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# INDIANA ACHIEVEMENT

Fulton County Unveils Impressive Sheriff's Office & Detention Center



A central hub space provides sightlines into adjoining detention areas.



The facility's detention resources are comprised by the 230-bed count with 198 beds in its housing pod—12 beds for inmate workers, and intake and holding containing 20 beds.

A multipurpose space at the facility is graced with ample natural daylighting.

BY ZACH CHOUTEAU

**THE** Hoosier State recently said hello to a dynamic new facility that is highlighted by a 230-bed detention center and sheriff's office—packing in some stellar spaces that will blend security with education, research and cutting-edge communications.

The venue in question is the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center in Rochester, Ind., which held a fall unveiling and open house for the newly built facility sized at 49,910 square feet and set on almost 16 acres.

The facility's detention resources are comprised by the 230-bed count with 198 beds in its housing pod—12 beds for inmate workers, and intake and holding containing 20 beds. Elsewhere around the venue can be found additional space for programming, with accommodations as such where male and female inmates can earn their GED and other state-sponsored resources to help them re-integrate into society.

Other standout spaces within the new civic hub include a top-tier dispatch center, impressive forensic center/morgue, and multipurpose room that quickly transforms to an incident command center when needed. The design of the venue was led by Elevatus Architecture and the construction manager was Garmon Construction Services, with Weigand Construction serving as contractor.

Pauly Jail Building Company also played an important role, and their scope of work included furnishing and installing modular controls, security glazing, mesh, enclosures, padded cells, detention furnishings, hardware, security electronics, modular steel cells, hollow metal doors, hollow metal frames and security ceilings.

Other project partners included; Accurate Controls, Inc. for Modular Controls; Global Security Glazing for Security Glazing; Norix Group for Detention Equipment; RR Brink Locking Systems, Inc. for Security Hardware; Security Automation Systems for Security Electronics; and SteelCell of North America, Inc. for Modular Steel Cells.

To gain greater understanding of the facility and undertaking, particularly the



design elements, CN turned to Principal/Project Manager Craig Armstrong, AIA; and Partner/Justice Team Leader Tony Vie, AIA, of Elevatus Architecture, to obtain their shared insights.

*What was the most important goal with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center from a design perspective? And how did you approach that?*

"Build it right, build it big enough, build it for the future." – Fulton County Sheriff Chris Sailors

Creating a safe and secure facility sized appropriately for immediate and future needs while staying within a responsible budget was priority number 1. The design kept officer and inmate safety at the forefront of every design decision throughout the project. Careful attention to sightlines, technology, and efficient movement through the facility aided in accomplishing this goal. It was also important to focus on simplistic expandability should the facility be expanded in the future. This was accomplished by careful site planning to accommodate ideal locations for future additions, understanding what would be needed to support additional production load in spaces like kitchen and laundry, and providing

Photo Credit (all): Travis Patton Photography



A modern reception area showcases a sleek and angular design.

The new venue focuses on robust security but is also designed to serve as a welcoming civic hub.

appropriate infrastructure for future building growth. The result is a facility that can double in capacity without disrupting day-to-day operations while doing so.

*Did this new venue reflect any major current trends in justice/corrections design? In what ways does it break the mold of other facilities?*

A Forensics Center / Morgue was included in this building to allow investigators space to examine a body if required. This facility accommodates the processing and storage of evidence within the facility to combat possible chain of evidence issues and promote efficient operations. It can serve as a 'hub' for surrounding counties to utilize as well.

A multi-purpose room was designed to accommodate large County meetings or training seminars. This space is easily converted to an Incident Command Center for a Base of Operations should a situation arise.

This facility also integrates a state-of-the-art 911 Dispatch Center. The space can allow neighboring counties to operate from it should their facilities be inoperable for any reason.

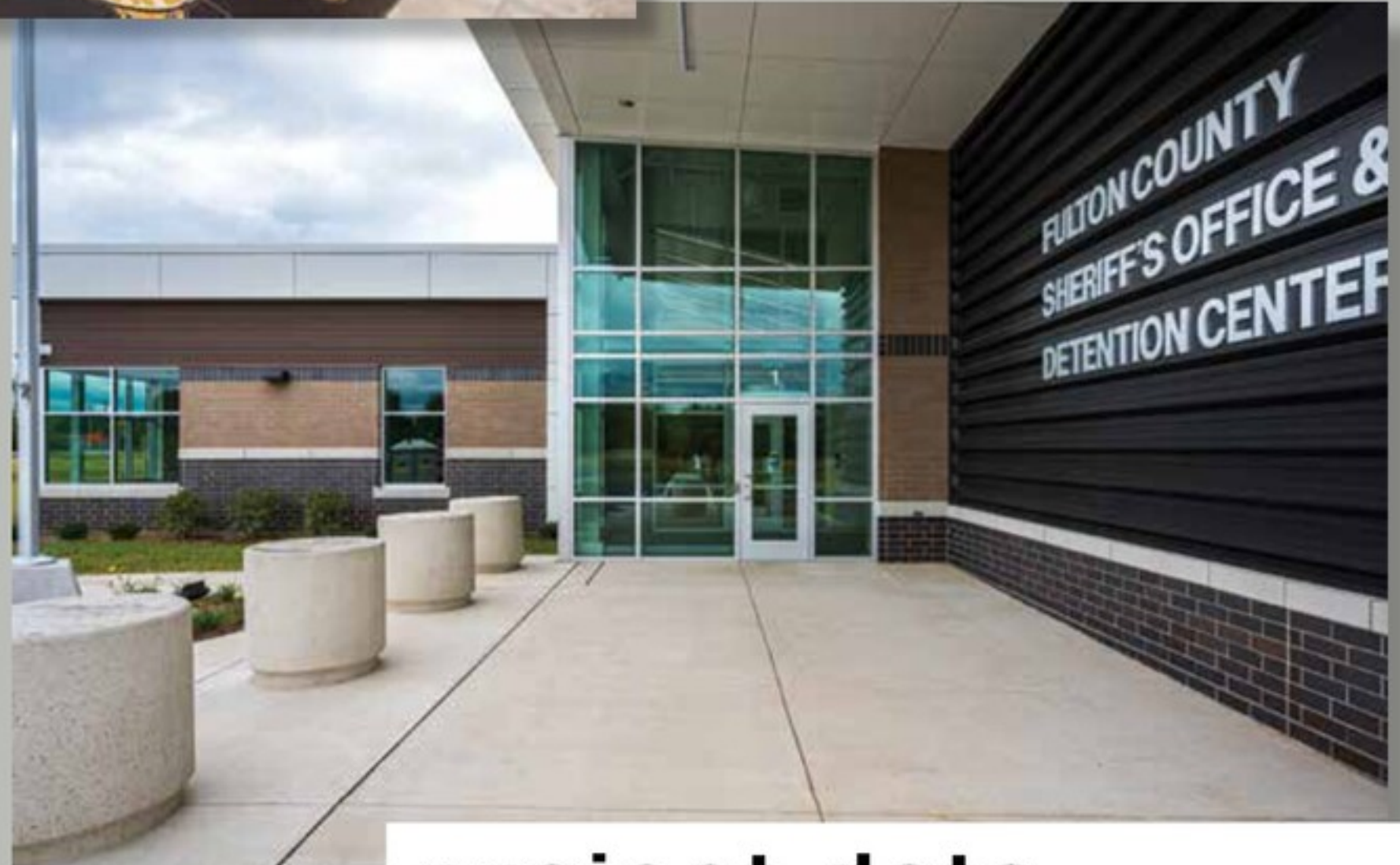
All the spaces housed in this Center will mitigate operating costs and increase response times.

*Were there any key partner companies/firms on the project, and how did the collaborative aspects go?*

During the design, Elevatus Architecture had several meetings with the jail committee and specific user groups housed in this facility to have a clear understanding of the needs of each. Garmong Construction was the construction manager for this project and worked together with Elevatus Architecture to ensure that the project would meet and exceed the county's expectations. Although all of the contractors working on the project played an important role, companies such as Weigand Construction, The Pauly Jail Building Company, and Security Automation Systems had several meetings with Garmong, the Jail Committee, and Elevatus Architecture early in the design and throughout the construction process to coordinate facility components that included, but was not necessarily limited to, door and lighting controls, security camera placement, steel cell erection, and door hardware; each had to be tailored to the county's specifications.

*Have you heard any client feedback since the completion of the project?*

Fulton County Leaders are extremely pleased with the success of this project, especially considering it finished on time and under budget. County officials hosted an open house and encouraged the public to attend. Of the hundreds of people who attended and toured the facility, the feedback from the public was overwhelmingly positive. Since the facility's substantial completion, officials from other Counties and States have toured the facility and agree on the high level of success this project has achieved.



## project data

**Facility Name:** Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center

**Facility Type:** Jail

**Location:** 2006 Sweetgum Rd., Rochester, IN 46975

**Construction Budget:** \$23M

**Number of Beds/Holding Cells:** 230 beds/ 58 Cells

**Area (square feet):** 49,910 SF

**Start Date:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Completion Date:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Owner/Operator:** Fulton County Commissioners

**Owner Representative:** Sheriff Christopher D. Sailors

Bryan W. Lewis, President, Fulton County Commissioners

**Project Manager:** Tony Vie, AIA, Elevatus Architecture

**Architect:** Craig Armstrong, AIA, Elevatus Architecture

**Structural Engineer:** Dan Schenkel, P.E., S.E., Engineering Resources, Inc.

**Mechanical Engineer:** Douglas Kelsey, P.E., SCO Engineering, LLC

**Electrical Engineer:** Thomas Offerle, P.E., SCO Engineering, LLC

**General Contractor:** Garmong Construction (CM-A)

**Detention Equipment Contractor:** The Pauly Jail Building Co.

**Security Electronics Contractor:** Security Automation Systems, Inc.