

BOULDER FIRE STATION #3

BOULDER, COLORADO

FROM HOSPITAL TO FIREHOUSE: STEEL'S SECOND LIFE

When the City of Boulder deconstructed the old Boulder Community Hospital, KL&A didn't let the steel go to waste. They recovered, tested, and cataloged 161 tons of structural steel — 584 members — creating a real engineering inventory instead of a scrap pile.

Boulder Fire-Rescue Station No. 3 is where some of that steel found its second purpose.

REVERSING THE DESIGN PROCESS

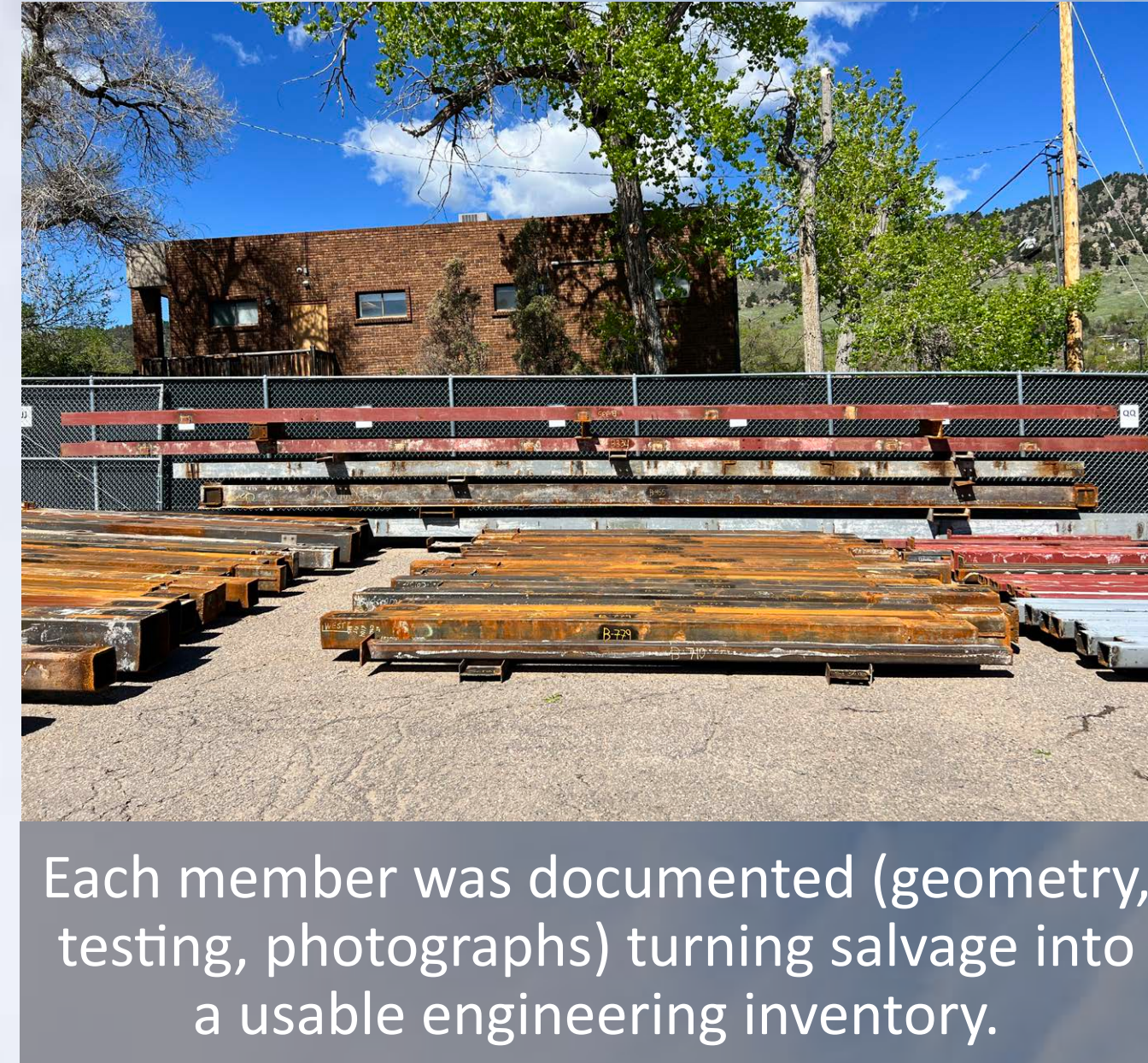
Typically, engineers design a building first, then order steel to fit. KL&A flipped the script: starting with a fixed inventory of used members, they worked backward to determine where 89 salvaged pieces could safely meet the structural demands of a brand-new, 28,370-square-foot public-safety facility — blending reclaimed and new steel into one seamless system.

PROOF IT WORKS — AT NO EXTRA COST

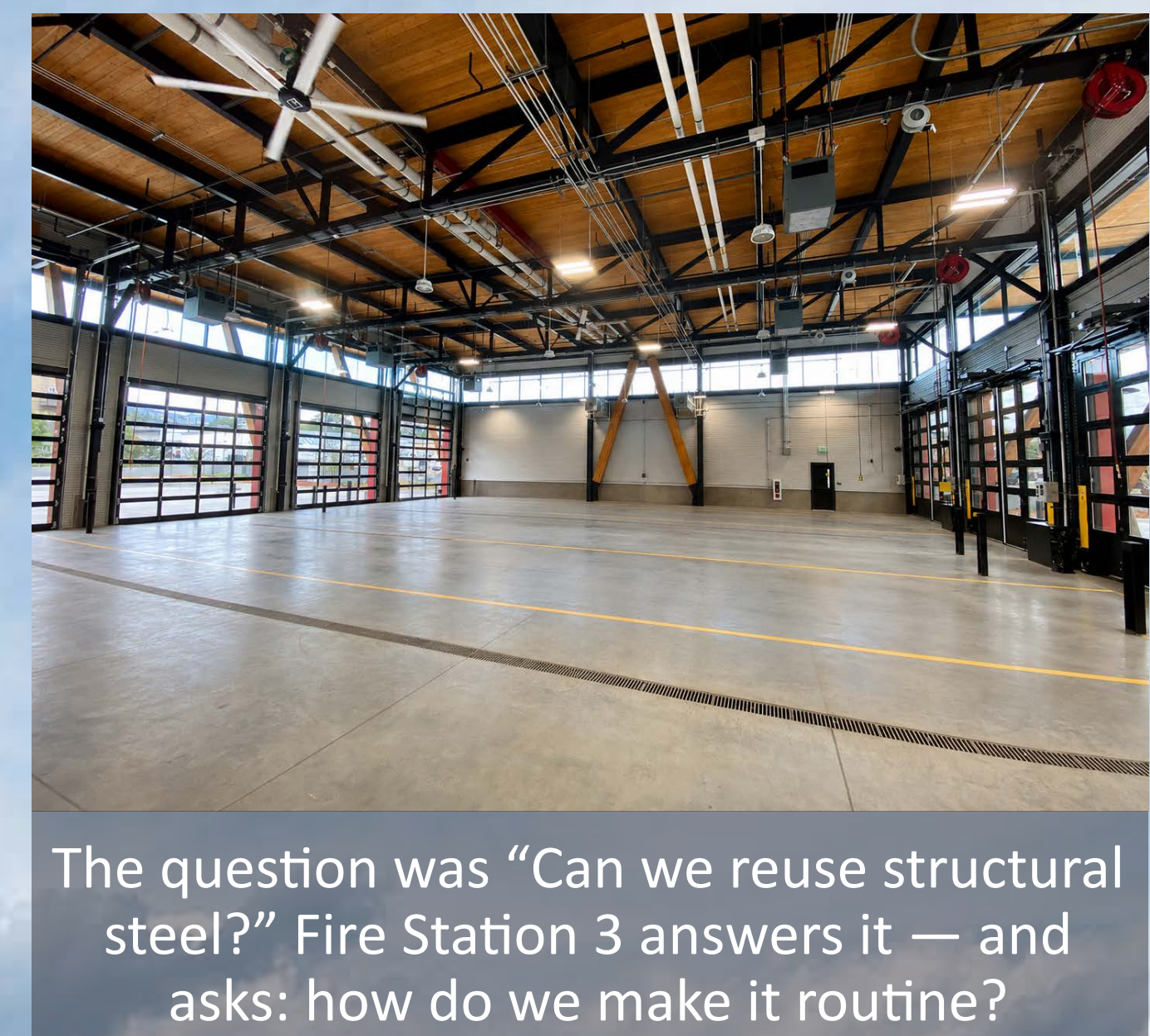
The real breakthrough is what didn't happen: no cost premium, no schedule delay, no separate "reuse" system. The reclaimed steel was procured at zero cost and integrated through standard fabrication and construction processes, netting roughly 0.5% savings on the steel contract.

WHY IT MATTERS

Fire Station 3 shifts the industry conversation from "Can we reuse structural steel?" to "How do we make it routine?" It's a repeatable, real-world model showing that circular construction, structural performance, and fiscal responsibility can coexist — turning material that once supported a hospital into the backbone of a facility built to serve Boulder's firefighters for 100 years.



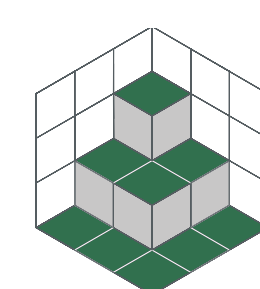
Reclaimed steel moved through the same design, fabrication, and construction process as new material.



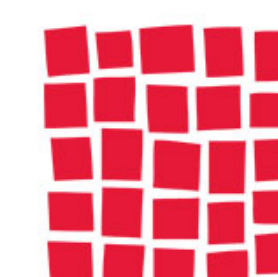
Client: Davis Partnership Architects, Denver, CO

Owner: City of Boulder, CO

Entering Firm: KL&A, Golden, CO



KL&A
Engineers & Builders



DAVIS
PARTNERSHIP
ARCHITECTS

