

8 Minutes

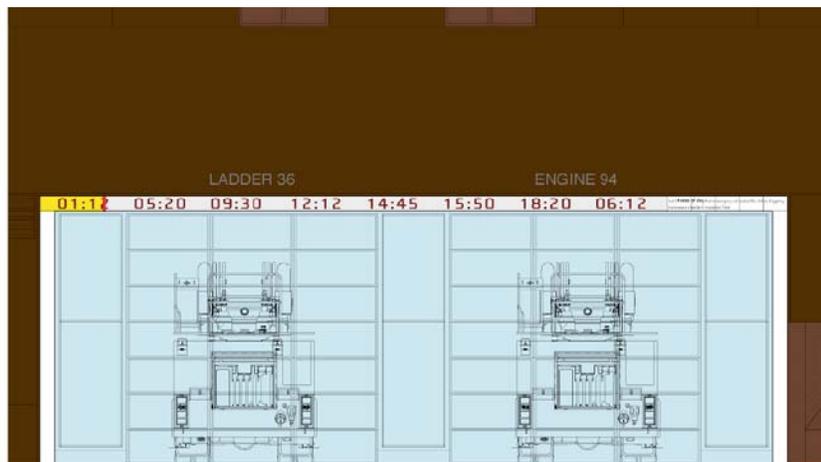
Artist: Merge Conceptual Design

Completed September 2013

Fire Station 24 / 1924 Yerba Buena Road., San Jose, CA 95121 / Council District 8

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The National Fire Protection Association recommends a target of 8 minutes as “standard response time.” Merge Conceptual Design (Franka Diehnelt and Claudia Reisenberger) created an artwork that approaches the topic of the 8-minute response in three ways: 1) as an element that visually measures 8 minutes, 2) that conveys the stations continuous efforts on behalf of the



Concept rendering of call time archive demonstrating 8-minute timer over apparatus bay

community, and 3) that connects the community to the station via the eight minute duration. All the elements complement each other to create a rich understanding of time in the context of Fire Station 24.

The first element is the LED Countdown Timer placed over the apparatus bay. The timer is connected to the fire pager system and automatically starts an 8-minute counter that grows across the sign when a response call is received. After the 8-minute light completes its travel across the sign, the call time is added to a list of the 8 most recent call times on the sign. The second and third components are a series of tiles in the fire station entryway. One set of tiles is a compilation of text about the number 8 and 8-minute duration. For example: “A fallen or lying down 8 is used to represent infinity in mathematics.” The third component is a series of 8-minute time-lapsed community photographs that depict every day activities to the same time frame of the recommended standard response time – to provide visitors to the station a visceral sense of the anxiety-filled 8 minutes awaiting emergency response versus the same 8-minutes washing a car, skateboarding or barbequing.



Time-lapse photographs depicted in the community tile murals by Merge Conceptual Design

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Merge Conceptual Design is an artist collaborative founded by Franka Diehnelt and Claudia Reisenberger in 2003. Before founding Merge, the artists collaborated with various artists on installation in Europe and the U.S. Merge is interested in art with strong conceptual and community components and have utilized many different media in their installations. The work often focuses on a sense of awareness of the urban and natural environment

More of their work may be seen at www.mergeconceptualdesign.com



Installation view of the community tile and text murals by Merge Conceptual Design

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1992 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.