



# Designing with Purpose: Stories from the Studio

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## Historic Meets Modern: Adaptive Reuse Success Stories

In Cleveland's evolving urban landscape, adaptive reuse stands as a testament to the city's commitment to preserving its rich history while embracing modern functionality. LDA Architects has been at the forefront of this movement, transforming historic structures into vibrant spaces that serve contemporary needs.

Each project comes with its own unique set of challenges—structural, aesthetic, or functional—and yet, each has resulted in a success story of creative problem-solving and perseverance.

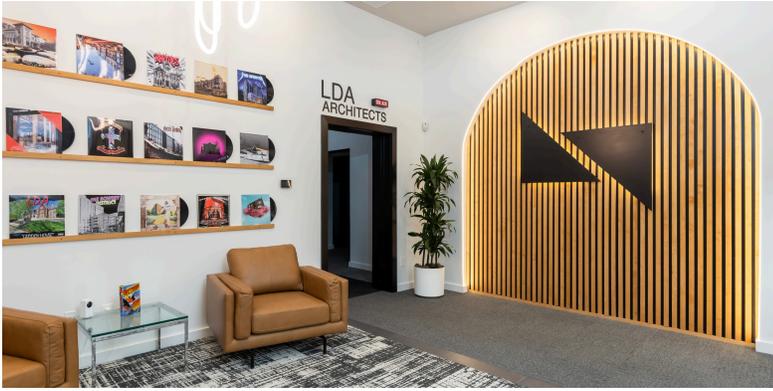
### **2125 Superior Living – Superior Arts District**

#### **The Challenge:**

The two buildings that became 2125 Superior Living were once warehouses, defined by long, cavernous floor plates. While excellent for storage and manufacturing, these layouts posed a challenge for livability, as interior spaces risked being dark and disconnected from natural light.

#### **The Solution:**

The design leveraged the buildings' expansive windows to channel daylight deep into the interiors, carving out units that balance openness with comfort. By integrating modern layouts within the existing warehouse framework, LDA transformed an industrial shell into 57 short-term boutique suites and a community café. The project's recognition with the Best Commercial Rehabilitation Award from Heritage Ohio underscores the success of turning warehouse constraints into residential opportunity.



## WHK Studio One – Midtown Historic District

### The Challenge:

The Historic WHK Studio One complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a pioneering radio station in Cleveland, Ohio. WHK and later WMMS broadcast from these studios during the rise and height of Rock and Roll from 1949–1977. The complex originally included 3 distinct parts adjacent to the Historic Agora Theatre, an office tower, open warehouse, and the radio station studios. The client asked for creative solutions for the unique spaces to maximize the number of residential units.

In particular, the radio station studios posed several challenges that hindered potential redevelopment, such as the building's lack of windows, numerous acoustical partitions, and circulation patterns designed for broadcast use. These features, while historically significant, made rehabilitation for residential living nearly impossible.

### The Solution:

The office tower lent itself well to residential units, while areas with restricted views were utilized for amenities such as fitness, community room, bike storage. The warehouse space with tall ceilings allowed for loft style units with living space on the ground floor and the bedroom above on the loft.

Instead of forcing the residential program into the radio station studios, LDA reimagined the East Wing as our own modern office space. The project transformed the interiors into inviting, daylight-filled workplaces while preserving the studio's historic character. The design incorporated several new skylights and solar tubes along with biophilic design. Interior elements took cues from the rock and roll legacy of both the radio station and adjacent concert venue. The success of this vision was recognized with the Excellence in Creative Adaptive Reuse Award from the Cleveland Restoration Society.



*Thank you for reading!*