



Architect's rendering shows the new 14th District Police Station at California Avenue and Palmer Street. Scheduled for completion in early 1984, it was designed to avoid a "fortress look" and nurture a "healthy relationship between the public and the police. . . ."

New police station 'good neighbor' by design

THE NEW 14TH District Police Station on the North Side has been assigned an extra duty—that of being a good neighbor.

The two-story structure, which is expected to be completed early next year, will use warm-looking brick and a large glass atrium at the entrance to further this image. The building replaces a rather forbidding-looking, three-story station in the Shakespeare District at California Avenue and Palmer Street. The former district station, which will be demolished, is antiquated, substandard and projects an image of grimness.

"The design of the new station nurtures a healthy relationship between the public and the police in this largely residential area," said Joseph W. Casserly, city architect. "We have avoided a fortress look."

The general contractor on the project, Westmont-based Klein Construction Co., found the construction demands fairly straightforward, the building being basically a steel frame structure with a masonry skin. "Nevertheless," said Bill Richter, project manager for Klein Construction, "the two-story glass atrium at the entry wall was a somewhat specialized concept inasmuch as its solar benefits help supplement the heating plant's mechanical equipment."

DARYL ADAMS, architect with the city, commented that the "atrium is really the key to the good-neighbor approach; the glass seems to project an open, welcoming presence that denies any secretive goings-on."

A large control panel is at the

entrance. Helping to bridge the gap between public and police is a multi-use meeting room, available to the community for neighborhood functions.

On the second floor is the police canteen/lounge, which is visually open to the public. The "secure areas," not open to the public, are the lockup adjacent to a private [police] entrance at the rear of the first floor, and the areas immediately behind the canteen on the second floor.

As a further enhancement of the friendly neighbor approach, the station qualifies for the national public art program. A public arts committee will choose the medium and artist, which could result in anything from a free-standing outdoor sculpture to a large indoor mural.