

Cambridge Temporary Fire Station #10

Cambridge, MA

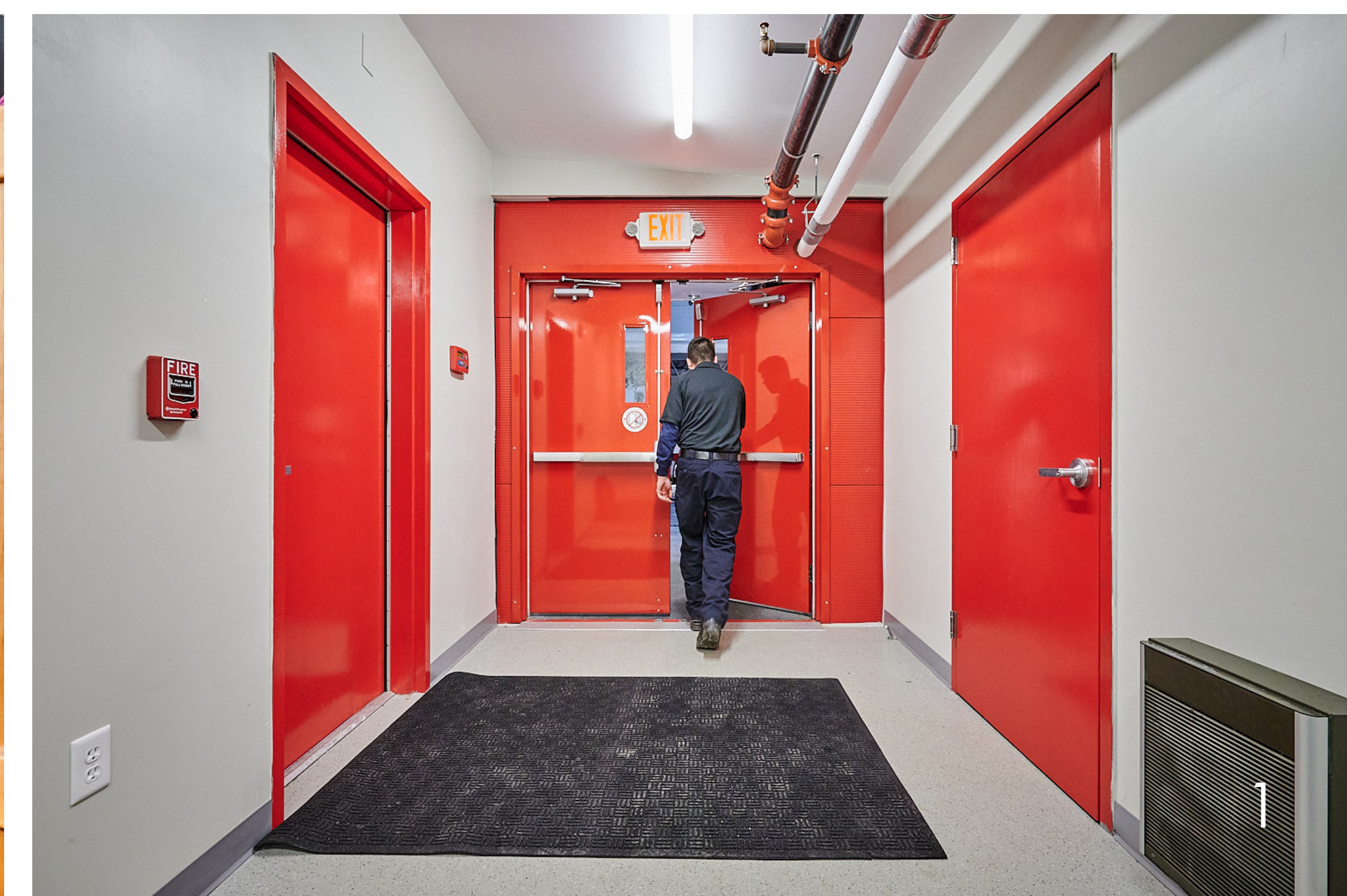


During the gut-renovation of the century-old Cambridge Fire Headquarters, new housing for the department's Engine 1, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, and Dive Rescue Unit firetrucks was desperately needed. Though acreage in Cambridge was in short supply, The Galante Architecture Studio solved this dilemma with an innovative solution: building first temporary modular fire station in the U.S.

After 44 studies of 27 sites, the collective team chose to locate the temporary facility at: a local hospital's parking lot. The 8,500 SF station's new site accomplishes three goals: lessening the impact of engine noise on its dense urban neighborhood, improving accessibility to a residential district, and maintaining high visibility from the city's main roads. Station 10 is located near the original headquarters, so the Fire Department may continue its same area coverage. The new station's visibility from Cambridge Street makes it instantly recognizable as a firehouse with the characteristic red palette, as an anchor of safety in its neighborhood.

Four apparatus bays, each holding its own vehicle, unify the station. A separate extension contains a kitchen, a full sprinkler system, common areas, gender-neutral bathrooms, individual bunkrooms, and a fitness center. Wall insulation, low-flow water fixtures, and energy-efficient LED lighting reduce operational expenses for the all-electric building. Wash-down-ready engineering enables the station's immediate cleaning. Direct exhaust-capture technology diverts diesel exhaust outside. Advanced decontamination separates hot zones from living quarters, protecting staff from toxins, and carcinogens.

Station 10 exemplifies modular technology's capacity to solve the common problem of replacing aging stations with insufficient funds for a new building. The speed of modular construction enables more cities and towns to update, expand or replace their firehouses cost-effectively. Once the Fire Department moves back into its headquarters, Station 10 will be reused in order to renovate other aging, unsafe stations by relocating other personnel and vehicles.



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