

Dever Architects Brings New Life to Glen Eagle Square Façade



Above: "Glen Eagle Façade - After" Photo by Charlie Scull. Right: "Glen Eagle Façade - Before" Photo by David Clemente. Photos used with permission from Madison Marquette Realty Services



In 1987, two years after founding his own firm, Thomas Dever designed what would become a staple for the Glen Mills, PA community: Glen Eagle Square. Spread out over two buildings in two different townships, Dever designed the shopping center with angled storefronts and custom glass displays, a deep canopy supported by a colonnade, steeply hipped copper roof towers, octagonal anchors where the two buildings separate, and over 150,000 square feet of retail.

When the center opened in 1990, it was the first in the Philadelphia area to combine small, neighborhood businesses with high-profile, national stores; original tenants included The Gap and Outback Steakhouse as well as local chains such as Kitchen Kapers and Genuardi's Market. The design seamlessly brought the large and small businesses together to the same scale made Dever a finalist for the 1991 Commerce Bank Tri-State Building Excellence Awards in the retail category.

Today, Glen Eagle Square is celebrated as a high-end, open-air lifestyle center that still offers both local and national fares such as Whole Foods Market, Currie Day Spa, Ann Taylor, and Little Nest Portraits; and Dever Architects has helped the center with many of these changes. From exterior renovations in 1994, to designing the exterior shell for the addition of the Whole Foods Market in 2012, to countless interior fit-outs and revisions, Dever Architects not only designed the basis of Glen Eagle Square, but has helped to mold it for thirty years.

In 2015, when the spaces for Currie Hair, Skin, and Nails Day Spa and Jos. A. Bank began were ready to be remodeled, the owners of Glen Eagle and Dever Architects decided it was time to completely renovate the building's façade.

Dever Architects started by shifting focus from two tower elements down to one. They stripped that one tower of its balcony, awning, and other protrusions to create a smoother front that fits neatly with the surrounding storefronts. The new entry way has been framed on the sides by stone that matches the existing stores. In addition, a metal beam and truss system frame the top and sides, bringing an industrial and contemporary touch to the shopping center.

Where there were small, spaced out windows on the second floor, there are now expanses of large windows as well as the addition of French doors and Juliet balcony, all making the façade feel more open and airy, much like the rest of Glen Eagle. Construction on the façade renovation was completed in late 2016, just in time to warmly welcome holiday shoppers.



"North End - Twilight" photo by Jimmy Dever. Used with permission from Dever Architects.