C H E S A P E A K E C E N T R A L P A R K

Aerial view of Central Park. Glass stair towers anchor the corners, and a soccer field/running track create a central green space in the campus.

Looking south at the west entrance into the Central Park structure. Glass stair towers anchor the corners, and a soccer field/running track create a central green space in the campus. Our client loves a morning and evening greeting as a way of engaging employees.

Night view looking south at the west entrance into the Central Park structure. Glass stair towers anchor the corners, and a soccer field/running track create a central green space in the campus. Our client loves a morning and evening greeting as a way of engaging employees.The night time presence of the glass towers and the lighting from under the surface is magnetic. It is hard not to be curious and interested in what the structure is. It's a fun place to park day and night.

Client: Chesapeake Energy Corporation
Completion: January 2012
Scope: Underground parking (2 levels) for 395 spaces with connections to Building 7 and Building One
Cost: Withheld at Owner's Request
Awards: 2014 American Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum

Program Requirements:
Underground parking (2 levels) for 395 spaces with connections to Building 7 and Building One.

History of the Site:
The original site is a 1970's office park development called 3 Chopt Square. As the Chesapeake Central Campus has grown, additional parking is required to support the new office buildings. Since this site is a focal point, it was decided to construct a grass playing field over 2 levels of parking.

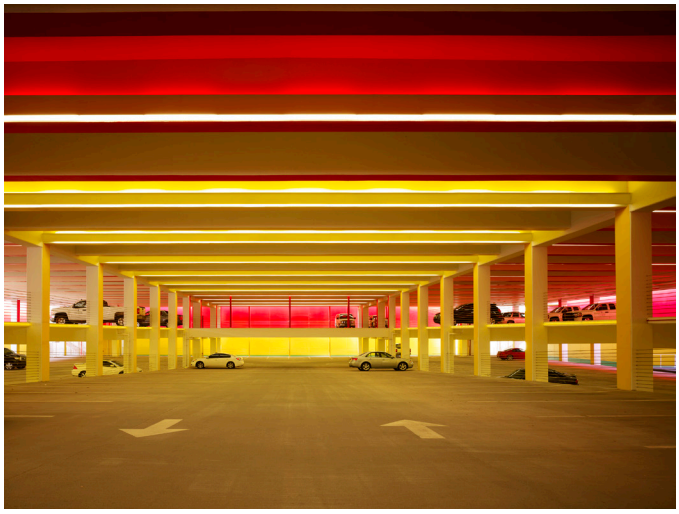
Architectural Concept:
1. Provide natural turf athletic field over 2 levels of underground parking.
2. Provide open perimeter for required air circulation.
3. Provide color identification for each level including pointed column and drain holes, color with indirect lighting for each level and painted perimeter walls. Each stair is color coded.

Northwest corner stair tower adjacent to the North Pavilion and surrounded by existing campus buildings. The colored light allows each stair tower to be a part of the wayfinding system.

CHESAPEAKE CENTRAL PARK

Looking north at the soccer field and running track create a beautiful green space along a major street. The green roof was structured to support a temporary tent used for the annual campus Halloween celebration. The north end also includes an earthen bermed stage for entertainment.

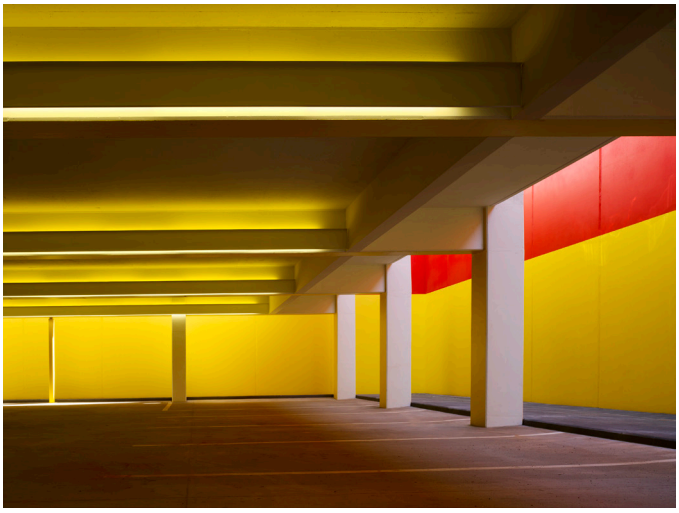
A view looking southwest to northeast. The saturated color helps you remember where you parked. An underground parking structure becomes a colorful room for the temporary storage of automobiles. The increased volume makes the space feel more comfortable compared to traditional low ceiling parking structures.



The main entrance is a surprise because you enter into a two-story central ramp and the color wayfinding system begins to unfold. The entire perimeter is an open atrium and allows sunlight to move in and out of the space. The changing shadows animate the room.

A view looking north as the entry ramp exposes the second level and the light illuminates the colored atrium edges. The lighting includes fluorescent down lighting and color uplighting for the individual levels.

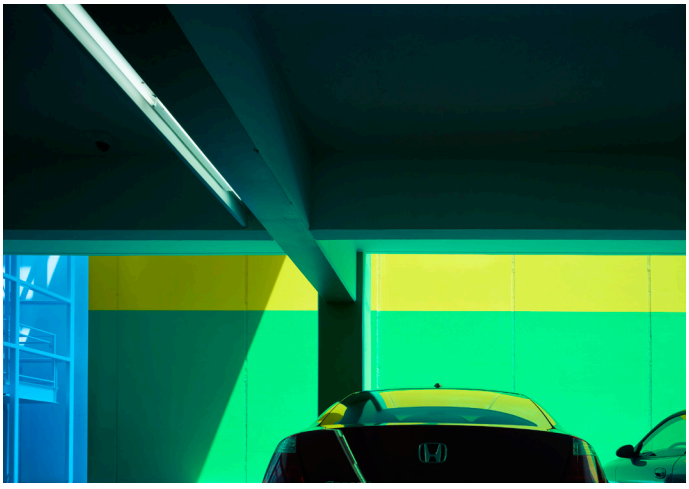
A view looking north on the yellow level showing both interior lighting and the sun casting shadows in the north atrium.



The northeast corner of the lowest level illustrates the color transition between floors and the amount of daylight that the atrium edges allows 2 ½ levels below grade.

The central ramp open volume changes your perspective about parking structures. Unlike other structures, your ability to understand location, your appreciation for safety, and the color combine to make the parking experience fresh and new each time you visit.

The cast in place concrete structure, tension cable rails, and color combine to create a memorable statement about parking.



A view looking east on the green level. The transition to yellow is visible at the perimeter atrium. The cars become reflective sculptures within the space.

Each one of the corner stairs has an identifying color to help the visitor recall where the vertical entrance or exit is in relationship to the whole structure. This particular stair is illuminated with blue light. This is a nighttime view.

Each one of the corner stairs has an identifying color to help the visitor recall where the vertical entrance or exit is in relationship to the whole structure. This particular stair is illuminated with blue light. This is a daytime view.

A detail of the red stair showing the vertical colored lighting fixtures and a sliver of daylight coming in along the edge.