

Muller&Muller, Ltd.

Brown Line Station Reconstruction
Chicago, Illinois



Above: Rockwell station streetscape.
Left: Rockwell station house.
Below right: Kedzie station streetscape.
Bottom right: Station interior.
Opposite: Rockwell station entrance detail.
Photography: Mark Ballogg.



Operating between downtown and the Northwest Side, the Brown Line began full operations in 1907, without a major reconstruction of its 19 stations from Kimball on the north to the downtown Chicago Loop since then. The third busiest of the Chicago Transit Authority's rail lines, the line serves more than 66,000 customers each weekday. Muller&Muller provided architectural design and construction administration services for five stations in the first phase of a total reconstruction of all Brown Line Stations. The projects at the Western, Rockwell, Francisco, Kedzie, and Kimball Stations included new platforms and station houses, air control, customer service,

accessibility, and expansion of capacity and customer comfort. For the project, platforms needed to be expanded significantly to accommodate eight-car trains, two cars longer than previously possible. Additional entrances, exits and turnstiles have eased pedestrian congestion. Installation of new lighting, heaters, windbreaks and information kiosks has enhanced passenger comfort and security. The reconstruction projects were particularly complex because the stations are sited in a very narrow right of way between the existing track lines and work could not disrupt train service or disturb adjacent properties in the dense, historic urban neighborhoods. The station



houses are composed mainly of glass with steel frame giving them a bright, airy and light-weight appearance in keeping with historic forms. As a result, even though the stations are small they feel roomy and grand.

