

# Kohn Pedersen Fox - Reskinning in Iselin

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2013-02-11

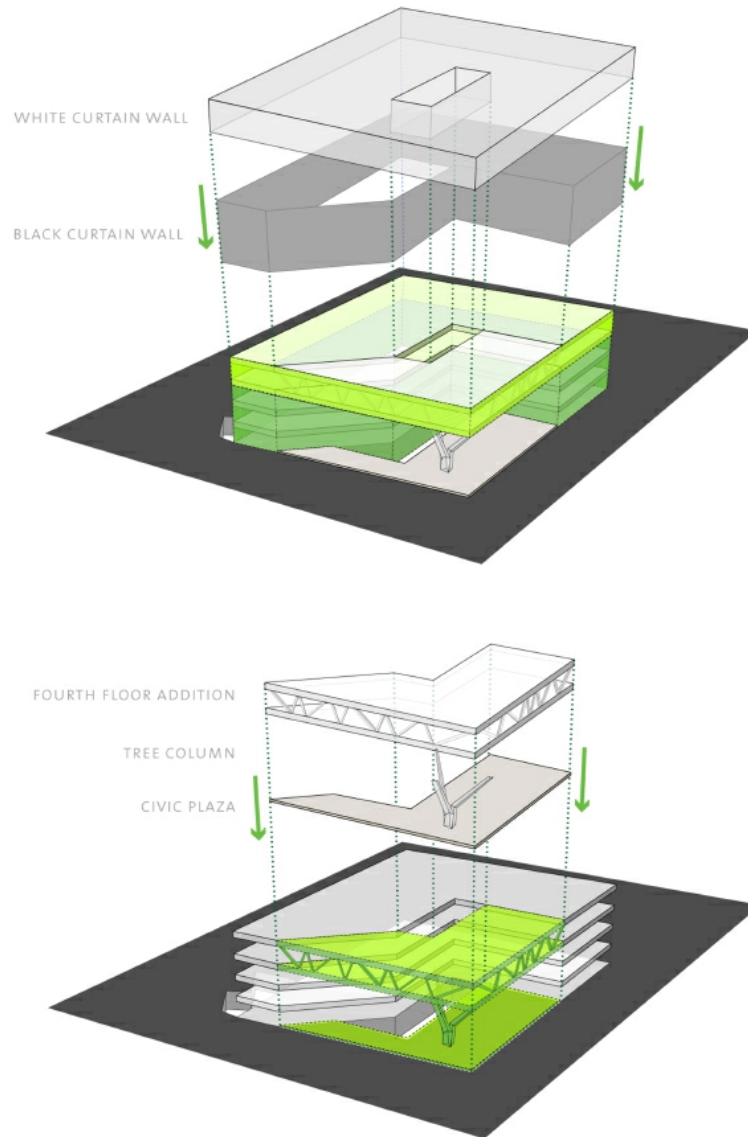


The new [Centra Metropark](#) office building in New Jersey, designed by [Kohn Pederson Fox Associates](#), incorporates an existing four-story building on the site. Photo: Michael Moran

The glass-clad LEED Platinum-certified [Centra Metropark](#) office building, in Iselin, New Jersey, was designed by [Kohn Pederson Fox Associates](#). The 110,000-square foot (10,000-square-meter) building combines a rectangular, cantilevered fourth floor, supported on one corner by an irregular branching column and resting atop a re-skinned three-story existing office building.

*"The core challenge of Centra was to evaluate an existing property that needed to be master planned for a one-million-square-foot development and decide what to do with its first building. This led to the development of a project that has a very strong sustainable mindset but also takes on the challenge of redefining the paradigm of the New Jersey office park experience.*

*"With a few strategic additions and subtractions, 30,000 square feet (2,800 square meters) of leasable area was added, which nearly doubled the building's presence. A 10,000-square-foot (930-square-meter) addition, floated from the fourth floor, mirrors the existing building's L-shaped plan, incorporates a new state-of-the-art curtain wall, and upgrades the building's infrastructure. The addition transformed this 1980s eyesore and opened its potential for future growth." – AIA*



Axonomic drawings of [Centra Metropark](#). Image: Kohn Pederson Fox

### Jury Comments

*While the context is less than desirable, the impact that this building has on the parkway has resulted in improvements of neighboring structures, proving that design can have a ripple effect in an otherwise mundane context.*

*The central exterior column supporting the massive truss level is built with precision and craftsmanship, allowing for maximum expansion while creating a covered welcoming piazza.*

*This project is an excellent example of the value of creatively reusing existing buildings and their embodied energy in lieu of tearing down and building new.*

*This creative adaptive reuse strategy is applicable to suburban sites around the United States.*



The [Centra Metropark](#) combines a dramatic fourth floor addition with a re-skinned multi-story existing office building. Photo: Michael Moran

### **Project Credits**

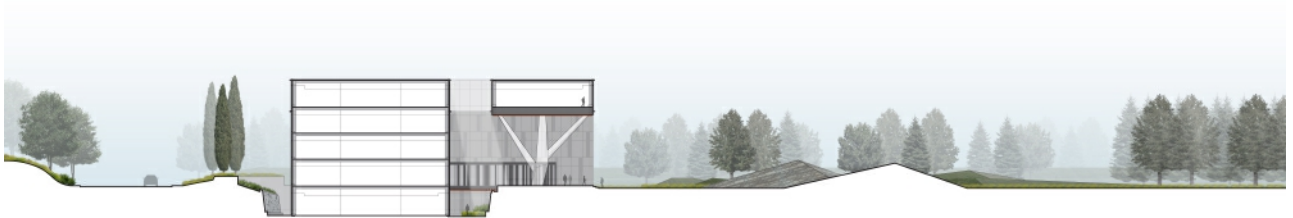
- **Architect:** Kohn Pederson Fox
- **Owner:** Hampshire Real Estate Companies
- **Contractor:** Tishman Construction
- **Engineer - MEP and FP:** AMA Consulting Engineers
- **Engineer - Structural:** DeSimone Consulting Engineers
- **Landscape Architect:** Towers Golde
- **Lighting Design:** S+S Lighting Design

The building was recognized in the Architecture category of the [2013 AIA National Design Awards](#).





*The covered entrance to the [Centra Metropark](#) building. Photo: Michael Moran*



*[Centra Metropark](#) section drawing. Image: Kohn Pederson Fox*



*The upper floor of the [Centra Metropark](#) is glazed and includes shading fins. Photo: Michael Moran*



*Looking into a bridge of the [Centra Metropark](#). Photo: Michael Moran*





*A bridge crosses the sunken courtyard. Photo: Michael Moran*



*The existing building on the [Centra Metropark](#) site, before reskinning and expansion. Photo: Hugh Trumbull/KPF*

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Source: Architecture Week People & Places Blog