

C A S E S T U D Y



Meet Me at the Piazza

This project reimagines the heart of downtown Grand Blanc, Michigan, with a new multi-use development designed to bring people together in ways both meaningful and memorable. Inspired by Italian culture, where piazzas are central gathering places for meeting, decision-making, and everyday life, the design celebrates connection while elevating work, play, and community.

The ground-up development features inviting covered patios for al fresco dining and a spacious piazza that fronts Saginaw Street as well as the rear of the site. Large raised planters double as banquette seating, offering cozy spots for enjoying ice cream or sipping wine from restaurants positioned on either end of the building.

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CASE STUDY

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Spanning three levels, the design balances style with FUNction. The first floor is anchored by abundant storefront glass to showcase the interiors of restaurants and retail, framed by durable brick and timeless limestone. The second floor incorporates a mix of business and residential spaces, while the third floor offers 1-2 bedroom apartments with balconies or private roof terraces. Two airy, light-filled stair towers highlighted by wood-look cladding and signature signage further enhance the welcoming aesthetic.

The amenity-rich environment doesn't stop there. Residents and visitors can enjoy direct access to Physicians Park, rooftop plazas with restaurant bar service, outdoor balconies, covered dining patios, and a pickleball court. A covered pavilion connects with the park's beloved splash pad, playground, and summer concert series, as well as a skating rink during the winter months.

Recognized as the "Best Unbuilt Project" during the 2025 AIA Flint Design Awards, this development by FUNchitecture celebrates both timeless design and joyful connection.

