

**JOHNSON
ROBERTS**
ASSOCIATES INC.

ARCHITECTS

Designing for Communities

since 1996





JRA Principals
Stew Roberts, Phil O'Brien,
and Jeff Davis

WE DESIGN COMMUNITY BUILDINGS THAT BUILD COMMUNITIES

With over 25 years of public sector experience, we design places and spaces that inspire us to learn, keep us safe, and bring us together. Our clients are driven by values, not profits. And so are we. Whether we're building something new, renovating something old, or restoring a local landmark to its original glory, we're committed to making people's lives better.

Our expertise in multiple building types gives us unique insight into how people actually use community buildings and helps us find unexpected design solutions. We're known for guiding clients through the entire design process, prioritizing consistent communication and reliable service along the way. We never stop learning, and we gladly share insights with clients, collaborators, and our broader professional communities. The enduring designs we develop together reinforce the special character of the communities in which we build and foster a sense of local pride. JRA's hard work and dedication to building communities have earned a long list of repeat clients and collaborators.

Johnson Roberts Associates was founded in 1996 by Stew Roberts. In 2020, principals Jeff Davis and Phil O'Brien joined Stew as owners of the firm. They oversee a team that is passionate about designing for people—and for the future. Sustainability has been a focus of JRA's work since its inception, and many of the green design strategies we've implemented over the last three decades have become national standards.

From small towns to big cities, Johnson Roberts Associates designs beautiful buildings that make a difference—*not because it's required, but because it's the right thing to do.*



Our Specialties

LIBRARIES

A central location for reading, learning, meeting and fun

Johnson Roberts Associates has designed and built over 40 new libraries, completed many different renovation and historic restoration projects, and performed 100+ feasibility studies across New England.

Our vast experience enables us to fully understand the distinct challenges and needs of many types of libraries, including small libraries in rural areas, large libraries in major cities, and college campus libraries. We are also well aware that book-lending is just part



of a modern library's role. Dedicated spaces for lending technology, equipment, and instruments are often as vital as traditional services for children, young adults, and seniors. Our designs often include media creation suites, makerspaces, and flexible rooms that can be used for meetings, performances, or presentations.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES

Keeping citizens — and the people who protect them — safe

We provide a full range of first responder design services, including feasibility studies, programming, and building and environmental zoning assessments. Our firehouse designs help reduce exposure to carcinogens and contaminants through better planning, intelligent mechanical systems, and durable, non-porous materials. We regularly utilize the concepts of *Healthy In, Healthy Out* (proven practices and procedures that help isolate firefighters from pollutants) and are happy to share our knowledge with clients and collaborators. We aren't just designing healthier spaces; we're inspiring healthier behaviors and contributing to a healthier industry.

We have provided design services for more than a dozen public safety facilities throughout Massachusetts. We developed Firehouse Design Guidelines for the City of Boston and have helped the Town of Brookline develop Fire House Guidelines for the rehabilitation/replacement of five houses. Our experience makes us aware of the



unique requirements of modern firefighters, and the special role a firehouse plays in the community. We also ensure that our designs aren't just highly functional, but that they are also beautiful and energy-efficient.

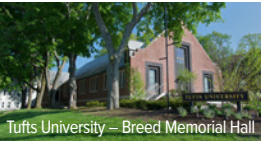


SCHOOLS

Spaces for learning

We have completed on more than 50 different educational facility projects—from classrooms and libraries to cutting-edge labs and makerspaces—for K–12, higher education, and municipalities.

Through community workshops and conversations, we help students, faculty, staff, and other key stakeholders identify what they need and



want in a building. Then we examine how, and where, students spend their time in a building or on campus. Those findings—and our 25+ years of experience—are used to revitalize underutilized spaces,

solve existing problems, and create new possibilities through careful planning and imaginative design strategies.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Keeping city/town structures safe, accessible and beautiful

JRA has worked closely with many New England communities to renovate, expand and update existing municipal structures, and to create new City Halls, Town Halls, offices, and much more.



Because of our vast experience with MGL Chapter 149 and its variations, we have developed contract document coordination and quality control strategies that benefit our clients greatly by keeping costs down and saving valuable time.

MA. STATE PROJECTS

Helping with historic, recreational and government facilities

We've worked closely with Massachusetts state agencies to help them keep their structures sound and beautiful. Our ongoing relationships with organizations such as the DCR, MassDOT, DCAMM, and MSBA are based on their trust in our understanding of their goals, and our ability to determine the most efficient, long-lasting ways to achieve them.

ON-CALL HOUSE DOCTOR PROJECTS

We have House Doctor contracts with multiple municipalities, public school districts, and universities. As a result, we are very familiar with challenges that often require special approaches and close coordination with local regulatory authorities to make sure projects are completed on time and on budget.

MASTER PLANS & FEASIBILITY STUDIES

A master plan is like a road map. It provides step-by-step instructions to get from where you are to where you want to be. A good master plan, like a good map, will also identify some places to stop along the way to rest and replenish before moving on toward your goal. At Johnson Roberts Associates, we craft our feasibility studies, implementation strategies, and master plans to guide an institution's growth while supporting its short-term needs.

Our experience ranges from feasibility studies for building expansions to expansive campus master plans. Whatever the project, we present our clients with multiple options to accommodate different budgets, schedules, and goals. Ultimately, every plan we develop outlines a realistic and actionable strategy for building stronger communities.

INTERIOR DESIGN & CUSTOM FURNISHINGS

We regularly provide in-house interior design and furnishings selection/procurement services for both new municipal facilities and historically significant interior rehabilitation projects. By providing these services ourselves we can more effectively unite the interior look and feel with that of the exterior. We also design custom furnishings to meet specific project needs.

RENOVATION & HISTORICAL RESTORATION

We are fascinated by old buildings. We love the stories they tell and the way they imbue our cities and towns with a sense of history. To ensure those buildings and stories continue to enrich communities across New England, Johnson Roberts has cultivated expertise in restoring and updating historically significant civic and municipal structures, including buildings that date back nearly 400 years. Whether we're working on a renovation or new addition, our thoughtful interventions rejuvenate historic buildings to meet contemporary expectations for accessibility, comfort, and sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



Net Zero house in Maine

As long-standing members of the United States Green Building Council, we have been committed to sustainable design since day one. Eight of our projects have received LEED certification. In 2019 we joined the AIA 2030 Challenge (a voluntary program to encourage, support, and monitor the sustainability of architecture projects). In 2020 we were recognized for reaching the initial 70% energy reduction goal—a milestone that only 15% of the participating firms achieved. In 2023 we also joined BE+ and NESEA.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our principals and staff have extensive experience with the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR), the Architectural Access Board (521 CMR), and the Americans with Disabilities Act. We also make sure that our designs meet Universal Access Goals, and we're adept at retrofitting older buildings to meet current requirements.



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

“JRA has provided Tufts with top quality design services in an efficient and expeditious manner. Their attention to detail, problem solving, creative design solutions and sensitivity to budget provided a sound framework for University decision making. It is a truly professional organization focused on achieving results for its clients and has my unqualified recommendation.”

— John M. Roberto
(Former) Vice President of Operations at Tufts University

“The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) has worked with Johnson Roberts Associates (JRA) on several projects through our house doctor/on-call contract. Projects have ranged from studies, building assessments, design, and construction services. Across the varied array of projects, we have found JRA to be professional, efficient, and thoughtful about public buildings. JRA has demonstrated their ability to tackle complex assignments to produce high quality results. DCR welcomes the opportunity to work with JRA in the future.”

— Robin Pfetsch, Director
DCR, Architecture Section

“We were fortunate to work with a great team of architects that focused on the future of library design during planning, site selection, design development and construction. The East Forest Park Branch is designed with maximum flexibility. During the entire process, the community and the staff were engaged through active listening and careful dialogue. This helped us gain an overall understanding of the community and their needs which resulted in a functional and outstanding design.”

— Molly Fogarty, Director
Springfield City Library

“This new fire station provides a pleasant work environment, a state-of-the-art facility, and most importantly, the tools to respond to each and every call.”

— Ann Vandal
Dracut Town Manager (regarding Dracut Fire Station #3)



24 Dane Street
Somerville, MA 02143
617-666-8585
www.johnson-roberts.com