Battery B

Battery B is a 48,000 square foot, infill apartment building located at the edge of a mixed-use, urban community. The project was built on the vacant corner-block site of a former Jeffrey Mining Company building dating to the 1880’s. The project consists of 4 linked buildings of 2 and 3 stories with 56 residential units arranged along open-air corridors that form an interior courtyard.

The urban design goals were to re-establish the street edges and locate parking to the rear of the building. The architectural goals were to respond to the physical and historical context and create simple, compact living spaces that are highly functional and affordable.

A pair of buildings at the eastern edge of the site is consciously industrial in character with standing seam galvanized metal exteriors and a repetitive saw-tooth roof. A central public entry bisects the east façade and creates access to the apartment entrances and parking behind. Large, hand-painted graffiti murals at the end of each of the buildings make reference to the site's industrial heritage.

The north and south buildings make contextual reference to the simple brick apartment buildings nearby with their height, bay width and materials. Additional public access points and common area spaces are created at the gaps between these buildings and the east buildings at each corner, both at grade and at the elevated decks. A common area deck is located above the two story north building.

At the courtyard, the building expresses its industrial character in a more playful way with a palette of colors applied with an irregular rhythm to the grid of the fiber cement board apartment facades and with minimalist steel stairs, railings and guardrails.

The 650 square foot apartment interiors utilize two typical floor plans that rely on translucent polycarbonate panels, both fixed and moveable, to define the sleeping and living areas.