

# Signal Hill Professional Center: Implementing a Concrete Structural System



Joseph Henry, Structural Option  
Dr. Linda Hanagan, Advisor  
Penn State Architectural Engineering  
Senior Thesis, Spring 2006

# Building Introduction

## Design Background

- 68,000 square feet of open office space
- Four Aboveground Floors
- Pre-framed for a bank, first floor
- Commercial/Light Industrial District of Manassas, VA
- Standard Suburban Office Building



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# Building Introduction

## Design Background



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# Building Introduction

## Notable Features, M Group Architects

21,000 square feet  
of parking area  
achieved through  
excavating into  
sloping site



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# Building Introduction

## Notable Features, M Group Architects

Structure over  
parking area slopes  
with natural terrain



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# Building Introduction

Notable Features, M Group Architects

“SlenderCast” precast concrete wall system by Smith-Midland strives to:

- Reduce thermal transmission by up to 25%
- Protect façade from superstructure movement



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# Building Introduction

Existing Structural System, Morabito Consultants

## Goals

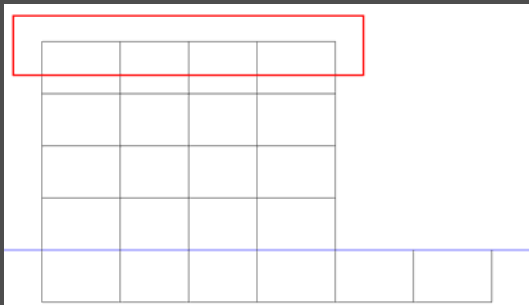
- To reduce floor section thickness and structure weight
- To lengthen spans for more open office space
- To utilize as few laborers as possible



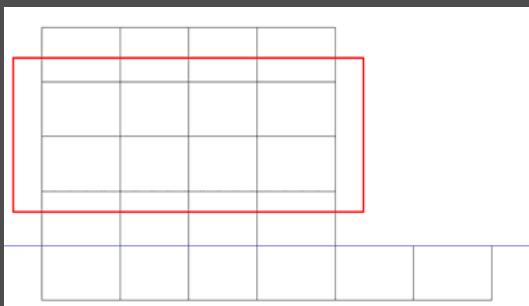
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# Concrete Structural Design

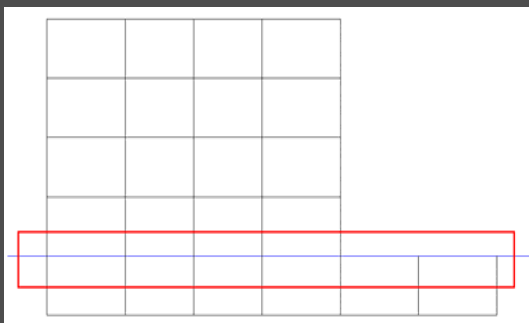
Existing Structural System, Morabito Consultants



Roof Structure: 3" deck on  
W12x16 Beams, W18x40 Girders



Office Floors 2-4: 3.5" Slab on 3"  
composite deck, W10x15 Beams,  
W21x44 Girders



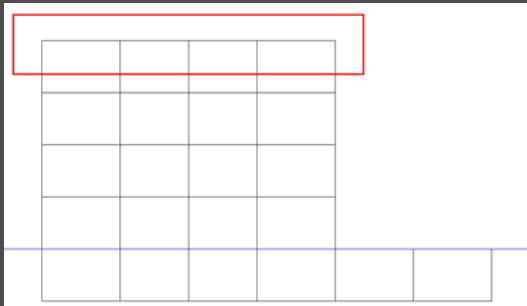
Parking Deck/First Floor: 4" Slab on  
2" composite deck, W10x15 Beams,  
W24x76 Girders

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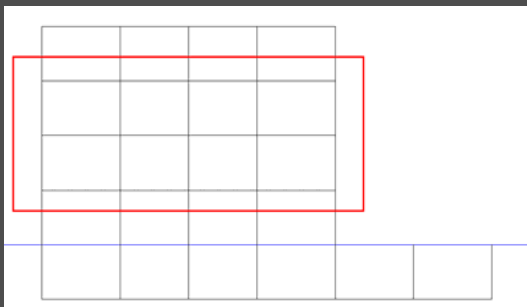


# Concrete Structural Design

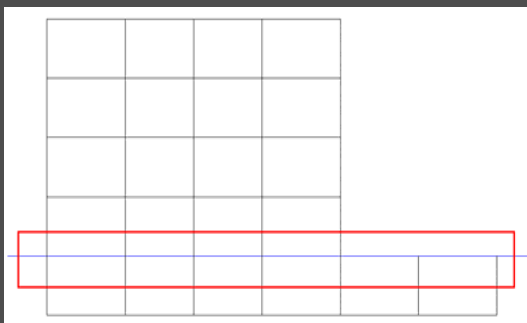
Existing Structural System, Morabito Consultants



Roof Structure: 3" deck on  
W12x16 Beams, W18x40 Girders



Office Floors 2-4: 3.5" Slab on 3"  
composite deck, W10x15 Beams,  
W21x44 Girders



Parking Deck/First Floor: 4" Slab on  
2" composite deck, W10x15 Beams,  
W24x76 Girders

250 psf Fire  
Engine Load

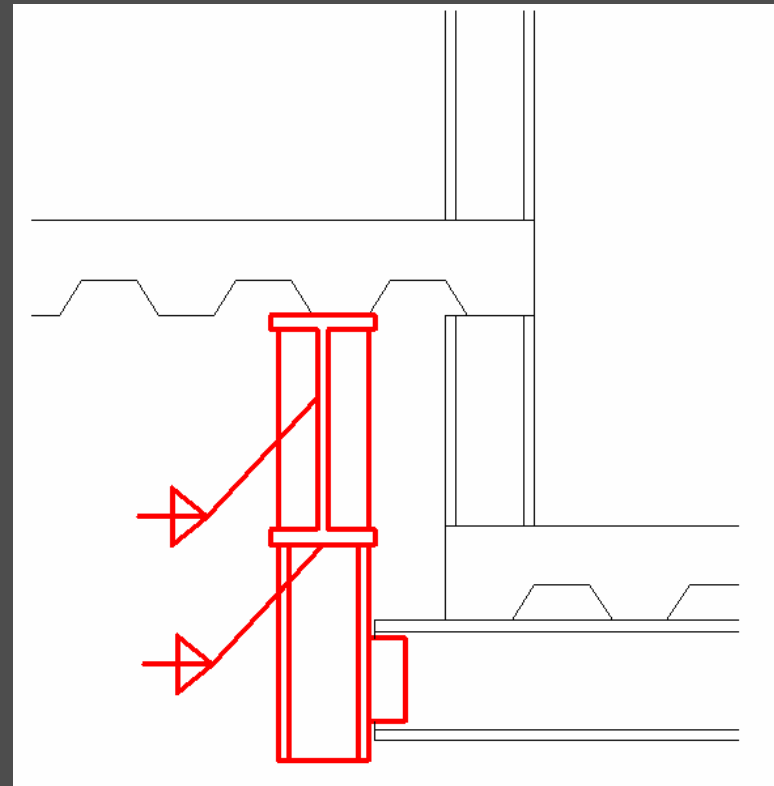
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# Building Introduction

Existing Structural System, Morabito Consultants

## Undulating Parking Structure

- Attached to first floor diaphragm via coped beams and W6x25 hangers



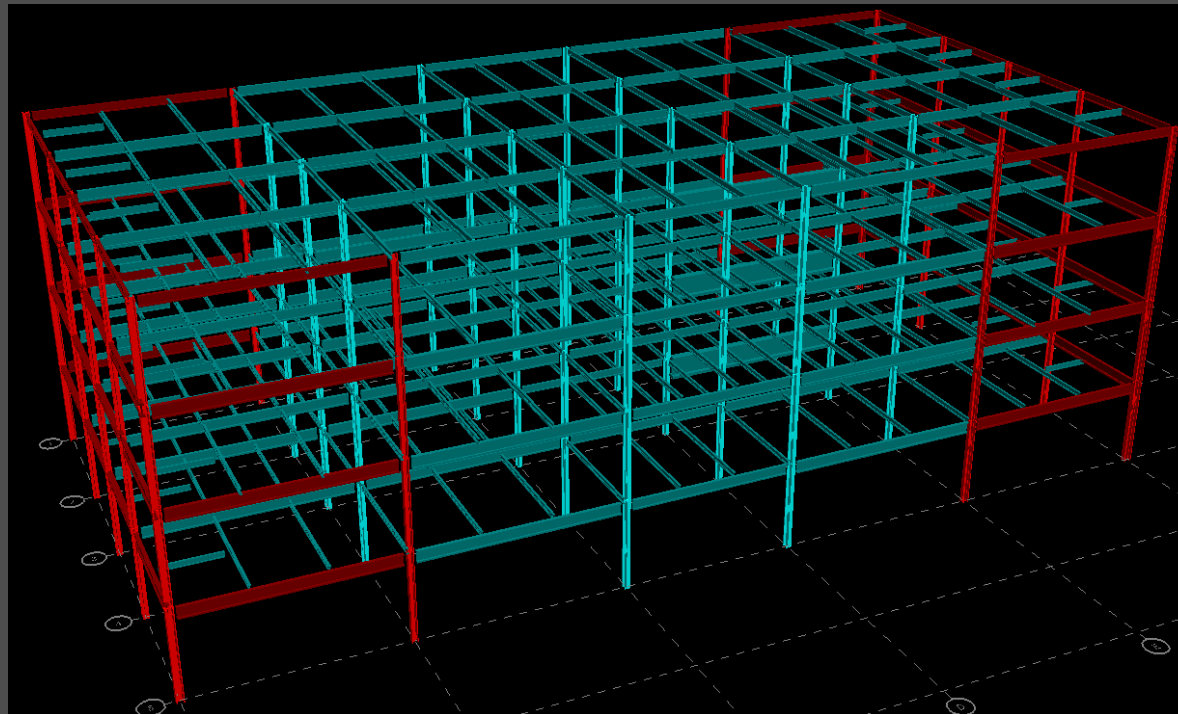
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# Building Introduction

Existing Structural System, Morabito Consultants

## Lateral System

- Seismic Load Controls with 170k base shear
- Moment Frames on building perimeter anchored to shear walls in basement



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# Thesis Intent

## University of Leeds



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# Design Problem

Manassas, Virginia

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# Design Problem

## Manassas, Virginia



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# Design Problem

## Manassas, Virginia



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# Design Problem

## Manassas, Virginia



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# Thesis Outline

## Concrete Structural Design

Design Includes:

- Floor Slab
- Lateral System
- Columns
- Footings
- Connection to Parking Structure

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# Thesis Outline

## Concrete Structural Design

### Design Includes:

- Floor Slab
- Lateral System
- Columns
- Footings
- Connection to Parking Structure

### Evaluated Through:

- Structural Efficiency
- Architectural Impact
- Cost/Schedule Impact
- Possibility of Green Design

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# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Two Way Slab Types

- Flat Plate
- Flat Slab with Edge Beams
- Flat Slab with Drops
- Flat Slab with Drops and Edge Beams
- Flat Slab with Beams between all columns

# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Two Way Slab Types

- Flat Plate
- Flat Slab with Edge Beams
- Flat Slab with Drops
- Flat Slab with Drops and Edge Beams
- Flat Slab with Beams between all columns

### Evaluated Using

- Direct Design Method
- ADOSS

# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Two Way Slab Types

- Flat Plate
- Flat Slab with Edge Beams
- Flat Slab with Drops
- Flat Slab with Drops and Edge Beams
- Flat Slab with Beams between all columns

### Evaluated Using

- Direct Design Method
- ADOSS

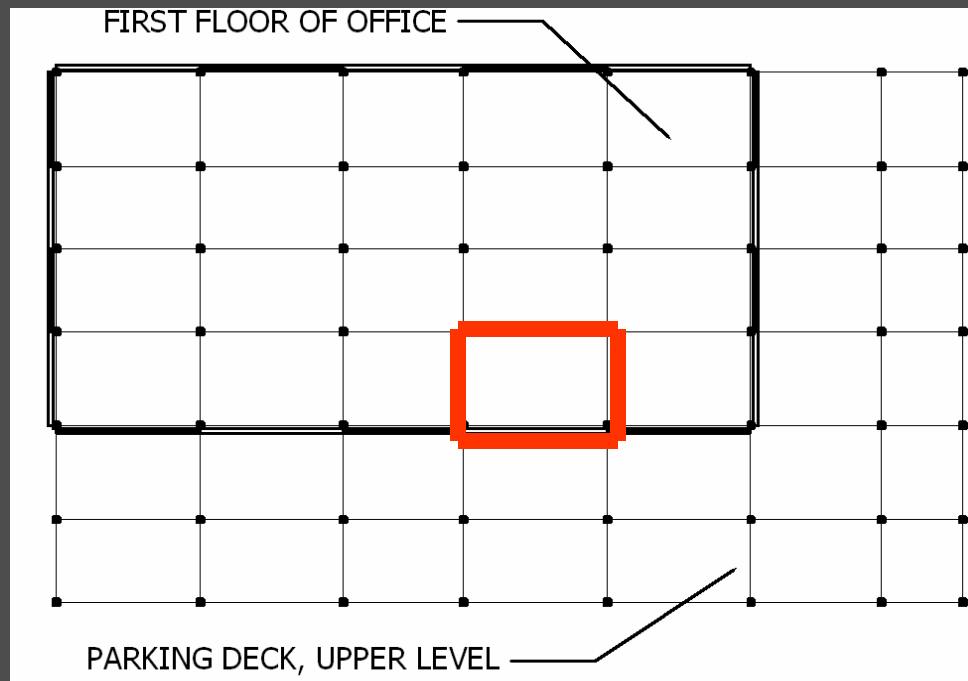
Using Four  
Column  
Layouts



# Concrete Structural Design Floor System

Column Grid, Existing Layout

Maximum Bay Size = 20'-0" x 30'-0"

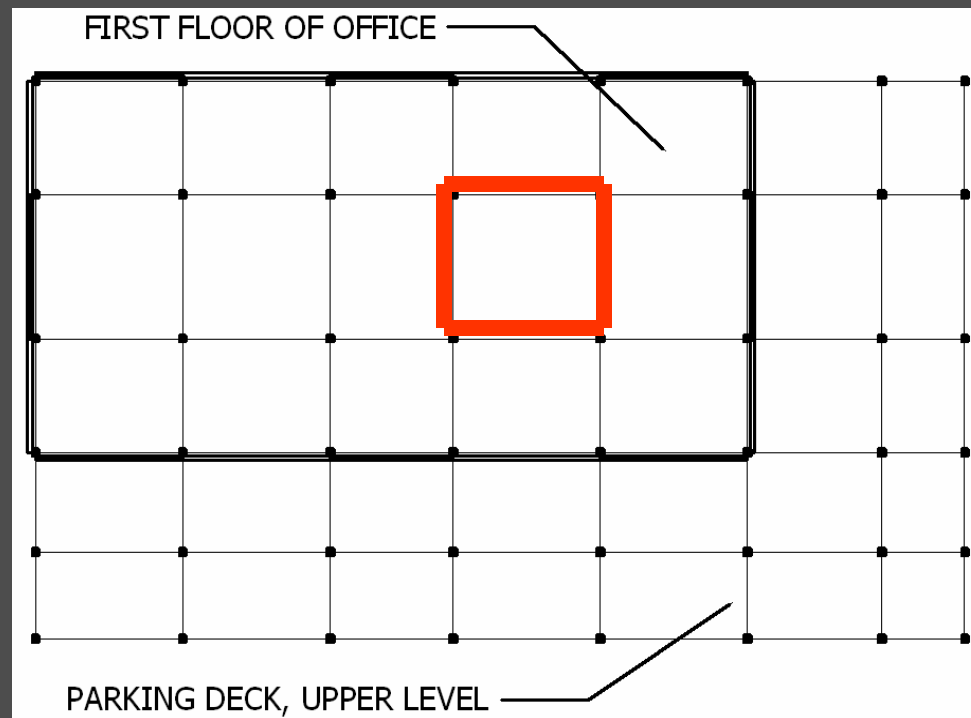


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# Concrete Structural Design Floor System

Column Grid, Alternative #1

Maximum Bay Size = 30'-0" x 30'-0"

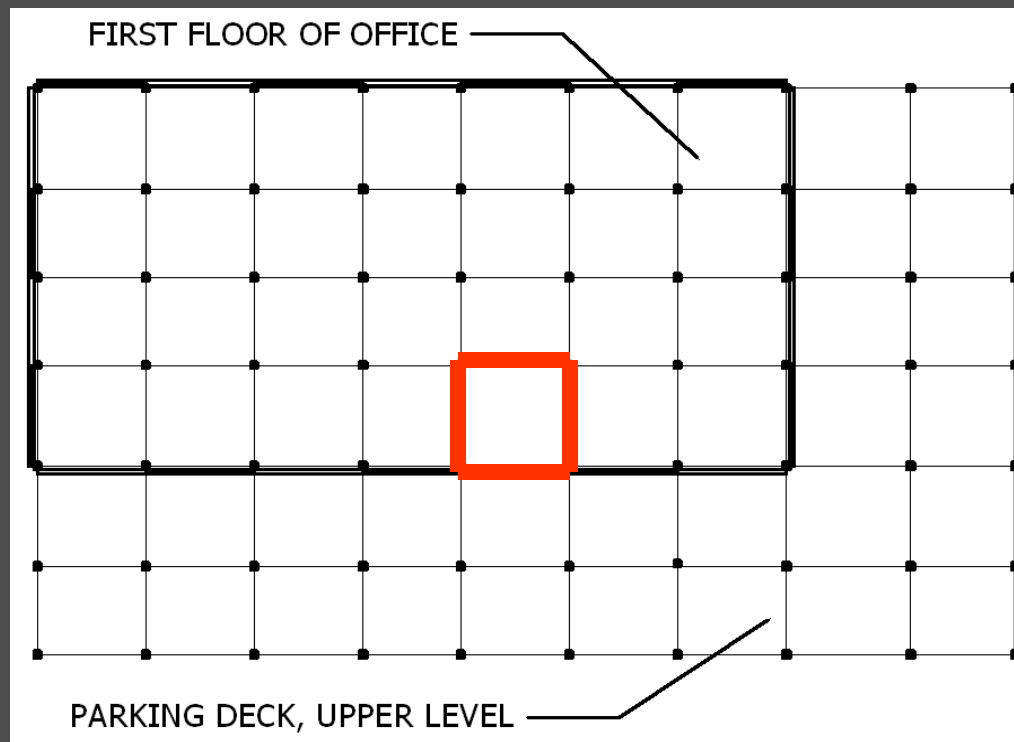


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# Concrete Structural Design Floor System

Column Grid, Alternative #2

Maximum Bay Size = 20'-0" x 21'-0"



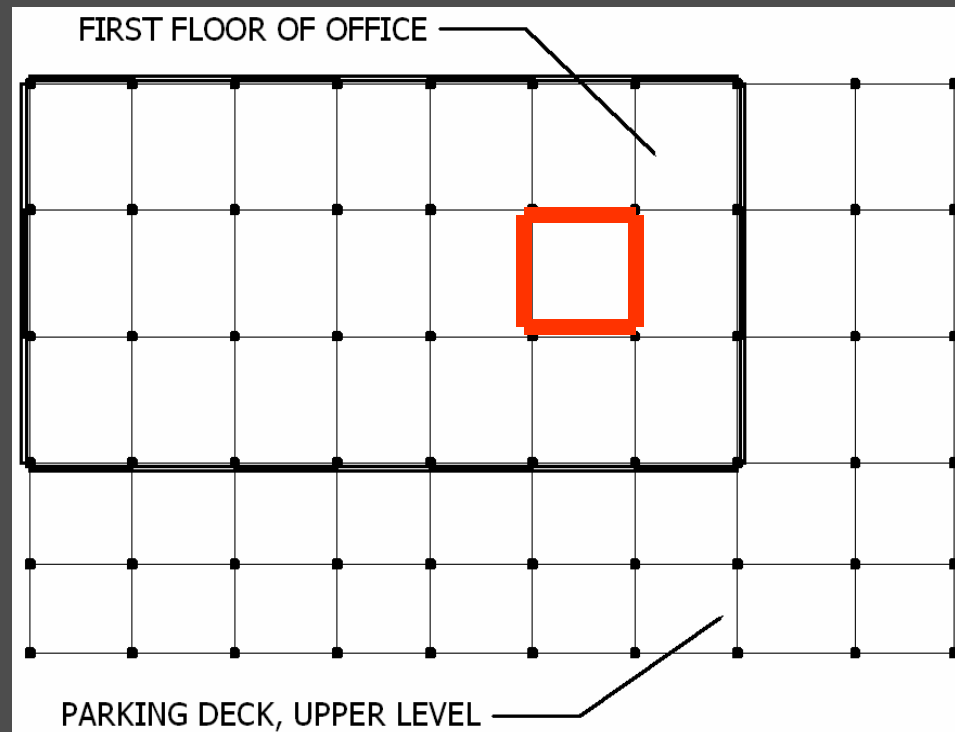
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# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

Column Grid, Alternative #3

Maximum Bay Size = 25'-0"x21'-0"



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# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

Problems:

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Solutions:

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# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Problems:

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- Flexure
- 

### Solutions:

---

- Thicker Slab, Beams between all columns
-

# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Problems:

---

- Flexure

- 
- Deflection
- 

### Solutions:

---

- Thicker Slab, Beams between all columns

- 
- Edge Beam
-

# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Problems:

---

- Flexure

---

- Deflection

---

- Architecture

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### Solutions:

---

- Thicker Slab, Beams between all columns

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- Edge Beam

---

- Larger Spans

---



# Concrete Structural Design

## Floor System

### Problems:

---

- Flexure

---

- Deflection

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- Architecture

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- Shear

### Solutions:

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- Thicker Slab, Beams between all columns

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- Edge Beam

---

- Larger Spans

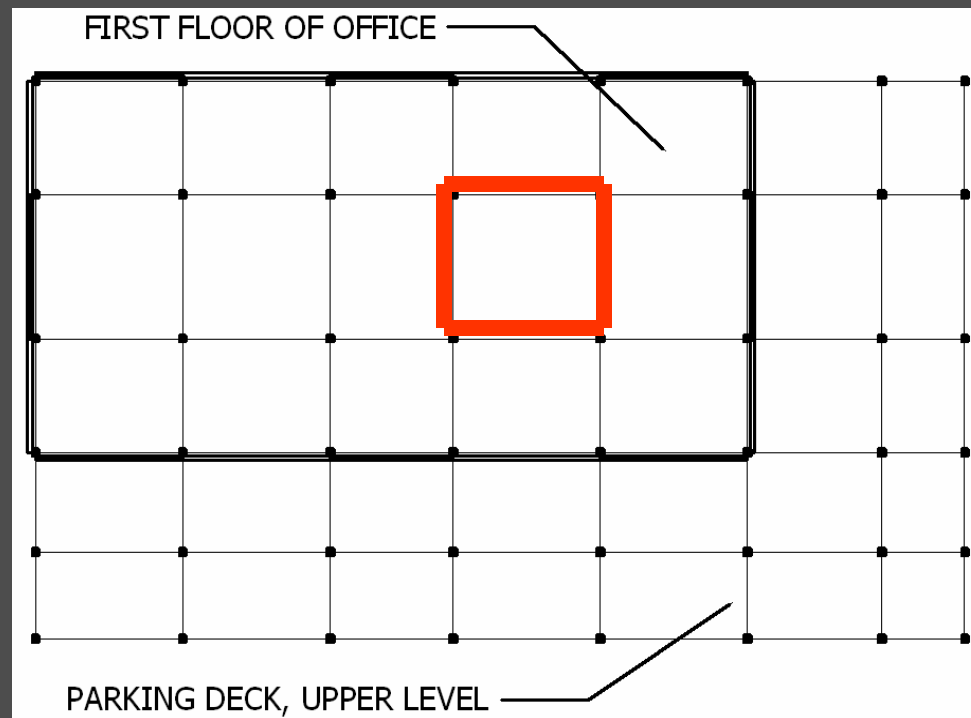
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- Drops, Larger Columns

# Concrete Structural Design Floor System

Column Grid, Alternative #1

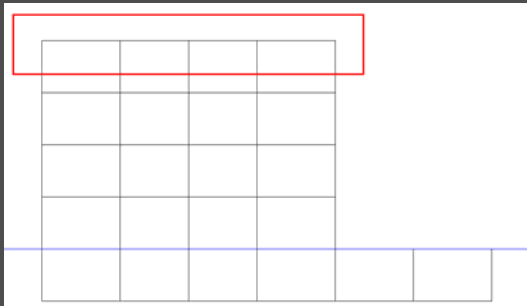
Maximum Bay Size = 30'-0" x 30'-0"



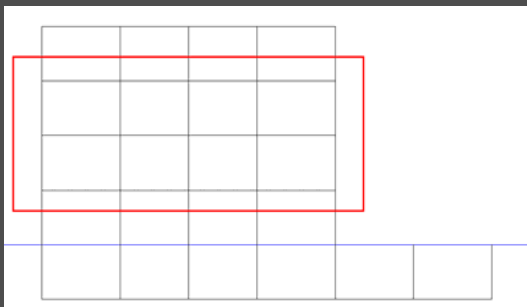
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# Concrete Structural Design

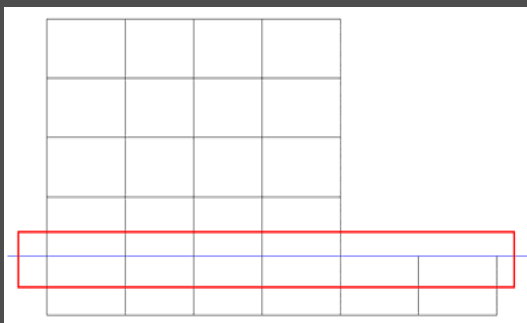
## Floor System



Roof Structure: 8" Slab  
with 3.5" drops



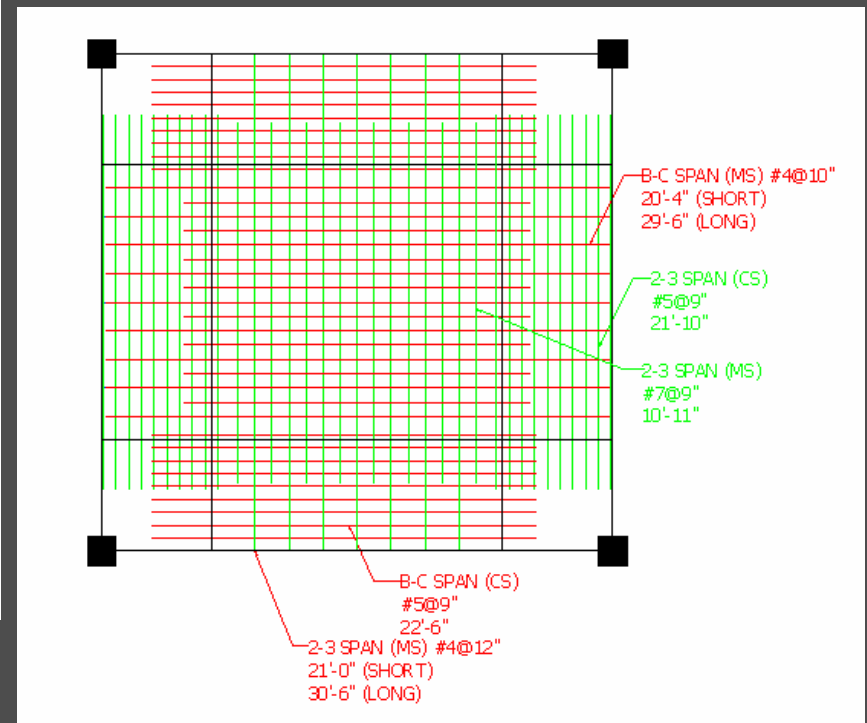
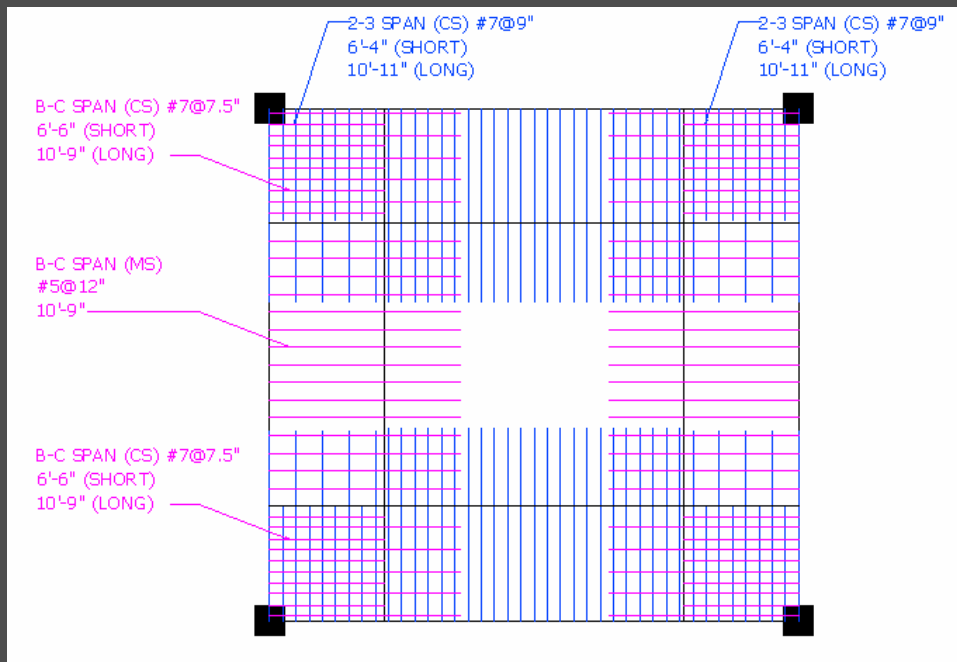
Office Floors 2-4: 10" Slab with 3.5" drops,  
4.5" drops at exterior  
columns



Parking Deck/First Floor:  
11" Slab with 3.5"  
drops, 7" drops under  
parking live load

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# Concrete Structural Design Floor System



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# Concrete Structural Design

## Lateral System

### Location

- Limited wind pressures, seismic will control
- 170k seismic base shear increases to 354k under concrete system

### Considerations

- Drift
- Structural Strength

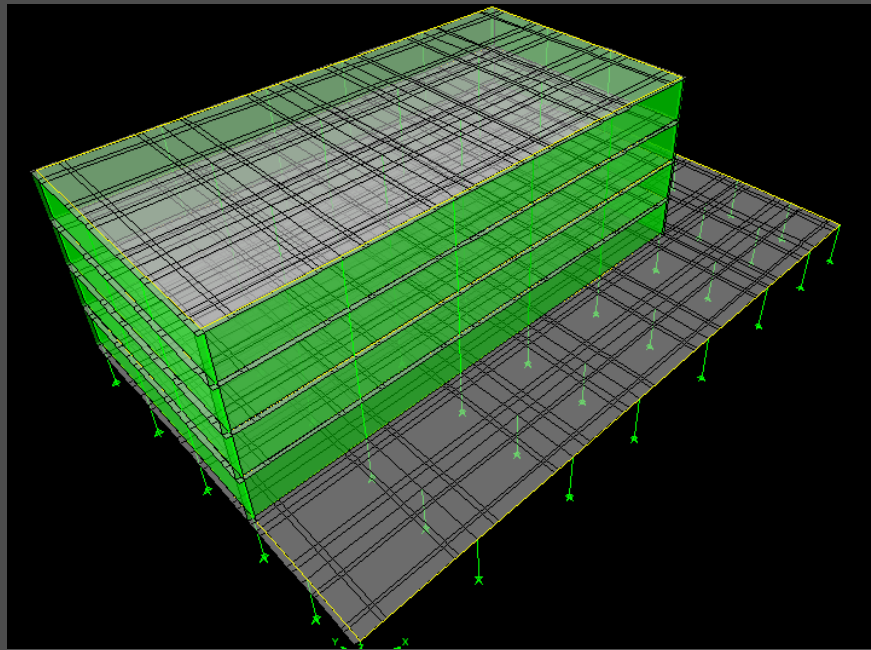


# Concrete Structural Design

## Lateral System

Drift Analysis from ETABS Model

- Rigid Diaphragm with Columns rigidly attached
- Lateral Loads applied to only top 4 diaphragms
- Drift measured from Basement Floor



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# Concrete Structural Design

## Lateral System

Drift Analysis from ETABS Model

Roof: 0.876"

Floor 4: 0.773"

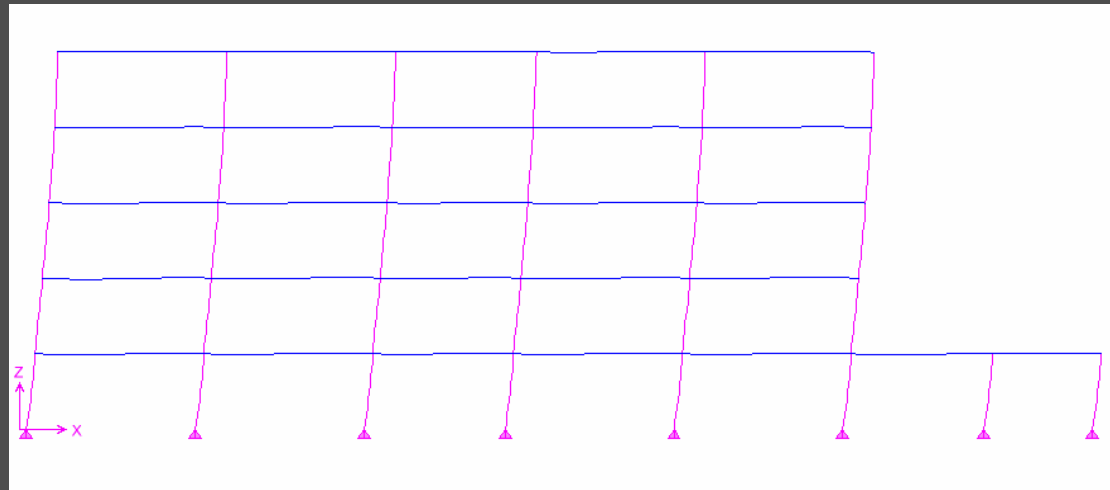
Floor 3: 0.607"

Floor 2: 0.394"

Floor 1: 0.186"

Acceptable Drift:

$H/400 = 1.57"$



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# Concrete Structural Design

## Lateral System

### Structural Analysis from ADOSS Model

- Horizontal Loads applied to Frame
- Flexure satisfactory
- Larger unbalanced moments at interior columns at Floors 2 and 3 a problem
- Larger columns necessary

# Concrete Structural Design

## Columns and Footings

Using Moments and Loads from Structural Models

- Column sizes dictated by shear in floor system
- Per CRSI, minimum reinforcement in columns generally satisfactory
- Footing sizes drastically increase by 3-4x in area, by almost 2x in thickness

# Concrete Structural Design

## Connection to Parking Structure

### Beam Connection to Undulating Parking Structure

- Torsion
- Elevation



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# Concrete Structural Design

## Connection to Parking Structure

Beam	Size	Max Shear	Max Torsion	Max Moment	Steel Design Summary
A4-B4	20x44	80.7	107.9	888.6	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 14" 11#5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) 4#10, 1#9
B4-C4	20x36	80.7	107.9	863.0	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 12" 9 # 5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) 4#11, 1#10
C4-D4	20X30	80.7	107.9	516.9	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 10" 7 #5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) 4#10, 1#9
D4-E4	20x26	80.7	107.9	7367	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 9.5" 5 #5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) bottom row: 4#10, 1#1 top row: 5#9
E4-F4	20x28 +2" elev.	80.7	107.9	7367	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 9.5" 5 #5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) bottom row: 4#10, 1#1 top row: 5#9
F1-F2	24x34 +2" elev.	96.0	151.0	606.4	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 10" 7 # 5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) 4#11, 4#10
F2-F3 F3-F4	24x32	96.0	151.0	606.4	(shear) #4 stirrups @ 10" 7 # 5 long. Distributed on three sides (flexure) 4#11, 4#10

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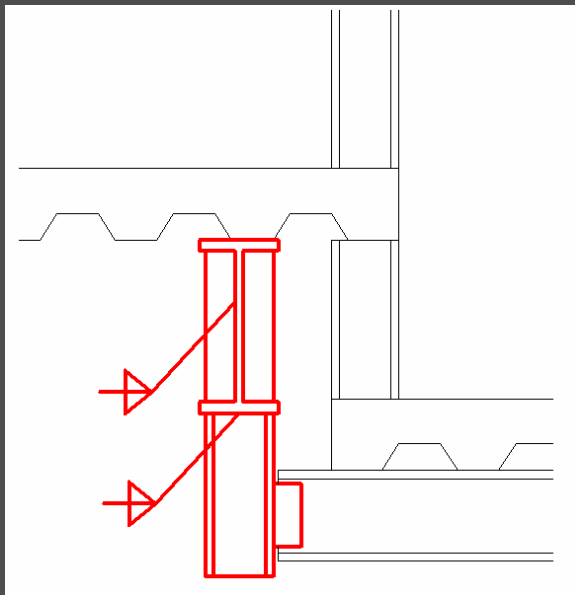


# Concrete Structural Design

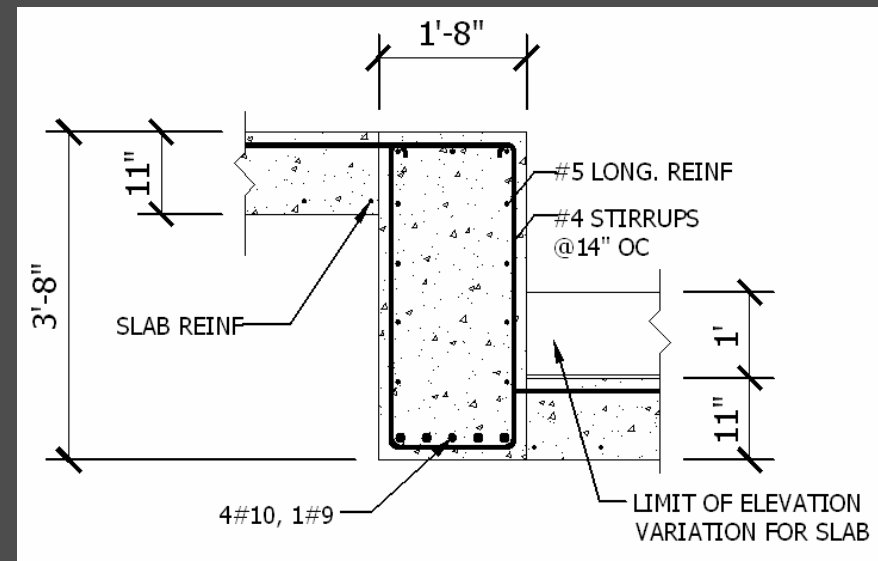
## Additional Considerations

### Beam Connection to Undulating Parking Structure

#### Steel Design



#### Concrete Design



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# Concrete Structural Design

## Summary

- Drop panel system used throughout to combat shear
- Concrete Moment Frames sufficient for drift and lateral load resistance
- Column sizes dictated by shear and not axial loads
- Footing sizes drastically increase
- Connection to undulating parking structure achieved through beam

# Concrete Structural Design

## Methods of Evaluation (Breadth Analyses)

- Architectural Impact:  
Number of Parking Spaces,  
Size of Obstructing  
Columns, Façade
- Cost/Schedule Impact:  
Overall Cost, Erection Time,  
and Local Adjustments
- Possibility of Green  
Design: Structural, Cost,  
and Aesthetic Implications  
of a Green Roof



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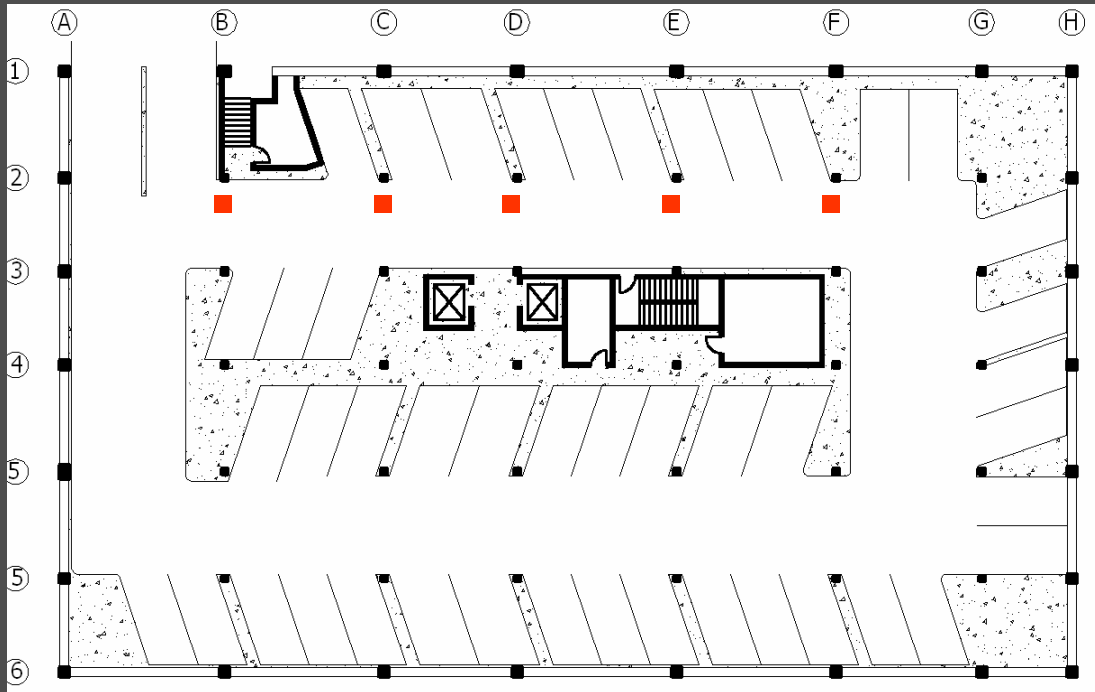
# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Overview and Problem Statement

- Parking Area: New Column Layout overlaps with interior driveway by 2'-6"
- Office Layouts: Interior Corridor area needs to be moved to accommodate parking area and new column layouts
- Façade Layouts: 24" wide columns block windows

# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Overview and Problem Statement



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Overview and Problem Statement

- Parking Area: New Column Layout overlaps with interior driveway by 2'-6"
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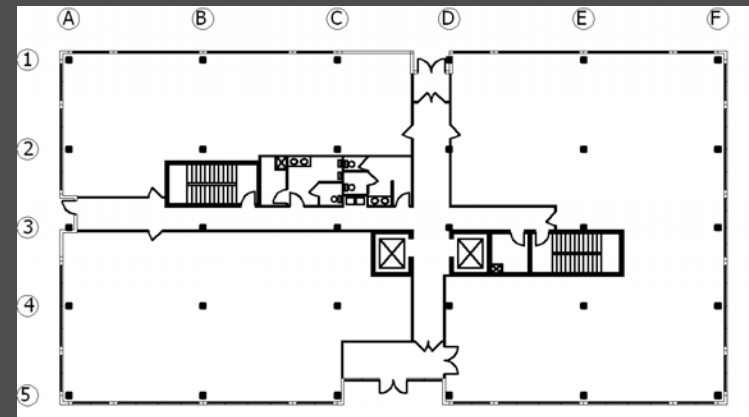
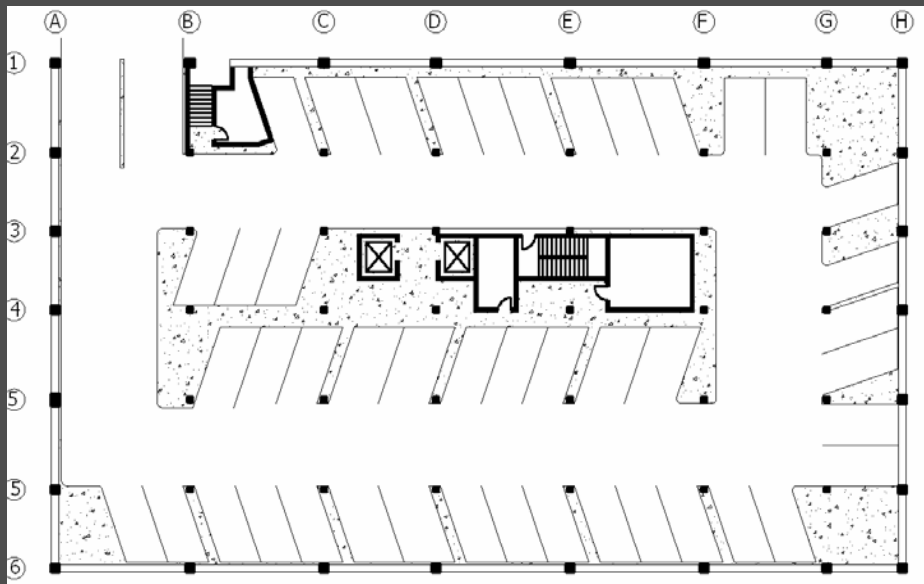
Floorplan evaluated by the Building Owner and Managers Association Industry Standard

Façade evaluated by simplifying Precast Panel use



# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Existing Design

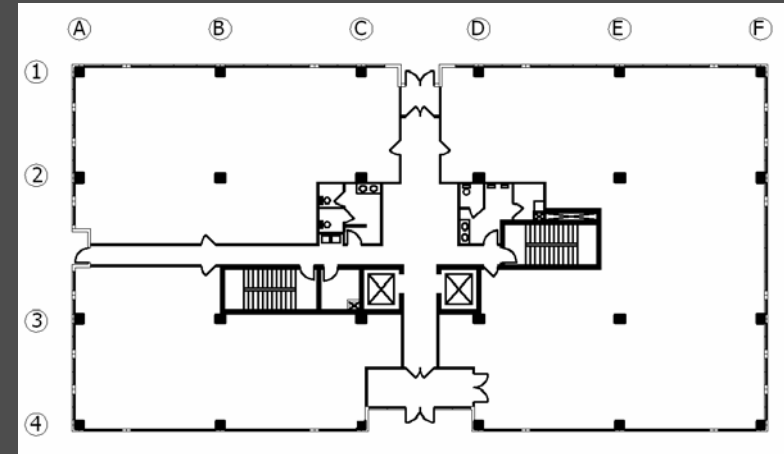
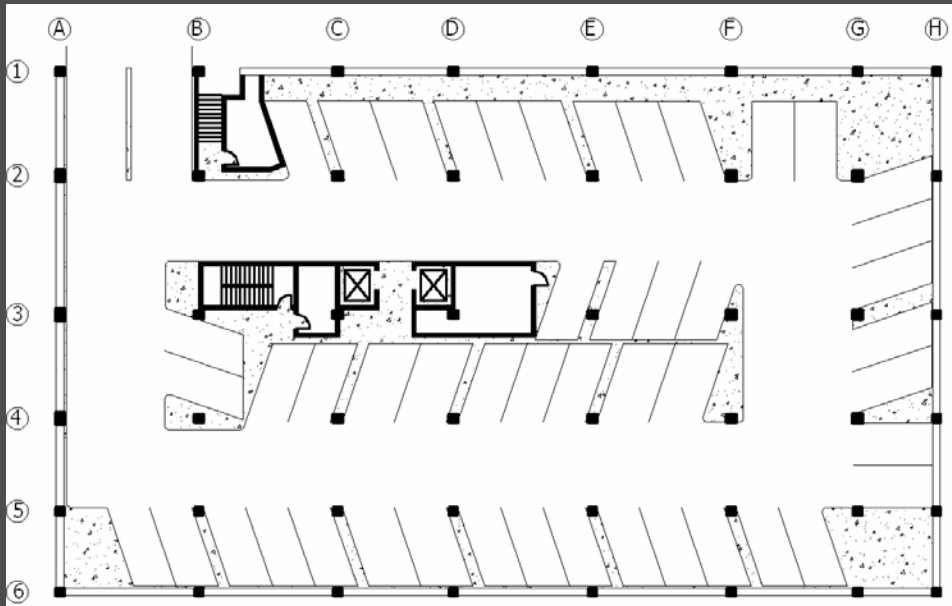


- Total Rentable Area: 36,730 square feet
- R/U Ratio: 16.74%
- Underground Parking Spaces: 44

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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Alternative #1

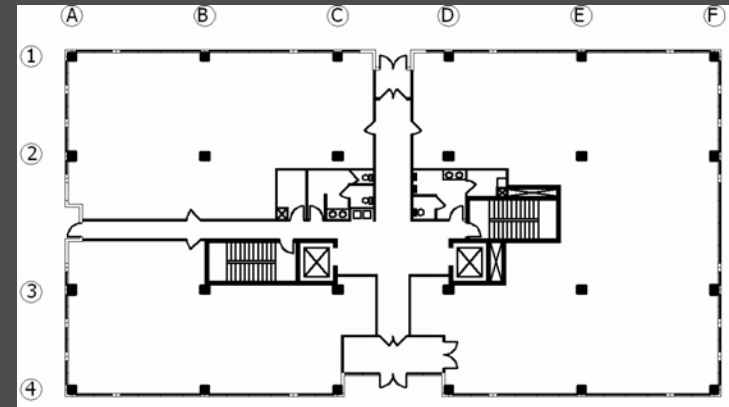
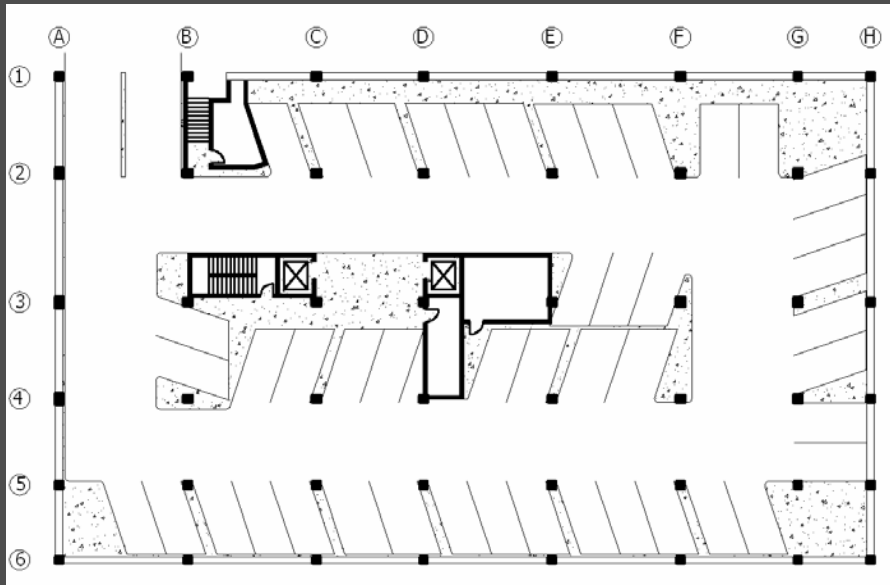


- Total Rentable Area: 37,740 square feet
- R/U Ratio: 14.77%
- Underground Parking Spaces: 48

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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Alternative #2

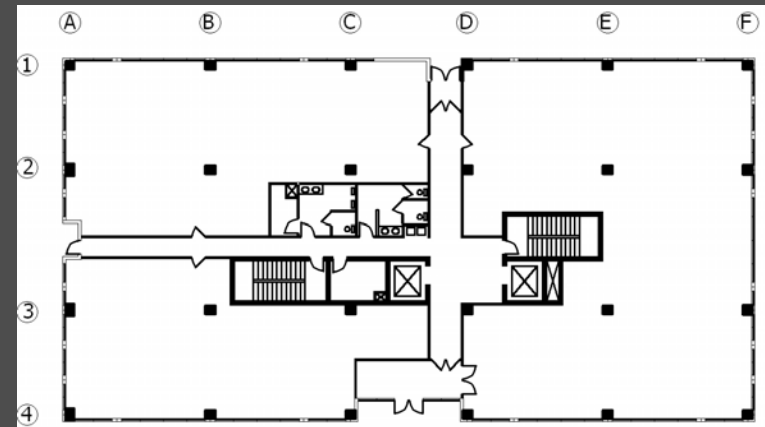
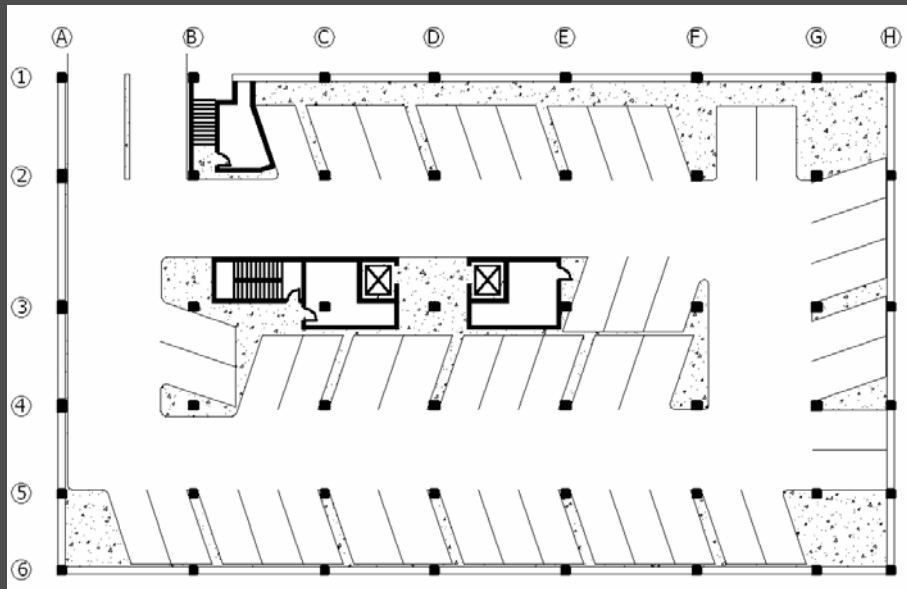


- Total Rentable Area: 37,027 square feet
- R/U Ratio: 16.09%
- Underground Parking Spaces: 46

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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Alternative #3



- Total Rentable Area: 37,116 square feet
- R/U Ratio: 15.90%
- Underground Parking Spaces: 47

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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Floorplan Study Summary

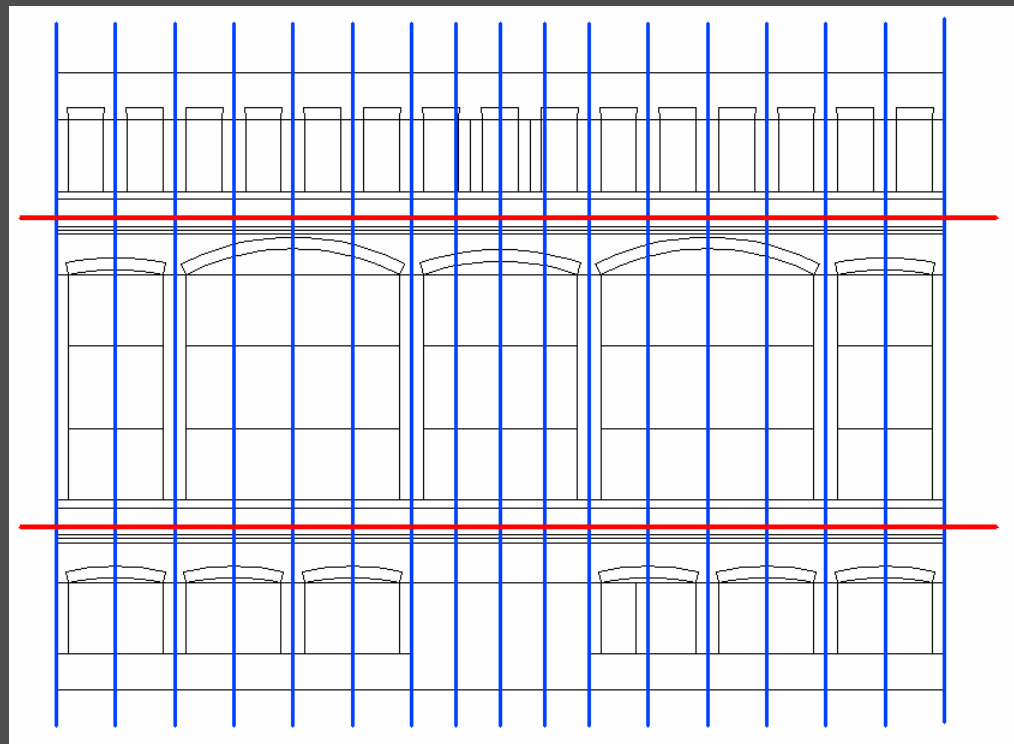
- Average Annual Rental Value per usable square feet in Prince William County is \$25
- Parking Spaces, if rented, could cost \$50/month

Increased Annual Revenue to the Owner:  
\$7,425 to \$21,150

# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Façade Study

- Precast Panels can be shifted and moved to suit the structural layout
- Horizontally, panels adhere to 3'-9" and 5'-0" modules
- Vertically, the design details draw from base-shaft-capital office building icon

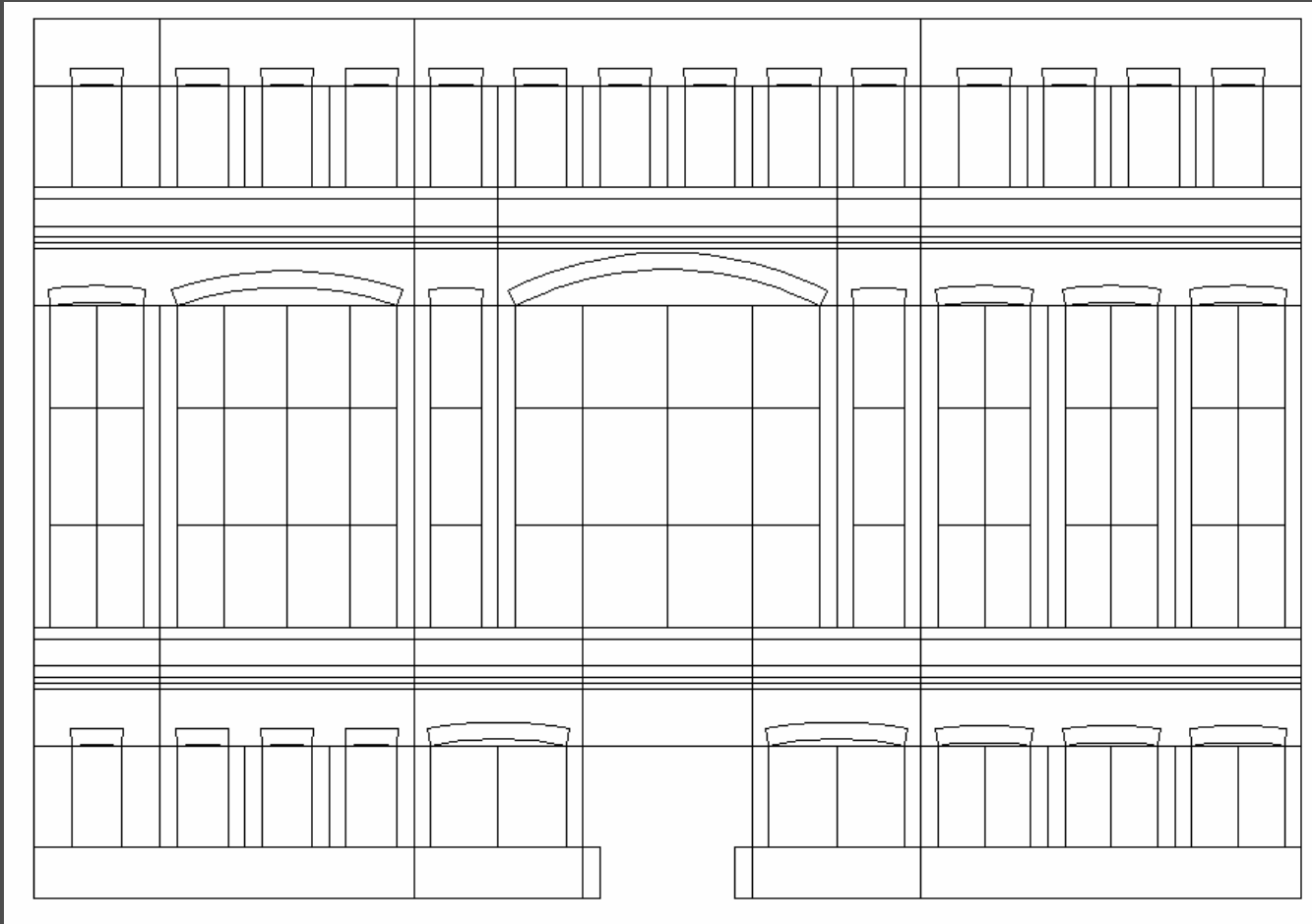


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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

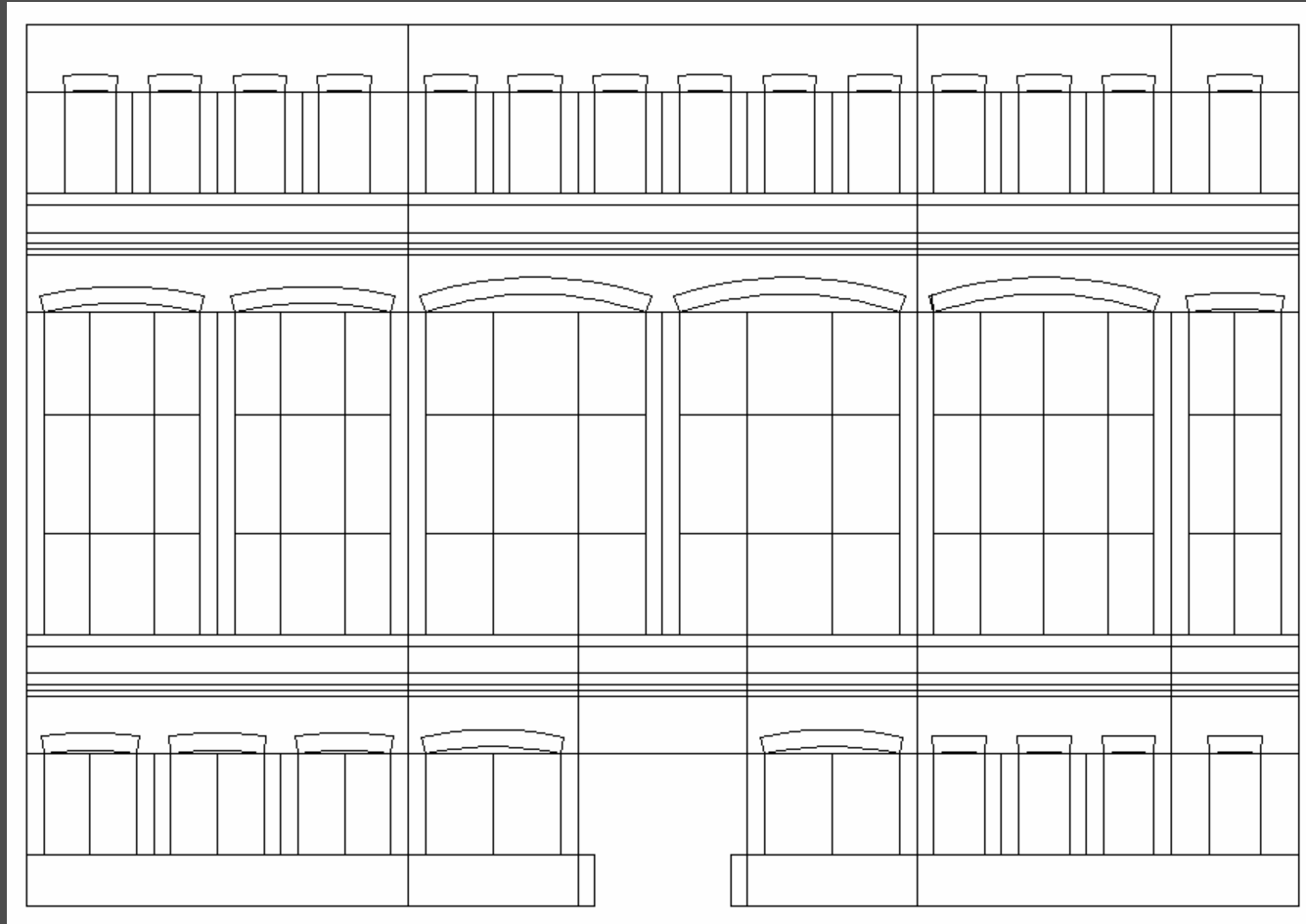
## Façade Study, Horizontal Play



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

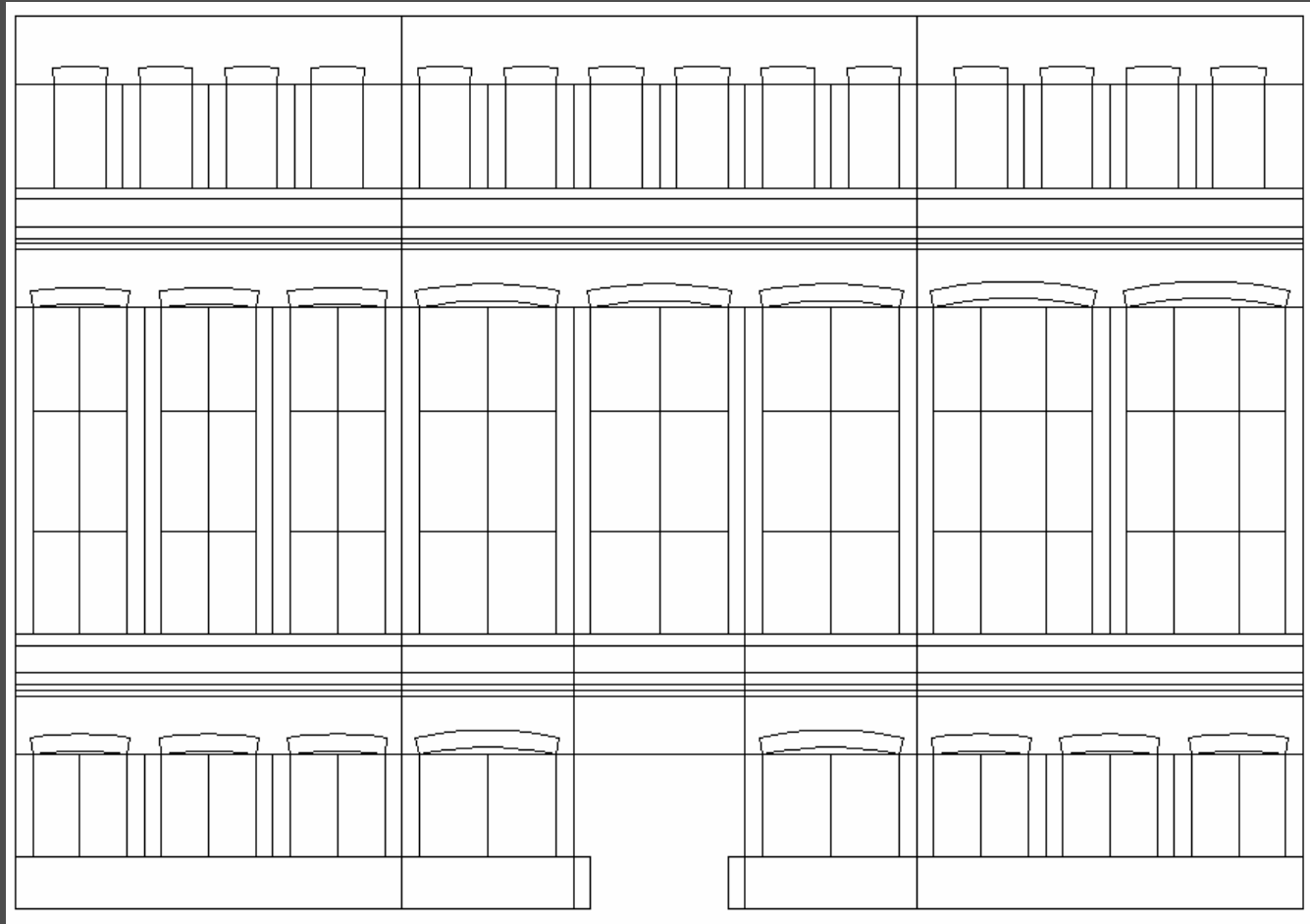
## Façade Study, Horizontal Play



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Façade Study, Horizontal Play



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

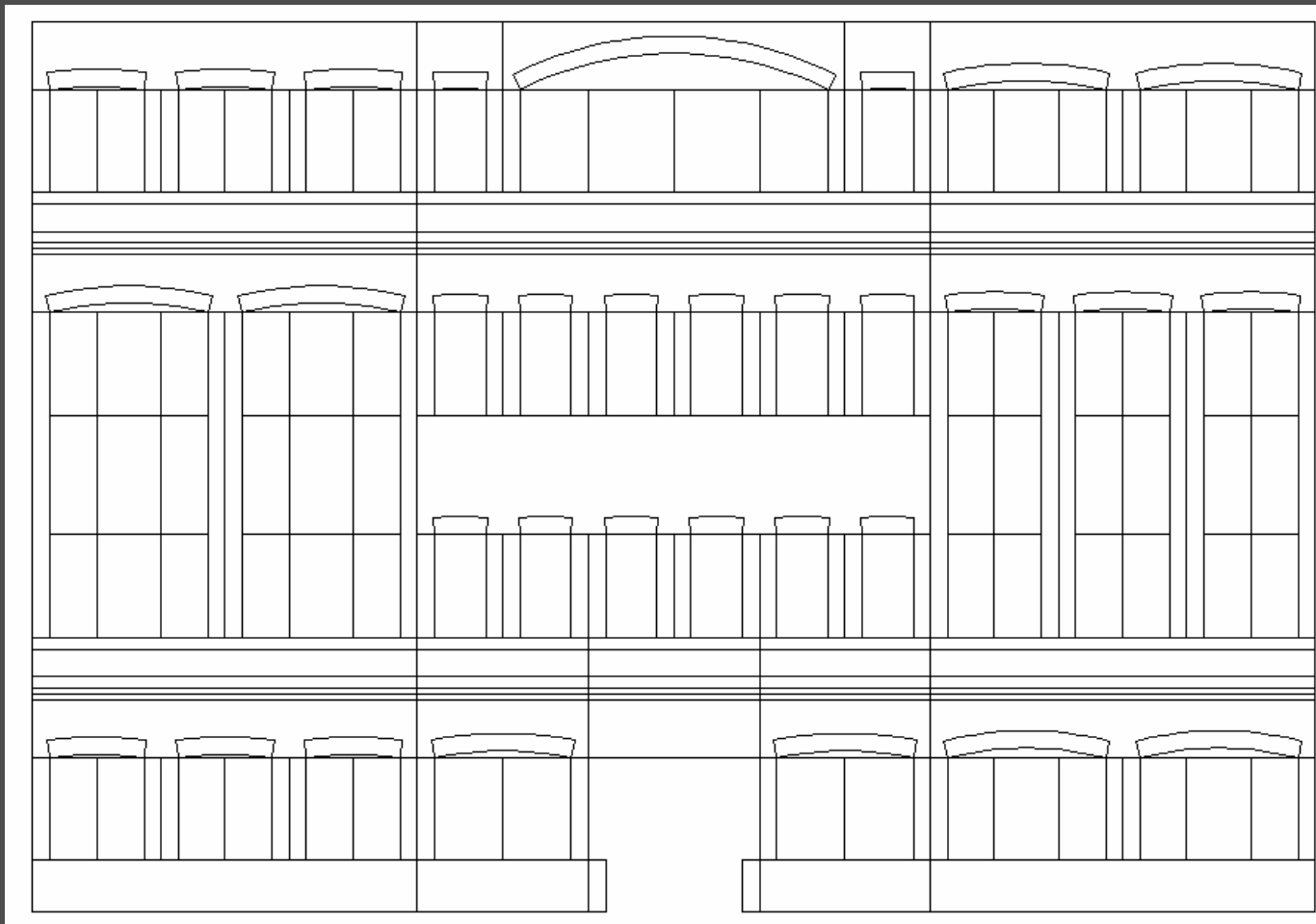
Façade Study, Horizontal and Vertical Play



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

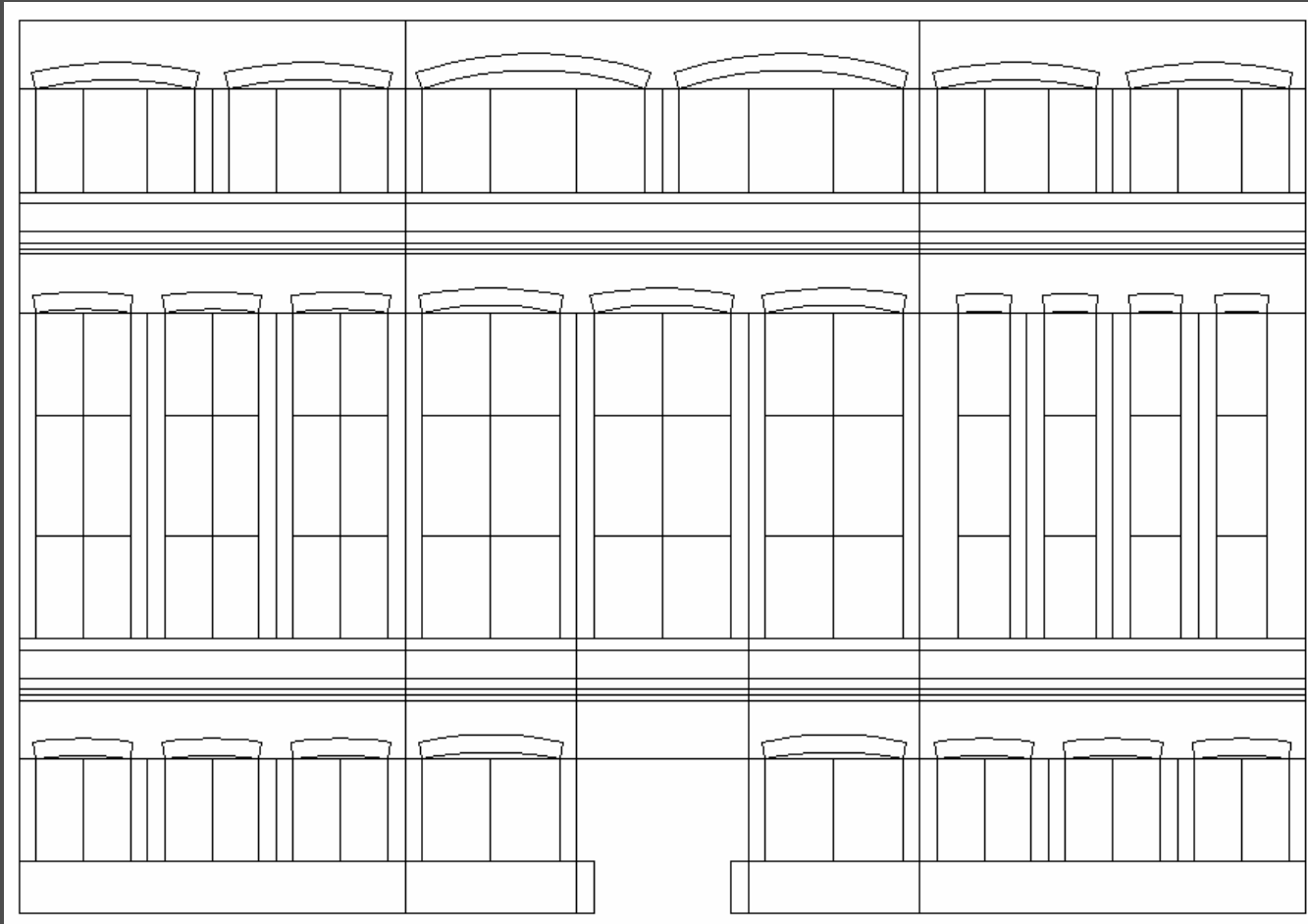
Façade Study, Horizontal and Vertical Play



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

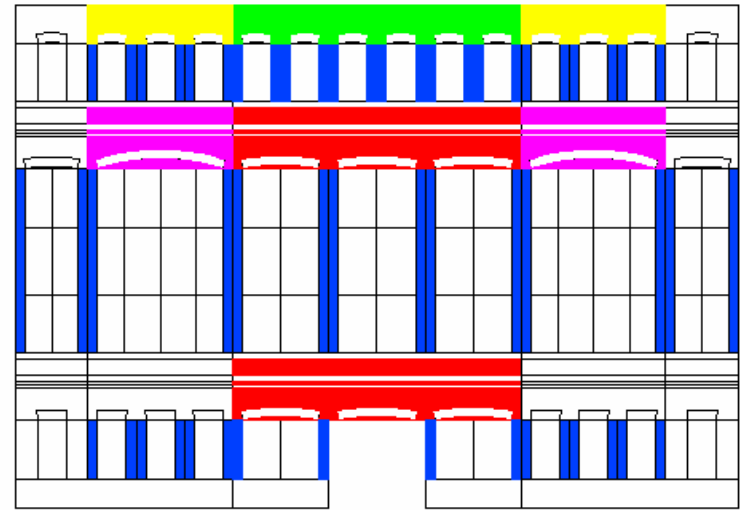
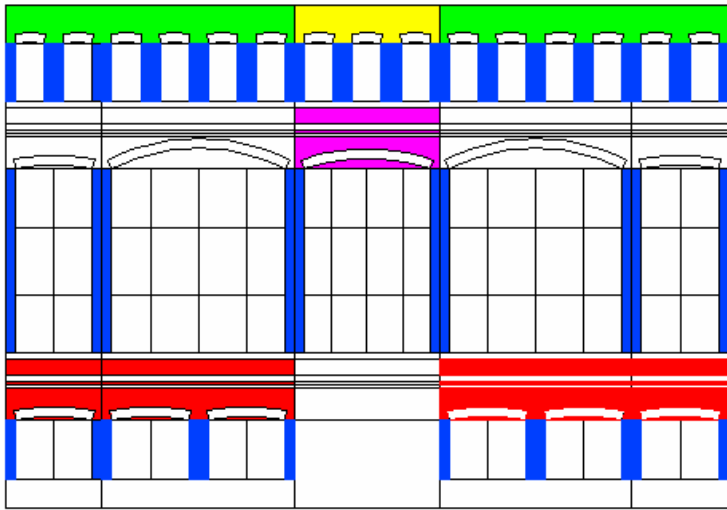
Façade Study, Horizontal and Vertical Play



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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

## Façade Study, Most Economical Redesign



- Windows completely free of column obstructions
- Maximum number of panels re-used
- Panels kept under 30'-0" wide

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# Architectural Design (Breadth 1)

Façade Study, Most Economical Redesign



- Windows completely free of column obstructions
- Maximum number of panels re-used
- Panels kept under 30'-0" wide

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# Cost/Schedule Analysis (Breadth 2)

Cost Estimates from R.S. Means 2006

Material	Cost	Construction Duration
Concrete System		
Columns, Slabs, Beams	\$1,120,566	14 weeks
Footings	\$230,887	2 weeks
Steel System		
Columns and Beams	\$668,928	8 weeks
Deck and Shear Studs	\$170,345	
Poured Conc. On Deck	\$162,010	
Fireproofing	\$73,044	
Total	\$1,074,327	12 weeks, 4 days
Footings	\$73,044	3 days

- Composite Steel Costs \$1,147,371 over 13.5 weeks
- Concrete Costs \$1,351,453 over 16 weeks
- \$200,000+ cost difference in favor of Steel

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# Cost/Schedule Analysis (Breadth 2)

## Concrete vs. Steel, Local Influences

- Local Cost Adjustments

Location	Concrete Costs	Steel Costs
Washington, DC	0.992	1.062
Fairfax, VA	0.921	0.921
Arlington, VA	0.902	0.898
Alexandria, VA	0.915	0.952
Winchester, VA	0.795	0.891

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# Cost/Schedule Analysis (Breadth 2)

## Concrete vs. Steel, Local Influences

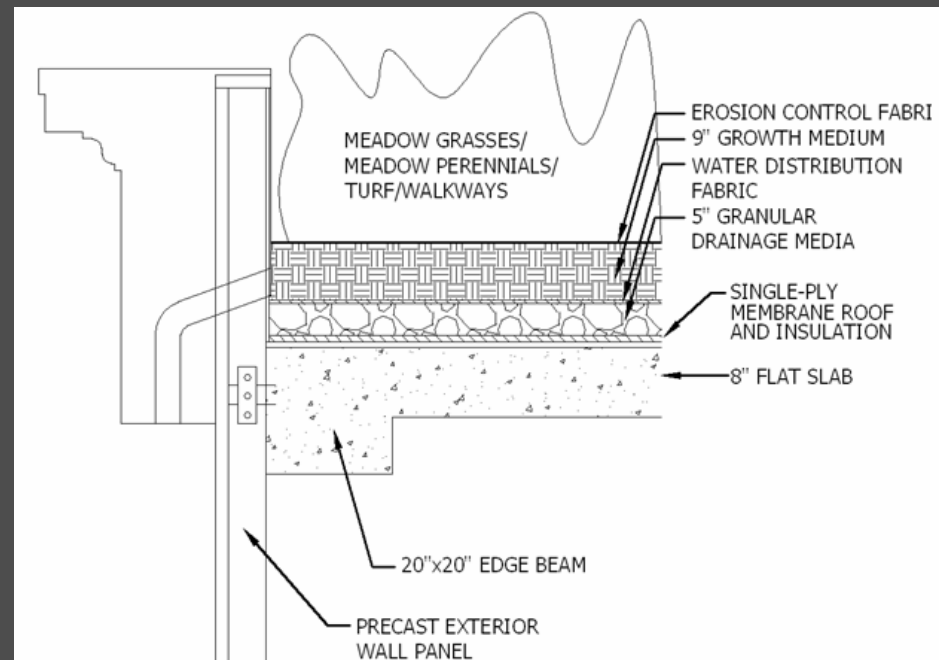
- Lead Times: After Design Completion, Procurement, Submittals, and Approvals, it takes 12 weeks to produce structural steel and only 3 weeks to produce rebar
- Supply and Demand: Washington DC area on Portland Cement Association's "tight cement supply" list for 2005 and 2006
- Weather: Per ACI 318-05 concrete must be kept above freezing, which may add cost and duration

# Green Roof Addition (Breadth 3)

## Overview of Green Roof Types

Information from Roofscapes, Inc.

System	Thickness/ Sat. Weight
Flower Carpet	2-3"/ 12-18 psf
Aromatic Garden	3-4"/ 18-24 psf
Savannah	4-6"/ 24-36 psf
Meadows	6-9"/ 36-54 psf



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# Green Roof Addition (Breadth 3)

## Why a Green Roof?



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# Green Roof Addition (Breadth 3)

## Implications of Green Roof

### Increased Costs

- For enlarged roof system:  
\$17,500 for steel, \$30,000 for concrete
- \$10-13 to install and 4-6 man hours per 1000 square feet per year to maintain
- \$90,000 to \$117,000 to install (10% of structural system price)
- \$720 to \$1,080 to maintain

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# Green Roof Addition (Breadth 3)

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### Benefits

- Per LEED Green Building Rating System, eligible for 1 point (Heat Island Effect: Roof, Credit 7.2)
- Reduced noise transmission through roof structure
- Increased R-values in roof system



# Final Conclusions

## Original Composite Steel Design Review

### Pro

- Light
- Small Columns
- Cheaper
- Faster

### Con

- Average 12" deeper section depth than concrete
- Complicated connections at parking structure
- Less drift resistance
- Time consuming fire protection needed

# Final Conclusions

## Reinforced Concrete Design Review

### Pro

- Smaller floor section depth
- Simpler connections to parking structure
- More drift resistant
- No fireproofing required
- More effectively resists water damage from green roof

### Con

- Heavy system with larger footings
- Large obstructing columns
- More expensive by \$200,000
- Longer erection time by 2.5 weeks

# Final Conclusions

## Recommendations

Hybrid Structure: Concrete up to First Floor  
Composite Steel Above

- Fireproofing simplified between office area and underground parking
- Better appearance, smaller section depth in parking area
- Simplified connections to parking structure
- Good cost and schedule compromise
- Concrete first floor helps resist lateral loads

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# Thank You

## Questions and Comments?



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