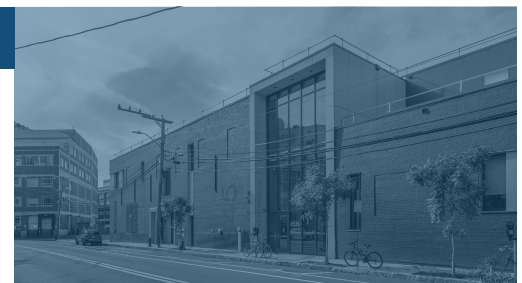
MID to LATE CENTURY

More and more often, our adaptation work approaches "history" of the more recent past, including buildings of the Mid-Century Modern and Postmodern eras. We embrace their creator's ethos while upgrading them to contemporary use and demands.



UTILITARIAN

While not every building is traditionally beautiful or monumental, each has intrinsic value. We work enthusiastically in Post-Industrial contexts and are inspired by the "every day". We see opportunities for renewal and revival even in utilitarian typologies.



NATURAL

Our work extends to rural and natural settings, drawing great inspiration from them. Wellness and how spaces can support it is a major component of critical stewardship.

