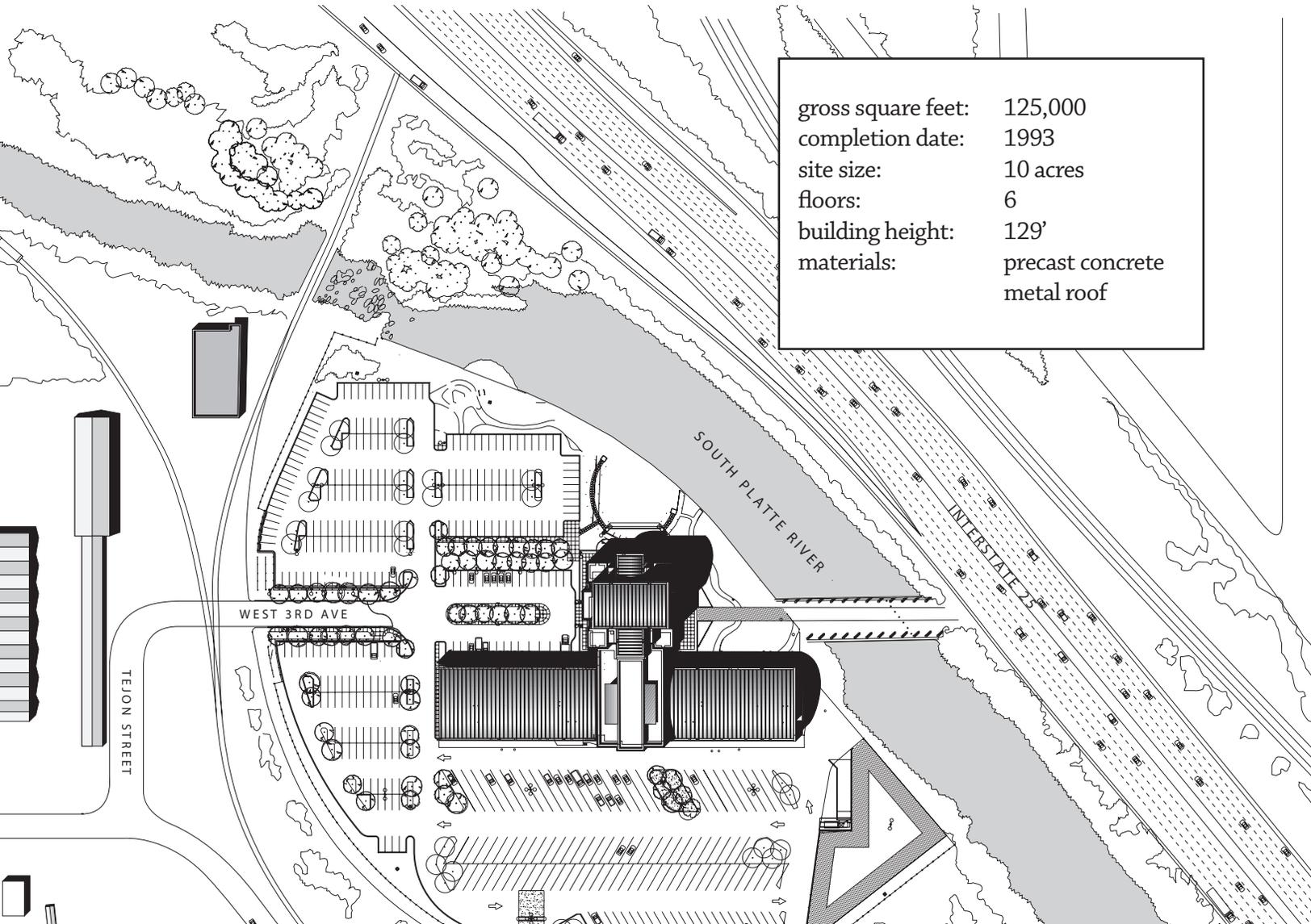
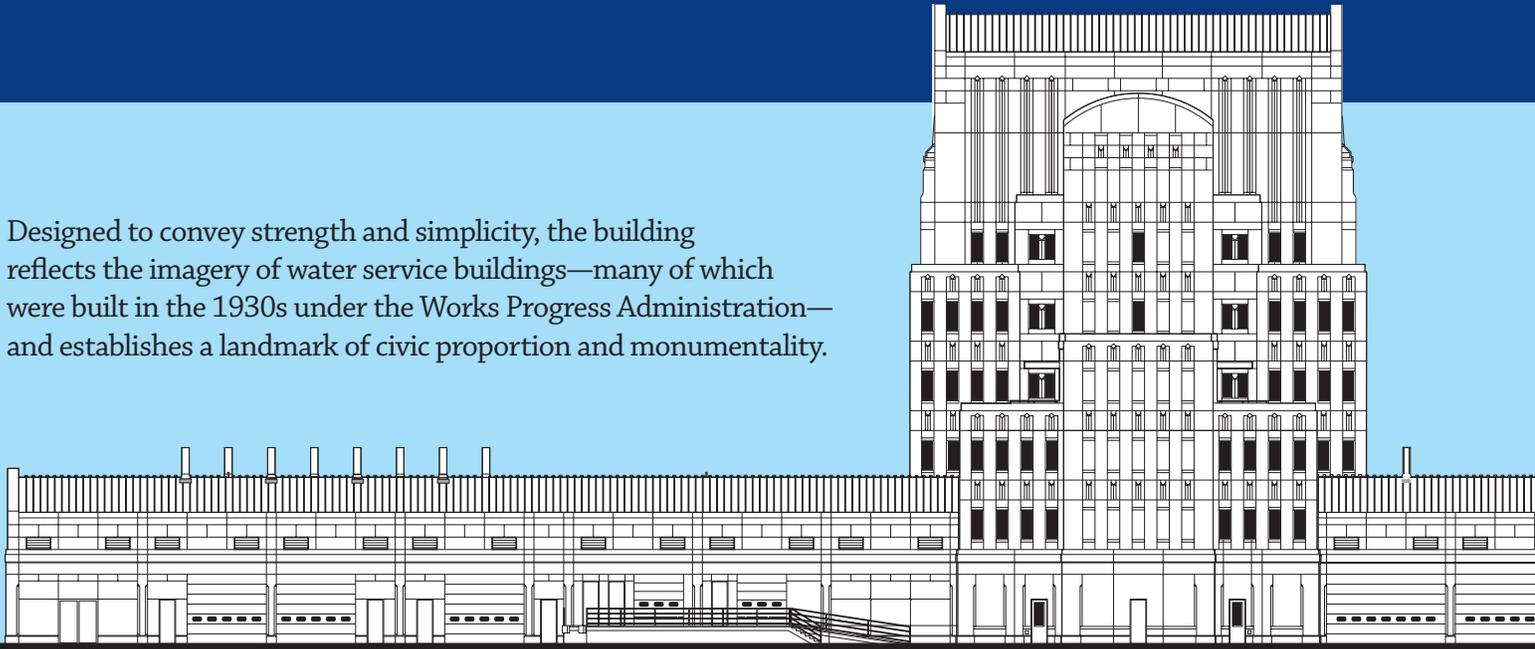


City and County of Denver

Wastewater Management Building

Designed to convey strength and simplicity, the building reflects the imagery of water service buildings—many of which were built in the 1930s under the Works Progress Administration—and establishes a landmark of civic proportion and monumentality.



gross square feet:	125,000
completion date:	1993
site size:	10 acres
floors:	6
building height:	129'
materials:	precast concrete metal roof



Architecture

What is the purpose of this building?

Administrative services for the Wastewater Management Division occupy approximately half of the building. The division's permit center and engineering offices are housed within the six-story tower. The low-rise portion of the building is dedicated to operational functions including a 5,000 square-foot laboratory for chemical analysis of wastewater, heavy vehicle maintenance bays, and equipment repair shops with areas for carpentry, welding, and painting.

Why is it located here?

In 1989, the City of Denver decided to centralize all of its public works-related functions into a single new civic complex. The selected site presented an opportunity to improve a highly visible industrial section of the City along the Platte River, an area that had been characterized by a collection of rundown warehouses, manufacturing areas and storage yards. This former brownfield was rehabilitated into a water quality demonstration site, an environmental innovation at the time. As the first building of the new complex, this building was intended to establish a highly visible landmark, and define the future development's architectural language.

Wastewater Services

Denver's Wastewater Management Division (WMD) was established in 1966. In the 40 years since, it has grown to more than 300 employees and is the base location for over 200 operations and fleet vehicles. The Division is an enterprise fund responsible for planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the city's storm and sanitary sewer systems. It maintains more than 1,500 miles of sanitary sewers and 550 miles of storm drainage facilities. The city of Denver enjoys one of the nation's most "backup free" sewer systems, accomplished by constant monitoring, cleaning, repair and reconstruction. WMD is home to the Operations, Engineering and Finance & Administration sections of the Division. The Operations sections consist of systems maintenance, television inspection, quality control, the laboratory, and a night crew. The engineering sections are responsible for design engineering, planning engineering, permits, inspection and construction engineering. Finance/Administration conducts accounting, payroll, personnel, facilities maintenance, information systems and customer service.

What is the building's architectural style?

The building's use of enduring concrete materials is consciously reminiscent of the great public works projects constructed throughout the nation during the 1930's, influenced by iconic art-deco style architecture of the period such as Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building. Vertical lines and tall narrow windows deliberately emphasize the building's height in order to create a sense of identity for the future civic complex and to dramatically contrast with the network of highways and ramps at the interchange of I-25 and 6th Avenue.



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