

## COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE

### Project Info

**Opportunity:** Cook County identified a dilapidated warehouse in Chicago's West Loop for adaptation into a new Circuit Courthouse for domestic violence cases.

**Solution:** To maximize use of the site and orient the Courthouse toward the city center, the building's rear was repositioned to become the front, requiring a new entrance lobby. The new facade, clad with a terra-cotta tile and aluminum panel system employing state-of-the-art rain screen technology, was secured to vertical trusses which create a soaring lobby. Interior materials provide a calming and dignified court experience, particularly important for family court. Building circulation separates disputing parties helping to alleviate threats and intimidation that commonly accompany these proceedings. Additional support functions include a childcare facility with separate areas for infants, toddlers, and older children.

**Value:** Successfully completed under budget, this Silver level, LEED-certified building was recognized by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Academy of Architecture for Justice and selected for inclusion in the AIA's Academy of Architecture for Justice Knowledge Community (AAJ) *Justice Facility Review*.

