

Dever Architects Revives Exterior of Audubon Village



Above: "Audubon Plaza Rendering" by Audrey Gusick. Used with permission from Dever Architects

The Audubon Village Shopping Center, in Audubon, Pennsylvania, is not the product of one designer or even one decade of design. The original grocery store (now part of the Dollar Tree) was added onto at least three times in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1990s – and another grocery store, the last Genuardi's, was built on the site in 1991.

With all of its history, the Audubon Village Shopping Center is integral to its community. Neighbors frequent the shopping center for groceries, crafts, exercise, laundry, mail, banking, grooming, and sit-down eateries. Many of the shops and businesses have been in the center for years and have become staples of their community.

Despite being full of small tenants and beloved by locals, the center was beginning to wear down and show its dated exterior. So, in 2016, when Westover Companies purchased the hodge-podged center, they were ready to breathe new energy back into the site and contacted their long-time retail architect: Dever Architects.

Having helped Westover Companies with their retail centers since 2011, worked with their Vice President, Dave McManus, since the 1990s, and designed and renovated many other retail spaces since the 1980s, Dever Architects was the perfect choice to create a new, cohesive face for the Audubon Village Shopping Center.



Above: "Audubon Village Shopping Center, Before" Photo by Mitchell Dever. Used with permission from Dever Architects

Dever Architects worked closely with the owner to get the design just right. Starting with a hand-drawing, Dever Architects had a schematic design that included both buildings on the site. But once they moved to the construction drawings, Westover realized the design was a little too contemporary for their taste.

So Dever Architects amended their design to better fit the wishes of the client. They were able to work quickly by making sure to maintain the construction details and specifics, while changing only the outward appearance. The final result will be a more traditional design with gabled roofs, stone clad columns, and siding with white trim.

Dever Architects has continued to help since construction started in October 2017. They have visited the site to survey existing conditions and drawn detail sketches when the construction crew unearthed various unknown existing conditions and were unsure how to deal with them. The Center is expected to finish work this spring.

Throughout design, development and construction, Dever Architects has worked hand in hand with their repeat client to ensure that the project goes as smoothly as possible and looks exactly as the client wants.



Above: "Audubon Village Shopping Center, After" Rendering by Allison Klingler. Used with permission from Dever Architects

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