

## DEL VALLE FIRE & EMS STATION

The Del Valle Fire & EMS Station serves a portion of the City of Austin recently annexed for the relocation of the city's airport. The building type itself presents a few design challenges. A fire station is a utilitarian facility which requires durable, low-maintenance materials but still needs to have an inviting presence in the community. The metal barn image of the structure is reminiscent of the utilitarian agricultural structures that dotted the area.

The structural concept was to use a structural steel frame and metal stud infill. This was a unique building type for the client as their station had been constructed of load-bearing CMU and built-up wood roof trusses. This structural type expedited the construction process as it limited the interface of multiple trades required with the previous system.

The city was particularly concerned about the roof system. This part of the country has some of the heaviest rate of rainfall and the city didn't want another structure that required chronic roof maintenance. The galvalume metal roof is a double lock field-seamed standing seam employed over a rubberized asphalt waterproof membrane. Special care was given combining waste and exhaust vents in order to minimize the roof penetrations. These specifications will preserve the lifespan and quality of the roof.

